



How to Apply for Admission to a Higher Degree by Research

1. What do I do before I apply?

As a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidate, you must be supervised by a team of at least two supervisors (a principal supervisor and one or more associate supervisors). Academic supervisors should have a PhD in your discipline and relevant expertise in your proposed research area.

Before you submit your application for admission, it is expected that you undertake some initial research into your proposed research area, and identify potential supervisors. The University of Notre Dame Australia (Notre Dame) is not able to fully consider your application until these steps have been followed. Profiles of our academic staff are available here: <https://works.bepress.com/experts/the-university-of-notre-dame-australia/search/> Further information about our Schools and areas of research can be found here: <http://www.nd.edu.au/nav-future-students/schools>

In your search for supervisors, most Schools require you to contact potential principal supervisors independently. Alternatively, you can contact the School with an expression of interest, after which they will connect you to appropriate potential supervisors. You are encouraged to reach out to potential supervisors by email, phone, mail, or in person, where possible, to discuss your intentions. If you are not currently residing in Sydney, Fremantle or Broome, then you may wish to arrange a phone call or Skype meeting with potential supervisors to discuss your proposed research. You should ideally have them review a short draft of your initial research proposal prior to the submission of your application for admission.

You must have at least one supervisor from Notre Dame, however, additional supervisors may be external to the university and may include experts from industry. Supervisors can be from different Schools. Please note that even if a supervisor fits with your intended research area, they may not be in a position to take on additional research students.

2. How do I submit my application?

To apply for entry to a Master of Philosophy, Masters by Research or Doctoral Research program, you must submit:

- An application form. Follow the prompts here:
 - Domestic students: <https://www.notredame.edu.au/forms/postgraduate-research-application>

- International students: <https://www.notredame.edu.au/forms/international-application-form>
- An updated CV/ Résumé (this should include details of your education and employment history, including your achievements, skills and experience).
- Certified copies of identity documents and academic transcripts. Further information on the requirements for the certification of documents can be found here:
 - <https://www.notredame.edu.au/international/faqs>
- A one page statement outlining your research background, including any research projects you have undertaken in either academic or professional contexts, and any dissertations, publications and/or presentations that have resulted.
- An initial research proposal of at least one page in length. This should include your preliminary ideas regarding:
 - a draft title;
 - the research problem and significance;
 - your research question/s;
 - how you plan to obtain data (i.e., your methodological approach);
 - the theoretical or analytic frameworks you wish to employ;
 - a brief overview of the current literature in your discipline (including relevant references);
 - an indication of how your intended research will offer an original contribution to the field;
 - any anticipated resources that will be required to undertake the research (such as equipment or travel); and
 - your proposed supervisors.

It is common for research students' focus to evolve over time. However, the initial research proposal will be used to assess your readiness for postgraduate research, and determine appropriate support and supervision, so is of key significance to your application for admission.

- Evidence of contact with your potential supervisors and their support for your research.
- You may also submit any other documents that may support your application.

Please note that local applicants may bring in hard copies of original documents to have them sighted and photocopied in person at the Admissions Offices in lieu of certification.

3. What happens after I submit my application?

The application process for entry into a research degree typically takes up to a month to complete. However, applications which include all of the required elements can be processed more quickly. Applications are considered by the Admissions Office, the Research Office, and the relevant academic School, in addition to the International Office in the case of applications received from international candidates. As part of this process, you may be asked to submit additional documentation or to revise your initial research proposal. In some cases, you may be asked to participate in an interview with representatives of the School. Once the application process has been completed, you will be notified by mail and/or email to the

addresses you nominated on your application form. At any time during the application process, please feel free to contact the Admissions or International Offices to enquire about the status of your application.

4. What about fees and scholarships?

Domestic students are automatically allocated an RTP fee remission scholarship upon being offered a place. Students can also apply for RTP stipend scholarships to support living expenses. Please be aware that these are highly competitive and limited in number. Further information about RTP and other external funding opportunities are available here: <http://www.nd.edu.au/research/postgraduate-research/postgraduate-information/scholarships>.

International students must either pay tuition fees, or seek alternative funding sources, such as a scholarship to support their enrolment. The University is keen to support high calibre international students, who are eligible to apply for Commonwealth Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships (Fees Offset and/or Stipend), and Notre Dame's International Fee Remission Research Scholarship (IFRRS). Please be aware that these are competitive and limited in number. Further details about these scholarships can be found at: <http://www.nd.edu.au/research/postgraduate-research/postgraduate-information/scholarships>.

Applicants may also seek scholarships from institutions external to UNDA, such as the [Endeavour](#) and [Fulbright](#) schemes. In doing so, the applicant is responsible for researching the eligibility and application requirements of the particular program.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or require further guidance.

5. Contact Details

Domestic applicants:

Prospective Student Office
Ph: (08) 9433 0533
Email: future@nd.edu.au

Research Office – Fremantle
Ph: 61 8 9433 0943
Email: research@nd.edu.au

Admissions Office- Fremantle
Ph: 61 8 9433 0537
Email: admissions@nd.edu.au

Prospective Student Office
Ph: (02) 8204 4404
Email: sydney@nd.edu.au

Research Office – Sydney
Ph: 61 8 8204 4426
Email: sydney.research@nd.edu.au

Admissions Office- Sydney
Ph: 61 2 8204 4430
Email: sydney.admissions@nd.edu.au

International Applicants:

International Office (all campuses)
Ph: +61 8 9433 0844
Email: international@nd.edu.au