
Confirmation of Candidature Chair of the Panel Responsibilities

Statement of Purpose

Confirmation of Candidature is the first milestone students must meet in their Higher Degree by Research (HDR) enrolment. This milestone is an opportunity for the student to present their progress to-date and receive valuable feedback from a panel of experts within the research community.

The student's presentation will be conducted in a supportive and engaging environment, thereby enabling the student to further enhance their communication and presentation skills within an academic context. The panel feedback is designed to ensure that:

- (i) the student is on-track to a timely and successful completion
- (ii) that their research skills are developing appropriately and
- (iii) that the supervisory arrangements are suitable.

Victoria University values the contributions of Chairs of the Panels. This is an important role and should normally be undertaken by a VU academic who is a Level 3 Supervisor.

- The Chair is responsible for the appropriate conduct of the meeting. Tasks they should focus on include:
 - Assisting the applicant with setting up of the equipment, lighting, audio etc.
 - Activating the online (eg Zoom/Teams etc) connection with Panel member(s) as required.
 - Check with student before commencing presentation that there is no perceived conflict of interest with any of the nominated panel members.
 - Acknowledgement to Country (refer to Page 3)
 - Introducing members of the Panel to each other and to the applicant.
 - Confirming that Panel members have the appropriate documentation required for the presentation.
 - Postponing the meeting if more than one of the panel members isn't able to attend the meeting. Arrangements to be made with the Graduate Research School for an alternative meeting time.
 - Provide a brief summary highlighting purpose of the presentation for the applicant, Panel members and audience.
 - Outline the meeting's proceedings and the timing allowed for each stage of the session (see above).
 - Keeping applicants, panel members and the audience members to time.
 - Fielding and confirming as required, questions and responses from applicants, panel members and the audience members. Questions should be restricted to question time so the applicant can have the opportunity to present uninterrupted.
 - Ensuring all questions and responses are communicated to the applicant in a clear and professional manner.
 - Consolidate all panel comments into one final report.
 - Prepare a Panel Report for the student that is clear and concise with feedback that can be actioned.
 - Ensure that the Panel Report and recommendation on the candidature's milestone is submitted via the application within 10 working days of the oral presentation.

NB: Student's are advised that they will receive their formal feedback, regardless of outcome, no later than 15 working days after the oral presentation.

CHECKLIST:	TICK BOX:
A minimum of 2 panel members in attendance, in addition to the Chair. (Please refer to Guidelines)	
All panel members to receive a copy of the application: 1. Application form 2. Candidature Proposal	
Principal Supervisor in attendance	
Associate Supervisor in attendance (If not in attendance, please note the reason on the chair report)	
<p>Chair to advise those in attendance of the order of proceedings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acknowledgement of Country* (1 min) (refer to page 3) 2. Introductions 3. Ask candidate if there is a potential COI with any panel member? 4. Student's oral presentation (20 min) 5. Open discussion and questions (15 min) 6. Chair to thank applicant and audience members: (1 Min) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audience members asked to leave the meeting 2. Candidate placed in a 'breakout room' (Zoom), or asked to leave the meeting room 7. Closed discussion: with panel members and Supervisors (3 min) 8. Chair to place Supervisor in 'breakout room' (Zoom) or asked to leave the meeting room with candidate 9. Closed discussion: Panel members (8 min) 10. Outcomes: Student with panel members, and supervisor(s) present (10 min) 11. Closed discussion: Between Chair and Candidate - with the option for the Panel to be present at the discretion of the Chair (2 min) 	
<p>Panel Chair to request panel members to submit their written feedback (directly to the Chair) within 5 working days.</p> <p>In accordance with the guidelines, the Panel Chair is to collate the feedback into a written report and submit to candidature@vu.edu.au within 10 working days.</p>	

*ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

“**We/I** acknowledge the Ancestors, Elders and families of the Boonwurrung, Waddawurrung and Woiwurrung of the Kulin who are the traditional owners of University land.

As we share our own knowledge practices within the University may we pay respect to the deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community and their ownership of Country.

We/I acknowledge that the land on which we meet is a place of age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that the Kulin people’s living culture has a unique role in the life of this region.

VU is committed to building better relationships and fostering greater understanding between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.