# Statement of Research Intent for Doctoral Study in Architecture, Planning or Urban Design

This information is supplementary to your Application for Admission (AfA) to Doctoral Study at The University of Auckland. The purpose is to have sufficient information for the School of Architecture and Planning to assess your application for admission and allocate Supervisors best able to support your area of research.

This is not intended to be a definitive statement of your research intentions: developing your research towards a full thesis proposal is a major task undertaken by PhD candidates in their first year of study.

## General Information

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| **Name and Surname:** |  |
| **Highest qualification:** |  |
| **Is this a taught degree or a research degree?[[1]](#footnote-1)** |  |

***IMPORTANT:*** *If you have completed a taught degree, please provide evidence that you have completed a written task of at least 10,000 words. This is best provided in the form of copies and may include: a written component in a taught degree, a peer reviewed conference paper, journal article, book, chapter in books and professional/technical reports (or any combination of them).*

## Preliminary Research Proposal[[2]](#footnote-2)

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| **Doctoral programme stream**Choose between: 1) Architecture, 2) Planning and 3) Urban Design. |
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| **Proposed Supervisor (if known)**If you have had contacts with a staff member from the School of Architecture and Planning and he/she agreed on supervising your doctoral studies, please provide the name of the staff member below.***IMPORTANT:*** *having a confirmed supervisor is not mandatory at this stage and a Postgraduate Advisor (in Architecture, Planning or Urban Design according to the topic of your proposal) will allocate Supervisors best able to support your area of research according to the information you will provide in this form.* |
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| **Provisional topic description for the proposed research**This is a provisional working topic that can be changed when you develop the research proposal once admitted. |
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| **Research context and/or background**Briefly outline the context or background to which your intended research relates or from which it emerges. Set out what you see as key issues around which your research is framed. |
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| **Aims and objectives of the research**What are you aiming to achieve in your research? This might be a better understanding of some issues or practice, enhancing the quality of outcomes, improving how things are done, etc. |
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| **Research question or questions**From the context and research aims above, what is the key provisional research question or questions? |
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| **Research methodology**Identify the key method or methods relevant to addressing the research proposal and, specifically, the research question(s) you have framed above. This may involve a range of methods in the built environment disciplines that includes: design and drawing investigation as a method of enquiry, critical precedent studies, critical literature reviews, questionnaire surveys, interviewing of experts and professionals, working with instruments in experimental research, construction of prototypes, etc. |
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| **Previous Masters Research**If you have completed research at Master’s level on the same (or a similar) topic, explain how your proposed PhD research will be different from that previously completed. The PhD needs to make a new contribution to knowledge, so tell us how you will *develop* and *extend* your Master’s research topic at PhD level. |
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| **Creative practice**The University of Auckland offers the option of a PhD with a creative practice component and requires the writing of around 60,000 words. If you wish to pursue this option, please carefully consider the University Guide: PhD with Creative Practice Component. If it is your intention to include this option, it is necessary to provide sufficient detail at the application stage by completing the Statement of Research Intent for PhDs with creative practice (<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/about/the-university/how-university-works/policy-and-administration/teaching-and-learning/postgraduate-research/undertaking-your-research/creative-practice.html>). Only in exceptional circumstances would creative practice components be introduced into a research project following admission. The creative practice option requires the production of a creative practice outcome of some kind. In the built environmental disciplines this might be (but not limited to) a built work such as a building, a body of architecture/built form work, a prototype for a new building, or building component, a Masterplan, etc.. You need to explain how the theoretical, practical components and creative outcomes will be integrated. The creative work outcome will be part of the material examined along with the written parts and you also need to state where the output will be located for this purpose. This might be (but not limited to) an exhibition in at the University of Auckland, or a built work located elsewhere. The PhD with a creative practice outcome should not be confused with the ability to incorporate design as a method of enquiry in a convention thesis.***IMPORTANT: complete this section ONLY if you wish to pursue the option of the PhD with Creative Practice Component.*** |
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| **Key readings/bibliography**While this is not expected to be comprehensive or extensive at this stage, please provide a few key references to published work that informs your proposed area of research. This may include those sources that were key ones in your Master degree if relevant. Also, include what you consider to be sources of key knowledge or seminal work related to your proposed topic. |
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***IMPORTANT:*** *when completed, please email this form to the Postgraduate Advisor (Architecture, Planning or Urban Design according to the topic of your proposal) in the School of Architecture and Planning, and/or the Associate Head Postgraduate.*

*In addition, please upload this information into your Application for Admission (AfA) to the doctoral studies programme.*

1. A research degree would normally involve the writing and examination of a thesis or dissertation. A taught degree will have a number of courses or subjects, but may include a research task. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Expand each field as you think it suits the description. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)