

## OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Higher Degrees by Research – Information Update No. 53

October, 2015

<http://research.curtin.edu.au/about/hdrupdate.cfm>



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Welcome to the latest Higher Degrees by Research Information Update. The aim of this publication is to provide staff with relevant and timely information about issues relating to higher degree administrative processes. In this issue:

- ✚ New Graduate Research School (GRS) website
- ✚ Proposed new PhD courses
- ✚ Ongoing changes to HDR Student Consumables
- ✚ Upcoming changes to HDR Conference Support
- ✚ Upcoming seminars
- ✚ Scholarships Update

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### New Graduate Research School (GRS) website

The GRS website has recently been revamped with what we hope is a more cohesive, user-friendly layout. This is still a work in progress. All staff are directed to always obtain forms straight from the [GRS website](#) as its content is currently under review. If you have any feedback relating to the website layout/content, this can be directed to Ms Dee John [Dee.John@curtin.edu.au](mailto:Dee.John@curtin.edu.au).

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### Proposed new PhD courses

The GRS proposes to replace the current large number of PhD courses with three PhD courses; PhD Standard, PhD Global and PhD Structured.

The Business Case for the **PhD Standard** will be presented to the University Courses Committee (UCC) on 6 October 2015 for endorsement. The proposed new course will replace all current PhDs offered at Curtin, and the genre of research will be reflected at the thesis level. Pending UCC endorsement, it is envisaged that this course will be active for enrolment in Research Term 2, 2016.

The Business Case for the **PhD Global** was presented to and subsequently endorsed by the UCC on 1 September 2015. It is envisaged that this course will be active for enrolment in Research Term 2, 2016. The Collaborative Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) policy has since been drafted and is currently on the [Compliance, Legislation and Policy website](#) for consultation, and your feedback is requested.

Consultation for the **PhD Structured** is currently underway. The course is aimed at students coming into a PhD with little or no recent research experience, limited understanding of Australian research culture, or those who simply want to undertake more formal research training prior to commencing their research program. The proposed structure of the first year would be 200 credits of coursework with both core and optional units drawn from existing AQF Level 8 or 9 units. Students will be able to enrol into any discipline area that offers this degree option.

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### On-going changes to HDR Student Consumables

The GRS in collaboration with Financial Services have developed and implemented a new HDR Student Consumables reimbursement process. This new process utilises Concur and provides HDR students with transparency for funds available. Concur is accessible by HDR students who have an Australian bank account, and access is provided after they have achieved candidacy. Using a Smartphone App or the OASIS portal, students can now view their current consumable allocation and available balance. This process is almost paperless.

The GRS and Financial Services are in the process of transitioning all eligible current students. The shift for all Humanities students is complete and Curtin Business School students are almost finalised. Health Sciences and Science and Engineering will follow by the end of the year.

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### Upcoming changes to HDR Conference Support

The GRS in collaboration with University Travel and Financial Services are currently reviewing the HDR Conference Support process. A Conference Travel Approval form has been drafted which amalgamates the Conference Support Application and the Student Travel Approval form. Where the current process requires HDR students to complete documentation between 8-10 pages, the new document will comprise of three pages and only one signatory requirement.

Professor Kate Wright  
Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Research Training



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### Upcoming seminars

The following seminars for HDR supervisors have been scheduled. To register and obtain venue details, go to <http://seminars.curtin.edu.au/index.cfm?theme=14>. Seminars that meet the professional development criteria for the Register of Supervisors are denoted with an asterisk \*.

- Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination \* - Wednesday 7 October, 11.30am-1.30pm
- Management of Student Progress\* - Tuesday 13 October, 2 – 3.30pm
- HDR Supervision Update\* - Thursday 12 November, 10 – 11.30am
- Animal Welfare Training: Module 1 – Friday 13 November, 9am-12pm
- Culture, language, and the whole graduate experience: Exploring best practices in international graduate supervision\* - Friday 20 November, 9.30am-11.30am.

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### Scholarships Update

The 2016 APA/CUPS round is currently open to receive applications. The round closes on 31/10/2015. Please refer to the link <http://scholarships.curtin.edu.au/scholarships/scholarship.cfm?id=2314.0>

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