



**Higher Education Standards Panel**

**Response: Call for Comment, July 2013**

**Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training)**

**Q1. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research? If not, why?**

In general, the University views the proposed standards as appropriate and reasonable. However, further clarification and definition of the terms 'research training' and 'research student' is required to clarify to whom the Standards apply.

The University views the appropriate scope of these Standards as higher degrees by research only. Research components of postgraduate coursework courses should be excluded. Undergraduate Honours should also be excluded unless some requirements are reconsidered, for example Research Training proposed Standard 3's requirement for two supervisors. The University would also suggest that the Higher Education Standards Panel considers what standards should apply to undergraduate Honours courses.

**Q2. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?**

Standard 3:

If an induction process is required for staff engaged in research, it would be useful to specify the scope of this induction as per Research Training proposed Standard 5. Standard 5 requires inclusion of areas such as code of conduct, ethics, occupational health and safety and intellectual property.

**Q3. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research Training? If not, why?**

In general, the University broadly supports the proposed standards. The University suggests that an additional standard is required outlining the need to provide formal induction for supervisors as well as ongoing professional development opportunities.

**Q4. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?**

Standard 4:

The University strongly urges that the principal supervisor holds a doctoral degree, and that the statement 'or equivalent research experience' be removed. Other panel members may have a PhD or equivalent. This would equate with the other standards in terms of qualifications requirements.

Standard 8:

The University is unsure as to how 'quality of supervision' can be monitored against institutional goals, and suggests that this be removed.



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**Q5. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)?  
If not, why?**

In general, the University broadly supports the proposed standards.

**Q6. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?**

No.

**Q7. Do you wish to make any Overall or General Comments about the form, style, scope or any other aspects of the proposed set of research-related standards?**

No.

Please direct any enquiries regarding this response to:

Office of the Vice-President, Operations  
University of Canberra