

## **SCHEDULE 2: Confirmation of Candidature (CoC)**

### **1 PURPOSE**

This Schedule sets out the candidature milestones for graduate research students [in Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Combined Master/PhD in Psychology, Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Cotutelle and Joint PhD with approved partner university, and Master of Research (MRes)] enrolled at Macquarie University.

The Schedules must be read in conjunction with the [Graduate Research Continuation Policy](#) and [Procedure](#).

### **2 SCHEDULE**

#### **2.1 Provisional Candidature**

Upon admission graduate research students are deemed to have 'provisional candidature' until such time that they have satisfied the CoC requirements.

Students transferring from another higher education institution (including Cotutelle or Joint PhD students who commence their enrolment at a partner institution prior to enrolment at MQ) will be required to provide evidence at the time of admission of successful completion of a CoC process at the same program level at their previous institution. The Faculty will assess such evidence on a case-by-case basis and determine either:

1. The student will be admitted with Confirmed Candidature; or
2. The student will be given a period of time upon enrolment to complete the Faculty's CoC requirements, commensurate with the period of enrolment already undertaken towards the degree and the student's year level.

In the case of (2.1.2) the due date for the CoC will be advised by the Faculty at the time of the student's enrolment, or in the case of Cotutelle and Joint PhD candidates will be due at the date specified in the Candidature Agreement.

Students upgrading from a MPhil to PhD will be deemed 'provisional candidature' and will be required to complete the PhD CoC.

#### **2.2 Confirmation of Candidature**

Confirmation of Candidature requires transparent and demonstratable evidence that the student is highly likely to complete their degree requirements within the maximum allowable time limit. The CoC is a mandatory process for graduate research students to demonstrate that they have developed a viable research project plan, have completed mandatory training requirements, and are progressing their candidature at a satisfactory level to indicate they are on track to complete their degree.

Candidature confirmation will be determined through a rigorous assessment of the student's research capabilities appropriate for their degree. Students will be required to demonstrate that they can:

- analyse information/data and identify gaps in existing research;
- develop research questions and situate their research in the current research literature;
- clearly articulate relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within their research plan; and
- develop a manageable project plan and budget for their research project.

This is achieved through a minimum of:

1. The submission of a piece of written work, of appropriate length, style and content, such as a comprehensive research proposal including a detailed budget, completion plan and literature review, which clearly establishes and articulates the academic merits of the research;

2. MQ ethics or other approvals (if required); and
3. completion of mandatory training requirements (including but not limited to induction/commencement programs, academic integrity, research integrity, and research data management).

[Additional requirements](#) for CoC are established by Faculties and Departments and may include, but are not limited to:

- An oral presentation to a group including peers and academic staff, with written and/or verbal feedback; and
- Verbal discussion and defence of the research proposal.

Exact requirements will be prescribed by the Faculty authority in consultation with the Graduate Research Academy.

### **2.3 Confirmation of Candidature process**

The confirmation process will be prescribed by the relevant Faculty authority. The outcome will be determined and advised in accordance with the [Graduate Research Continuation Policy](#) and [Procedure](#). Students who satisfy the CoC milestone will be identified as 'confirmed'.