UNSW Higher Degree Research Graduate Attributes and Learning Outcomes

These learning outcomes were endorsed by the UNSW Academic Board on 24 July 2018
Through its higher degree research (HDR) programs, UNSW aspires to prepare research leaders who are globally focussed and socially engaged.
HDR candidates are considered to be scholars at the early stage of their research career, in transition to future employment and lifelong learning. This transition encompasses a significant shift from undergraduate and postgraduate coursework student, to expert researcher.

HDR graduates should be independent thinkers with an array of skills that will prepare them for a broad range of professions.

All HDR graduates are expected to accomplish equivalent knowledge, skills and attributes, with Doctoral graduates demonstrating higher levels of attainment than Master level graduates.

UNSW will produce HDR graduates with learning outcomes aligned with research and academic excellence, leadership and global impact. We aspire to producing graduates with a commitment to social engagement.
UNSW higher degree research graduate attributes and learning outcomes

UNSW learning outcomes for HDR are grouped under each of four domains:

1. Research excellence
   a. Ability to design and implement an original investigation that addresses a significant problem and/or puts forward a significant proposition to advance the knowledge base of a discipline or a cross-disciplinary field
   b. Demonstrate a thorough understanding and application of research principles, ethics and integrity, and methods appropriate to a discipline or a cross-disciplinary field
   c. Ability to synthesise complex concepts and express in a logical, articulate form

2. Academic Excellence
   a. Demonstrate a thorough understanding and application of academic integrity
   b. Demonstrate a scholarly approach to knowledge generation and an authoritative command of knowledge in a discipline or a cross-disciplinary field
   c. Capacity to critically evaluate and synthesise existing theoretical knowledge, ideas and practice within the relevant field and generate original knowledge
   d. Communicate knowledge for the education of others, which may include teaching and undergraduate supervision

3. Leadership
   a. Lead and perform research in a timely manner within a discipline or a cross-disciplinary field
   b. Communicate in a manner appropriate to the discipline and disseminate research outcomes to the wider research, business and/or government community
   c. Work independently as well as collaboratively within different teams and contexts

4. Global Impact
   a. Demonstrate a deep understanding of the global body of knowledge of a discipline or a cross-disciplinary field
   b. Communicate research outcomes to the global research community
Aspirational learning goals for HDR graduates are encompassed by the fifth domain:

5. Social Engagement

a. Developing social engagement through knowledge exchange, social enterprise, community building, equity and diversity actions, policy development, or other engagement activities appropriate to the discipline

b. Developing understanding of university values including Diversity, Respect, Excellence, Collaboration, Innovation

c. Developing personalised career strategy for future study or employment and life-long learning