PhD GRADUATE QUALITIES AND MILESTONES
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

The Doctor of Philosophy is awarded for a substantial original contribution to the knowledge or understanding of a discipline and demonstrated capacity for independent research.

Graduates of PhD degrees will have expert, specialised cognitive, technical and research skills in a discipline area to enable them independently and systematically to demonstrate:

- evidence of an original investigation or testing of ideas
- competence in independent research or experimentation
- a thorough understanding of the appropriate techniques in the field demonstrated both by their application and a thorough review of the literature
- critical use of source material such as experimental results and published works
- appreciation of the relationship of the special theme to the wider field of knowledge
- the capacity to present well-written work
- a higher degree of independence of thought and approach
- a significant original contribution to knowledge

Graduates will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, authoritative judgement, adaptability, and responsibility as an expert and leading scholar.

The PhD is a 4-year FTE candidature (8 years part-time). The following milestones, based on the progress of a full-time candidate, are mandatory unless otherwise specified.

| Year 1 (by 12 months) | 1. Induction (April or August as applicable)  
|  | 2. Annual Review of Progress (ARP) - June  
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<th>3. 1st Year Assessment Tasks including Research Plan and GANTT chart</th>
<th>If Induction dates are inappropriate, can be completed online</th>
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| Year 2 (by 24 months) | 1. ARP - June  
|  | 2. 2nd Year Assessment Tasks and review GANTT chart |
| Year 3 (by 36 months) | 1. ARP - June  
|  | 2. 3rd Year Assessment Tasks  
|  | 3. Detailed timeline OR review of GANTT chart with full details of ongoing activity  
|  | 4. Completions workshop  
|  | Evidence of submission to Turnitin | To be sighted by HDC and supervisor and administrator |
| Before submission |  |  
| Year 4 (by 48 months) | 1. ARP - June  
|  | 2. Submit by the end of 48 months |  |
Glossary

**Induction**: Compulsory milestone that must be attended or completed online within the first 6 months of candidature. There is both a University and faculty component.

**Annual Review of Progress**: A yearly report that must be completed by the candidate, supervisors and Dean of School (or nominee) to advise the Faculty of the progress of the candidature. Failure to complete the ARP will result in Show Cause proceedings and possible termination of candidature.

**1st Year Assessment Tasks**: The initial milestone must be completed within the first twelve months to achieve confirmation of candidature and include a minimum of two of the following:

- A literature review with research plan for the following 12 months;
- A manuscript written by the student as first author (draft, final or accepted form);
- A research grant proposal written by the student as chief investigator or co-investigator;
- A substantial conference paper written by the student as first author;
- A conference abstract or poster written by the student as first author;
- Substantial progress towards draft chapters as negotiated with supervisors;
- A progress seminar which will be widely advertised in the Faculty and attended by the supervisory panel. The supervisory panel should provide feedback to the candidate.

**Research plan**: A detailed description of the research program including specific aims, background and significance, any preliminary studies and progress report, and research design and methods.

**Gantt chart**: A chart with a series of horizontal lines that show the amount of work completed in certain periods of time in relation to the amount planned for those periods. A useful tool for forward planning.

**2nd Year Assessment Tasks**: A progress report provided to the Faculty, and any School-specific requirements such as:

- Seminar presentation at research week
- Seminar presentation in Discipline
- Conference presentation

  Seminars are to be attended by supervisory panel and discipline experts designed to provide feedback useful to thesis completion.

**3rd Year Assessment Tasks**: Final progress report provided to the Faculty, and any School-specific requirements such as:

- Seminar presentation at research week
- Seminar presentation in Discipline
- Conference presentation

  Seminars are to be attended by supervisory panel and discipline experts designed to provide feedback useful to thesis completion.

**Completions workshop**: A two-day intensive workshop designed to assist RHD candidates in their final 6 months of candidature to complete their thesis. Candidates are to enrol via the Office of Graduate Research website.

**TurnItIn**: Text matching software that addresses plagiarism and promotes academic integrity.