

Jade Tyrrell
National President
National Union of Students Inc.
Suite 64 Trades Hall
54 Victoria Street
Carlton South, Victoria 3053
t:
e:
w. www.unistudent.com.au

National Union of Students

Response to

Higher Education Standards Panel

Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes

Higher Education Standards Panel Executive,

By email: info@HEstandards.gov.au

NUS welcomes this opportunity to provide our views on the consultation paper.

NUS agrees with the Standards Panel that it is prudent to develop a set of threshold standards are not divided into threshold and non-threshold standards and that will be consistently applied to all research training providers.

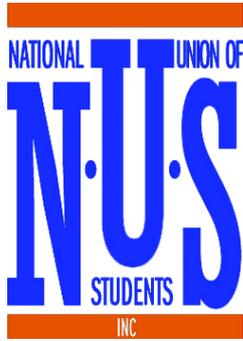
We also support the approach taken by the panel that research training is sufficiently different from coursework that its should be treated separately within the standards framework. The main issue with this approach is, of course, the many postgraduate courses that contain elements of both coursework and research training.

Transparency is required regarding which aspects are coursework and which are research training so it is clear which standard applies. This will most likely be straightforward in most courses but there may be the possibility of blurring in some of the more vocational disciplines.

NUS supports the proposed draft standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training). NUS' focus in this area is on research training, and in particular minimising the risk that research students may be put on vulnerable situations where they are not receiving supervision from suitably qualified academics and/or trying to operate at an institution that has little research culture or infra-structure. NUS strongly supports point 3 of the research training standard:

Each research student is supervised by a principal supervisor who is research active in the relevant field of research, there is at least one associate supervisor with relevant research expertise and continuity of relevant supervisory expertise is maintained throughout the candidature.

Representing Students since 1987



Jade Tyrrell
National President
National Union of Students Inc.
Suite 64 Trades Hall
54 Victoria Street
Carlton South, Victoria 3053
t:
e:
w. www.unistudent.com.au

Academic rights advocacy staff employed at affiliated campus student organisations spend much of their casework time dealing with supervision issues between research students and their supervisors. NUS also strongly welcomes that section 1 of the research training standard includes requirements that the provider's governance formally address: "*the rights and responsibilities of students and supervisors*" and "*the induction and orientation of students and supervisors.*"

Jade Tyrrell

2013 NUS President

Representing Students since 1987