

Guidelines for Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)-based admission to HDR courses

Admission to any Higher Degree by Research (HDR) course of the University require prior completion of an award in a suitable area of study, as specified in the [Higher Degree by Research \(HDR\) Admissions Policy](#). Admission can also be considered on the basis of learning acquired through means other than formal study, through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

When an application has been assessed by Graduate Research as not meeting the minimum admission requirements, the Faculty can submit a request for the applicant to be admitted based on RPL.

An application for RPL must include evidence of formal learning and professional experience to enable assessment of equivalent to the minimum entry requirements for the relevant HDR course. The applicant must also provide evidence of capacity and aptitude for research ([HDR Admissions Policy](#)).

The Faculty may ask the applicant to submit further information or evidence to support the request for RPL, this can be done through the HDR Application Portal by selected **Request further information** as the decision outcome.

How to make an application for HDR admission based on RPL

A request for RPL must be submitted through the HDR Application Portal. When a supervisor is assessing an application they will have the opportunity to select that RPL is required and submit a detailed statement outlining why they believe RPL should be granted.

The Faculty statement must outline the reasons for the recommendation, against the learning outcomes of the relevant entry qualification (AQF). For example:

- **For admission to a doctoral degree**, the statement must address the learning outcomes of either an **AQF8 Bachelor with Honours** qualification or **AQF9 Master by Coursework** qualification (at minimum)
- **For admission to a Master by Research course** the statement addressing the learning outcomes of an **AQF7 Bachelor Degree** (at minimum) or **AQF8 Bachelor with Honours** (depending on the Master by Research course they are applying for).

The learning outcomes (knowledge, skills, application of knowledge and skills) for the above AQF levels are available from the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) website (download the [AQF Second Edition January 2013](#) for full details).

Alternatively, the statement may refer to a specific qualification offered by UC and the learning outcomes of that course in support of an RPL application for admission. For example, admission to a Master of Information Sciences (Research) requires completion of a degree such as Bachelor of Business Informatics, Bachelor of IT, or Bachelor of Software Engineering. A statement against the learning outcomes of any of these courses would be appropriate.

Once the application has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Associate Dean Research, and the Faculty Executive Dean, the RPL request will be reviewed, with the full application, by the Dean of Graduate Research via the HDR Application Portal.

The decision to admit a student to a course rests with the Admissions Officer (Dean of Graduate Research, appointed under the University of Canberra Admission Rules 2017).