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## VU HDR MYPLAN 2: CONFIRMATION OF CANDIDATURE

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**As a series of prompt questions: The VU HDR MyPlan is a self-assessment tool to be used in consultation with supervisor/s in preparation for your candidature milestone review (not required for submission).**

| Date | Trigger Questions   | Your Responses | Supervisor Comments? |
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|      | <p><b>What did you learn from the coursework units – both about your own project and process and about other approaches to knowledge?</b></p>   |                |                      |
|      | <p><b>How do you currently envisage the nature of your research project?<br/>What is its nature/type? How has this changed as a result of the first 12 months (EFT) of study?</b></p> |                |                      |

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|  | <p><b>How did you feel about the work already produced in your first year? What did you learn about your project and about your own researcher needs?</b></p>                             |  |  |
|  | <p><b>What will be the relationship between the work achieved so far and your overall research project?</b></p>   |  |  |
|  | <p><b>What have you learned from the experience of academic writing so far? Have you identified a need for support in meeting the requirements of academic writing and structure?</b></p> |  |  |

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|  | <p><b>What is your current formulation of the 'research question' for your overall research? What will be the necessary elements of the research proposal which will form your Confirmation of Candidature application?</b></p>   |  |  |
|  | <p><b>Have you yet read the requirements of the <a href="#">Confirmation of Candidature process</a>? Have you registered for a <a href="#">Towards Confirmation workshop</a> 2-4 months before presentation?</b></p>  |  |  |
|  | <p><b>What do you currently see as the component parts of your research project? What is the relationship between the parts?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>between data collection and theoretical context</b></li> <li>◆ <b>between 'big picture' mind mapping and specific detail/case studies</b></li> <li>◆ <b>between chapters/publications</b></li> </ul> |  |  |

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|  | <p>◆ <b>between thinking/talking about your project and writing about it</b></p>  |  |  |
|  | <p><b>Are there any obstacles for you in the timely progress of your research - and what can be done to address them? Who can help?</b></p>       |  |  |
|  | <p><b>What sense do you have of the 'field of knowledge/s'? How has your reading confirmed/reassessed your original sense of the project?</b></p> |  |  |
|  | <p><b>Do you feel you have established an effective working relationship with your supervisor/s?</b></p>  |  |  |

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|  | <p>Make sure that you have completed the <a href="#">Supervision Agreement</a></p>   |  |  |
|  | <p>What skills have you built and/or consolidated during your first year of HDR study?</p>   |  |  |
|  | <p>With an emerging sense now of your research topic and its methodologies, what skills do you think you will need to build in order to undertake the project?</p> <p>What are the top 3 priority areas for your development as an independent, professional researcher? eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ academic writing</li> <li>◆ data collection</li> <li>◆ theoretical interpretation</li> <li>◆ project and personal management</li> </ul> <p><b>NB: You will be asked to reflect on these skills/learning areas at your Confirmation of Candidature.</b></p> |  |  |

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|  | <p>Where will you go to address these research learning needs, to achieve both your Research and Researcher goals? Refer to <a href="#">VU Researcher Development</a></p>  |  |  |
|  | <p>What have you achieved to date? Are you on track, according to your project planning?</p> <p>NB: Use VU Develop to record both formal and informal achievements</p>   |  |  |
|  | <p>How are you feeling about the project at this point? What issues have emerged for you?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ in relation to the content</li> <li>◆ academic process</li> <li>◆ balancing the project with other priorities in your life</li> <li>◆ the skills required to successfully undertake this project</li> <li>◆ isolation / intellectual communities</li> </ul> |  |  |

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|  | <p><b>How will you represent your project and your progress? Use the Confirmation process (and mid Candidature and pre-Submission reviews) as an opportunity to help you represent your achievements and demonstrate your research plans – for your own benefit and not just as a bureaucratic requirement!</b></p>         |  |  |
|  | <p><b>Are you confident with your academic presentation skills? How will you best use slides, voice, text to best persuade the milestone panel?</b></p> <p><b>Ask your supervisor if you can set up a ‘practice’ presentation session. And attend your peers’ panels so you have a clear sense of what it expected.</b></p> |  |  |
|  | <p><b>Where are you up to in preparing for Confirmation of Candidature?</b></p> <p><b>Refer to <a href="#">Preparing for Candidature Webpage</a></b></p>  |  |  |

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|  | <p>How do you envisage achieving the next phase of the project (i.e. to get to Confirmation)? Check guidelines for required timing for your degree.</p> <p>Contact <a href="#">Candidature Team</a> for further details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ tasks</li> <li>◆ timeline</li> <li>◆ support required</li> </ul> |  |  |
|  | <p>Will you require Ethics Approval for your post Confirmation of Candidature research? Follow through with <a href="#">Research Ethics</a>.</p>   |  |  |
|  | <p>Have you completed the required <a href="#">Researcher Integrity modules</a>? Modules 1, 3 and 4, plus either Modules 10 or 11 if applicable to your project, are required by Confirmation of Candidature. What aspects of integrity and ethics do you currently think will be relevant for your project?</p>                       |  |  |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Are you interested in undertaking an internship as part of your degree (eligible post Confirmation; particularly relevant for doctoral degrees)?</li><li>◆ If so what skills do you think you could develop via an internship?</li><li>◆ What organisations or type of organisations do you think you would be interested in undertaking an internship with?</li></ul> <p>Discuss with your supervisor and <a href="#">Researcher Development</a></p> |  |  |
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