

## Approval of Subject Areas for PhD Registrations/Awards

The University maintains a list of 'subject areas' in which students may be registered for PhD studies and on successful completion of all requirements for the PhD the degree is awarded in those subject areas. Subject areas are approved by Senate on the recommendation of the Board of Graduate Studies. The subject area is associated with an Academic Unit and is managed by either a Faculty or a Board of Studies. Academic Units include Faculties, Schools, Departments and Institutes.

The PhD Statute 2011 requires that every PhD candidate should:

1. be registered in a department which is able to make satisfactory supervision arrangements and will take overall responsibility for the provision of supervision, research resources and facilities (Clause 4gii). The Department should have an appropriate committee structure which is capable of assessing whether the candidate's research proposal and thesis outline are satisfactory and will inform the Head of Department of its decision (Clause 5aii). Note: the term "department" as used here includes other academic entities such as institutes and boards of studies.
2. have suitably qualified supervisors, and, where appropriate, advisers who are actively involved in research in the candidates' general field, and must each either hold a doctoral degree or be appropriately qualified and experienced (Clause 4k).

The procedure for altering / adding to the list of subject areas in which a student may be registered for PhD studies is laid out below.

Applications to include a new subject area in the list should be made to the Board of Graduate Studies, through the appropriate Faculty Committee(s), and include the following information:

- A list of staff who are considered to be qualified to act as supervisors for doctoral research together with (i) their qualifications, (ii) evidence of previous experience in supervising postgraduate student thesis research and bringing that research to successful completion, and (iii) a list of publications that support the claim that the staff members are 'research active' in the proposed subject area.
- A statement of the resources that are available for the support of research in the particular area and an assurance that they will meet the minimum international requirements for the support of research in the new subject area. The statement will also be required to confirm that the PhD students will be provided with the level of resources and support detailed in the Board of Graduate Studies document 'Guidelines on Resources and Support for Doctoral Research'.
- A statement of support from those Heads of Academic Units, whose staff and other resources are included in the statement of support and supervision available to PhD students in the proposed new subject area.
- A statement of the structure of the Academic Unit providing evidence that an appropriate committee is available to assess candidates' thesis research proposals and academic progress.
- Subject areas that foster cross-disciplinary research may be approved across faculties and be managed by joint boards of studies with joint representation from all the departments involved. Such boards of studies will consider and make recommendations regarding applications for doctoral registration.
- Boards of studies should identify a single 'Academic Unit' where the cross-disciplinary student will reside and be managed for research purposes.
- The Main Supervisor of a cross-disciplinary student will normally be a member of the host Academic Unit, but some flexibility is possible regarding location of the Main Supervisor especially where there is cross-disciplinary research.