



Preparation of Research Statements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (by Portfolio of Publications)

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with Policy AB-58: [Research Degrees](#), Procedure AB-58 P1: [Research Degrees Admission and Enrolment](#), and Procedure AB-58 P3: [Research Degrees Student Progression](#).

A. Research Statement Requirements

1. Research degree students for admission to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (by Portfolio of Publications) must develop, and subsequently maintain, a comprehensive Research Statement. A Research Statement is designed to provide a structure and time frame for a research degree student's research program and can be used to assess the research degree student's progress at times of review. It will also be used to assess the ethical acceptability of research conducted prior to candidature. Any additional research to be undertaken should be negotiated with the Principal Supervisor and clearly specified in the statement, and it should only be directed to the development of the integrated theme.

B. Research Statement Sections

2. The statement should contain the following sections, and should normally be 10 to 20 pages in total length.
 - a. **Statement of the Research Topic and Rationale for the Research.**

This section should typically include the following details.

 - i. A thematic overview that serves to make clear how the individual publications can be converted into an integrated whole, namely the thesis.
 - ii. Introduction in which the research degree student states the nature of the topic, why it is considered important and how the research contributes to its solution. This section should also include a proposed thesis title.
 - iii. Review of relevant research and theory, an integrated statement that affords some explanation of why the literature cited is important to the research the research degree student proposes to present.
 - iv. The Research Topic (or Hypothesis). The research topic should be clearly stated and provide clear indication of the focus of the research.
 - v. Subsidiary issues, which like the research topic, may be stated in hypothesis form (where relevant).
 - vi. Any additional research required to complement the integrative theme of the research.
 - vii. Appropriate office facilities including a workstation compliant with Work Health and Safety requirements.

b. **Research Methodology**

If additional research is to be undertaken, this section should typically include the following:

- i. a description of the theoretical or conceptual framework employed;
- ii. details of analytical techniques and research design used to undertake the research project;
- iii. timetable or Project Plan for completing the thesis;
- iv. a statement that ethical and other clearances will be obtained.

c. **Table of Contents**

d. **Bibliography**