

VU Research Masters Courses RP1 2026 FOR STUDENTS

INFORMATION and TIMETABLE

Master of Research
Master of Applied Research

Research Masters Information:

Courses, Mapping your Degree, Timetable

Key Dates RP1 2026

Program Induction: Monday February 16, 1-2pm P134 Footscray Park (compulsory)

Graduate Researcher Orientation: Friday February 27, L114 Footscray Park 10am-1pm (compulsory)

Classes: Program runs February 16-May 13

NB: ALL CLASSES DELIVERED IN PERSON AT FOOTSCRAY PARK CAMPUS (unless otherwise directed)

For further administrative information, please contact Gradresearch@vu.edu.au

Once enrolled: contact Academic Coordinator Rose.Lucas@vu.edu.au

Please check that you receive your personalised Student Map at the point of enrolment – this will map out the coursework and milestones you will take in your particular pathway

1. HDR Researcher Integrity Module

In this first phase of your degree – known as the pre-Confirmation of Candidature period - you are required to undertake 3-4 self-paced online modules. These HDR Researcher Integrity modules will give you a broad-brush introduction to some of the protocols and expectations around the vital questions of integrity and ethical conduct within research work and will no doubt prompt questions for you about the undertaking of your own project; please make a note of your ideas and queries and bring them to the coursework unit to discuss in a collegial and interdisciplinary context (UGR7003 Research Integrity and Ethics, see timetable, p. 9). The core units will provide you with the opportunity to build upon the topics touched on in these modules, enabling you to gain insight into how you – as well as other students – will undertake research in a professional, constructive and transparent manner.

The HDR Researcher Integrity Modules can be located on [VU Collaborate](#), under the Support and Collaborate tab (please note your enrolment will need to be processed before you have access to this space). The modules will take you approximately half an hour each and you will need to gain at least 80% in the quiz to have the module register as completed. You may like to discuss some of the content with your supervisor whom you should be making contact with during this initial phase. Here also is a Help Guide to [Navigating VU Collaborate](#).

There are up to 4 modules which are appropriate for you to complete in the pre Confirmation of Candidature period (ie approx. the first 6 months f/t; 12 months p/t). All commencing HDR students *must* complete the following three modules:

- 1. The Responsible Conduct of Research**
- 3. Planning your Research**
- 4. Managing and Recording your Research**

+

10. Responsible Conduct of Human Participants Research (if applicable) *or*
11. The Care and Use of Animals in Research (if applicable)

You should **complete at least modules 1 and 3 before the commencement of coursework**. You will also be able to refer back to them in the course of your research degree.

NB: You will be required to have completed the above three core modules (plus any additional relevant modules) in order to present for Confirmation of Candidature.

If you have any queries regarding your access to the VU Collaborate space, please contact Researcher.development@vu.edu.au.

2. Supervision

You will have two disciplinary supervisors from the point of enrolment. You should meet with them on average one every two weeks (EFT); the work undertaken in coursework should support the work undertaken simultaneously in supervision.

3. Research Preparatory Coursework Units

NB: ALL CLASSES DELIVERED IN PERSON P134 FOOTSCRAY PARK CAMPUS (unless otherwise directed)

Students in both Research Masters courses will study the following three core units to support them in their transition into a research pathway:

- 1. UGR7001 Introduction to Research Methodology:** This unit provides an oversight of some of the most common research methodologies, considering why they might be selected and what particular methods they might involve
- 2. UGR7002 Research Design and Proposal Development:** This unit will explicitly help you to 'put together the pieces' of your research: your research question, its position within existing knowledge, your related choices about methodology and prepare for you Confirmation of Candidature.
- 3. UGR7003 Research Integrity and Ethics:** This unit gives an overview of the general and specific ways in which research must be undertaken with integrity, asking you to consider the ethical implications for your project.

Depending on your course and your background, you may also be required to take the following unit:

4. **UGR7006 Enhancing Researcher Knowledge and Skills: Literature Review:** This is a 'shell unit' which focuses on building a literature review to support your Masters thesis and preparations for Confirmation of Candidature.

VU Research Masters courses:

To provide students with flexibility, VU has devised two Research Masters courses of different durations and with different combinations of coursework depending on your background. Your admission into a particular Research Masters course will be determined by the Research Institute in your area. This decision will be based on: your level of qualification and the relationship between your previous study; and your proposed Masters research (i.e. whether or your previous study is in an area deemed to be cognate (related) with your proposed research).

You will be supported in this pre-Confirmation of Candidature period by the concurrent structures of a) working with your supervisor on your research project and b) by building research skills and refining that project in the context of the research preparatory coursework units.

1. Master of Research

- **Duration:** 1.5 years
- **Components:**
 - Research project documented in a thesis of 25,000-50,000 words under supervision
 - 3 core research preparatory coursework units (UGR7001, 7002, 7003)
 - Milestones: Confirmation of Candidature , Towards Submission

2. Master of Applied Research

- **Duration:** 2.0 years
- **Components:**
 - Research project documented in a thesis of 25,000-50,000 words under supervision
 - 4 coursework units
 - 3 core research preparatory units (UGR7001, 7002, 7003)
 - UGR7006 a shell unit managed through GRS and supervision to focus on disciplinary literature review
 - Milestones: Confirmation of Candidature, Towards Submission

Research Period 1, 2026 Timetable Research Masters

NB:

- Commencing students will be enrolled according to your **Student Map (Masters)**
- Continuing students enrol via MyVU Portal where enrolment can be checked
- **All classes will be held in person in P134 Footscray Park** (unless otherwise notified) and you will be contacted one week prior to classes commencing; you will *not need* to allocate on MyTimetable.
- **NB: Academic Census is March 13 – the final date by which you can change your course without penalty.**

Classes & events

Unit/Event	Date	Time
Master of Research Program Induction (compulsory for <i>commencing</i> students only)	Monday February 16	1-2 pm
Graduate Researcher Orientation (for all commencing research students)	Friday February 27	10am – 1pm
UGR7001 Introduction to Research Methodology	16/2, 18/2, 23/2, 25/2, 2/3, 4/3, 9/3, 11/3	Mondays and Wednesdays 3-5.30 pm
UGR7002 Research Design and Proposal Development	16/3, 18/3, 23/3, 25/3, 30/3, 1/4, 13/4, 15/4	Mondays and Wednesdays 3-5.30 pm
UGR7003 Research Integrity and Ethics	20/4, 22/4, 27/4, 29/4, 4/5, 6/5, 11/5, 13/5	Mondays and Wednesdays 3 – 5.30pm
UGR7006 Enhancing Research Knowledge and Skills. For students in the 2 year Master of Applied Research only, this 'shell unit' provides customised disciplinary material to support the production of the research.	Not scheduled; the work for this unit will take place in the context of supervision. • Assessments on Collaborate Dropbox	
Preparing for Confirmation Workshops for Masters students presenting for Confirmation in 2026. Please attend 1 <i>workshop</i> at least 1 month before you present. Registrations through Researcher Development Calendar	• f/t, July 21, 10-3 • p/t October 27, 10-3 Registrations through Researcher Development Calendar	10am - 3pm

Please contact the Academic Coordinator, HDR Coursework units, if you have any further queries: Rose.Lucas@vu.edu.au