

**Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes  
(Research Training) – Consultation  
University of the Sunshine Coast Submission July 2013**

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed draft standards being developed by the Higher Education Standards Panel as part of their review of the current Threshold Standards. The University of the Sunshine Coast's responses to the consultation questions are set out in the table below.

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

Yes. All elements of the proposed research standards require the implementation of good governance and the translation of good practice, so the University is fully committed to this framework.

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

No.

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

Yes. The proposed standards require the implementation of good governance and the translation of good practice, so the University is highly supportive of these draft standards. In particular, we welcome the need for institutions to demonstrate institutional quality assurance of formal coursework offered as part of their higher degree by research (HDR) programs. We also strongly endorse the requirement to restrict the primary supervision of HDR students to appropriately qualified and research-active staff as a means of ensuring quality research supervision, research guidance and research experiences for the HDR students. The appointment of at least one Associate Supervisor with appropriate disciplinary expertise, as a safeguard for the potential loss of primary supervisors, is also good practice and is welcomed by the University.

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

No.

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

Yes. We view the proposed standards on Learning Outcomes (Research Training) as requiring the implementation of good governance and the translation of good practice, so we are very supportive of the standards in their present form. Most importantly, we strongly endorse the development of a standardised set of internationally relevant and internationally competitive learning outcomes across the sector, so as to ensure the relevance and quality of HDR learning outcomes across all accredited Australian Higher Education Providers.

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?

Yes. The University is supportive of the motivations and framework underpinning the draft Higher Education Standards on Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training). Moreover, it is highly supportive of key elements such as a provision for ensuring that student supervision is restricted to qualified and research-active staff to provide a quality research experience for students, as well as a provision of essential skills training to ensure that research students are prepared for employment as citizens of the world, and the exclusion of sectoral key performance measures (for example, the ERA) as components of these essential standards.