

HIGHER DEGREE BY RESEARCH ADMISSIONS POLICY

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1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set out the approach of the Australian National Institute of Management and Commerce (IMC) to the admission of applicants to IMC's Higher Degree by Research (HDR) courses.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the *Higher Degree by Research Admissions Procedure*.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to domestic and international applicants for admission to IMC's Higher Degree by Research courses, and to IMC staff and members of committees involved in the admissions process.

3 DEFINITIONS

Admission means the acceptance of an applicant for enrolment in a course.

Higher Degree by Research (HDR) means a supervised research program at AQF Level 9 or Level 10,

requiring the independent planning and completion of a substantial research project, under the guidance of a supervisor, which makes an original contribution to knowledge.

4 PRINCIPLES

IMC's approach to HDR admission:

- ensures that admission decisions are made according to the likelihood of the applicant achieving the outcomes of the course given their qualifications, their demonstrated ability and commitment, and the support and training available at IMC;
- ensures that applicants are only admitted if IMC is able to provide suitable supervision and necessary resources;
- takes account of the congruence of the proposed research topic with IMC's research priorities, potential contribution to the achievement of strategic objectives, and any associated potential legal or other risks;
- considers whether the proposed research is within the broad field of education of Management and Commerce;
- considers whether the applicant demonstrates discipline knowledge sufficient to undertake research in the chosen field;
- is fair, equitable and conducted according to relevant IMC policies and procedures;
- includes a right of appeal in cases where an application is refused, as set out in the *Student Selection and Admission Procedure*;
- allows consideration of alternative admission criteria where an applicant does not have the academic qualification normally required for HDR admission; and
- facilitates the admission of applicants from a diversity of backgrounds.

5 RELATED DOCUMENTS

5.1 Internal

- i. *Student Selection and Admission Policy*
- ii. *Student Selection and Admission Procedure*
- iii. *Recognition of Prior Learning Policy*
- iv. *Higher Degree Research Confirmation of Candidature and Progression Review Policy and Procedure*
- v. *Research and Scholarship Committee Terms of Reference*
- vi. *Guidelines on Minimum Resources for Higher Degree Research Students*

5.2 External

- i. *Australian Council of Graduate Research, Graduate Research Good Practice Principles.*
- ii. *Australian Qualifications Framework (2nd ed), 2013*
- iii. *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards), 2021*
- iv. *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Authority, Guidance Note: Research and Research Training, December 2024*

6 VERSION CONTROL

Historical Version	Approved by	Approval Date
2026.04	Academic Board	16 April 2026
2024.11	Academic Board	20 November 2024
2020.09	Academic Board	21 September 2020
2013.12	Academic Board	19 December 2013

7 STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP/MAINTENANCE

The Research and Scholarship Committee oversees the implementation of, and compliance with, this Policy. For any enquiries or clarification, please contact policy@imc.edu.au.