

Approved by Academic Board: 23 November 2012
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Related documents

Higher Education Standards Framework section 4.2

Course Progress Policy

Supervisors' Policy

1. Definitions

- 1.1 A domestic student is any student of the University who is an Australian citizen, a New Zealand citizen, or the holder of an Australian permanent resident visa.
- 1.2 An international student is any student of the University who is required to hold a student visa to study in Australia. Any student who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen or who is not the holder of a permanent resident visa is considered an international student.
- 1.3 An offshore student is any student of the University who either studies in their home country or studies in another country, where that country is not Australia.

2. Purpose

This policy provides the framework within which all applications for admission to Higher Degrees by Research at the University of Divinity, by domestic or international students who wish to undertake their studies as offshore students, will be considered.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Higher Degree by Research students who are, or wish to be, offshore students of the University.

4. Principles

The University normally expects candidates to do their research in Australia, and in reasonable proximity to the College to which the candidate is attached. If the primary place of research is outside Australia, prior approval must be obtained from the Research Committee, which must consult with the Research Coordinator of the College before granting approval.

5. Conditions for offshore study

- 5.1 The University only considers applications for off-shore candidates in exceptional circumstances, specifically:
 - a) where the candidature is part of a larger strategic international alliance or ecclesial partnership with which the Institution is involved; and

- b) where there is clear evidence of a suitable academic environment in the offshore location.
- 5.2 Off-shore candidature normally applies only to international full-fee paying students who:
- a) are applying for admission to a Higher Degree by Research, and
 - b) are applying as individuals (rather than under a group or program initiative), and
 - c) are undertaking research which will require an overseas location, and
 - d) wish to pursue most or all of their research overseas.
- 5.3 Domestic students who meet these criteria are also covered by these guidelines.
- 5.4 Approved international students studying in an off-shore location are not eligible for postgraduate research scholarships.
- 5.5 Before approval for offshore candidature is given, the Research Committee must be satisfied that each of the following issues has been adequately addressed:
- a) there is a suitably qualified person at the offshore location who is eligible for appointment as a supervisor, and who has indicated their willingness so to be appointed, and
 - b) there is a suitably qualified person within the Institution who is also eligible for appointment as a supervisor, and who has indicated their willingness so to be appointed, and
 - c) a regular and reliable schedule and method of communication between the candidate and the two supervisors has been agreed to, and
 - d) the applicant has access to an appropriate research library at the offshore location, and
 - e) the applicant has access to all other appropriate research facilities at the off-shore location, which may be necessary for the completion of the project.
- 5.6 In all circumstances, a suitably qualified supervisor from within the University must be appointed as a supervisor, in addition to any supervisor appointed at the offshore location. Both the University and the offshore supervisors must be provided with all relevant policies and procedures pertaining to Higher Degree by Research candidature, including:
- a) Supervisors' Policy
 - b) Course Progress Policy
- 5.7 The candidate must meet all obligations regarding ethical clearance, as determined by the University.
- 5.8 The candidate must be able to undertake, either by distance or online study, the Research Methodology subject which is mandatory for all Higher Degree by Research students of the University, or be able to study an equivalent subject in the offshore

location, or be able to show successful completion of an equivalent subject in prior studies.

- 5.9 The candidate must be available to attend in person any formal reviews of candidature at the time determined by the appropriate regulation.
- 5.10 The University may require a limited period of residence within Australia, during each year of candidature, during which the candidate will meet with their supervisor, and the Research Coordinator of the College to which they are attached, and any other relevant staff nominated by the University, to ensure satisfactory progress. Any such periods of residence are to be funded by the candidate or by a sponsor.