ANU HDR SUPERVISION:
POLICY AND PRACTICE UPDATE 2024

In this Update (March 2024; 10 slides):

- **Key policy and practice changes for 2024:**
    1. Confirmation of candidature process to replace TPR
    2. Oral examinations for HDR candidates
    3. Respectful Relationships in Research
    4. Candidate and supervisor use of *iThenticate*
    5. HDR candidates' ethics applications via REMS

- **Resources to support good practice:**
    - Online modules, reading packs, blogs & workshop recordings on the *HDR Supervision Portal*

Australian National University

HDR Supervision Development Team
Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Graduate Research)
e: hdr.supervision@anu.edu.au
w: services.anu.edu.au/research-support/hdr-supervision-development

Key policy & practice updates for 2024

1. 'Confirmation of Candidature' replaces 'Thesis Proposal Review'

Confirmation of Candidature overview:

- formal milestone to ensure research candidates have developed a suitable research project, and will receive appropriate support;

- normally 9-12 months after start of candidature;

- requires Confirmation Review Panel (CRP), normally appointed in conjunction with First Annual Plan;

- CRP comprises all panel members + independent Chair appointed by Delegated Authority;

- applies to all candidates commencing from 1 January 2024.

What's new?

- Consistent University-wide requirements for both written and oral components;

- Project viability assessed by the CRP.

More information – https://anu365.sharepoint.com/sites/ConfirmationofCandidature

Key policy & practice updates for 2024

1. 'Confirmation of Candidature' replaces 'Thesis Proposal Review'

Confirmation of Candidature elements:

1. written **Thesis Proposal** (normal expectation 5000 words) that includes: literature review, proposed methods, contribution to field, timeline & plan, skills assessment, accessibility requirements;

2. **oral presentation** (between 20-60 minutes + 10-20 minutes discussion), based on the written proposal.

Assessment criteria:

- academic rigour, capability, feasibility, training needs, resources, supervision.

More information – https://anu365.sharepoint.com/sites/ConfirmationofCandidature

Key policy & practice updates for 2024

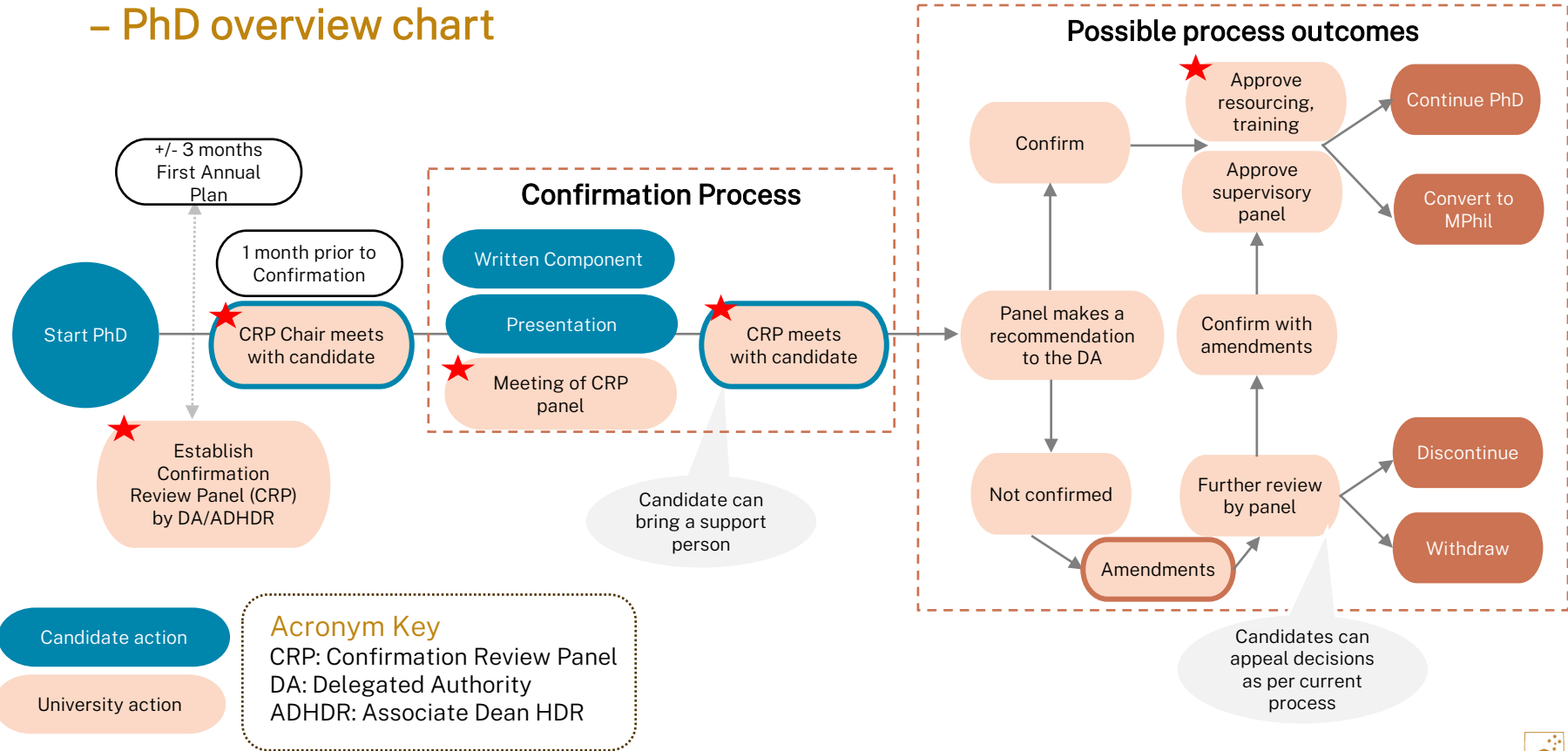## 1. 'Confirmation of Candidature' replaces 'Thesis Proposal Review'

Confirmation of Candidature process:

1. submission of Thesis Proposal at least 10 days prior to oral presentation;

2. meeting of candidate and CRP Chair;

3. meeting of CRP, without candidate, after the oral presentation;

4. Confirmation of Candidature meeting: CRP + candidate

5. CRP recommendation to the Delegated Authority: confirmation; further review ($\leq$ 3 months); transfer to MPhil; withdraw/ discontinue.

More information – https://anu365.sharepoint.com/sites/ConfirmationofCandidature

Key policy & practice updates for 2024

1. 'Confirmation of Candidature' replaces 'Thesis Proposal Review' – PhD overview chart

Possible process outcomes

Confirmation Process

- Written Component
- Presentation
- Meeting of CRP panel

+/- 3 months First Annual Plan

1 month prior to Confirmation

Start PhD

CRP Chair meets with candidate

Establish Confirmation Review Panel (CRP) by DA/ADHDR

CRP meets with candidate

Candidate can bring a support person

Confirm → Approve resourcing, training → Approve supervisory panel → Continue PhD / Convert to MPhil

Panel makes a recommendation to the DA

Confirm with amendments

Not confirmed

Amendments

Further review by panel → Discontinue / Withdraw

Candidates can appeal decisions as per current process

Candidate action
University action

Acronym Key
CRP: Confirmation Review Panel
DA: Delegated Authority
ADHDR: Associate Dean HDR

★ Indicates new or changed process

More information – https://anu365.sharepoint.com/sites/ConfirmationofCandidature

Key policy & practice updates for 2024
2. Oral Examination of HDR candidates

Applies from 1 July 2024	Opt-in for current candidates; compulsory for commencing candidates.
Why?	International & Go8 standard; improve candidates' examination experience.
When?	Normally within 8 weeks of submission, and within ANU business hours.
How?	Virtual; managed by Oral Examination Chair independent of supervisory panel.
Chair	Senior ANU academic with specific training; nominated by Delegated Authority.
Who participates?	Candidate, Chair, Examiners, candidate-invited Support Person (optional).
Duration & communication of results?	Max. 2 hours; informal advice to candidate after deliberation period; formal recommendation to Delegated Authority.

More information: ANU Oral Examination Sharepoint site (forthcoming)

Key policy & practice updates for 2024

3. Rights, Relationships and Respect in Research
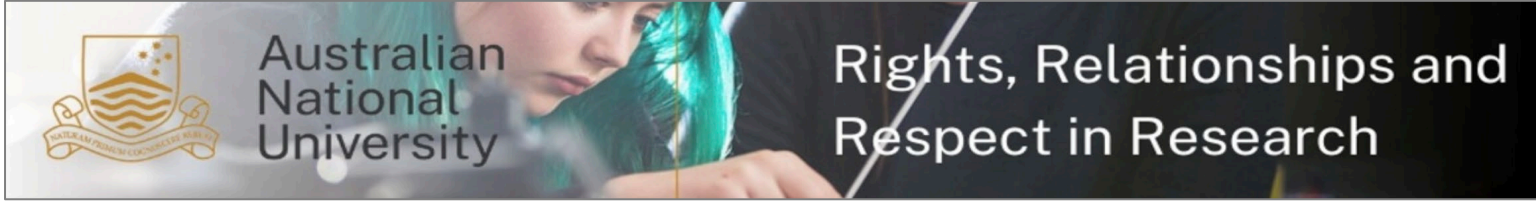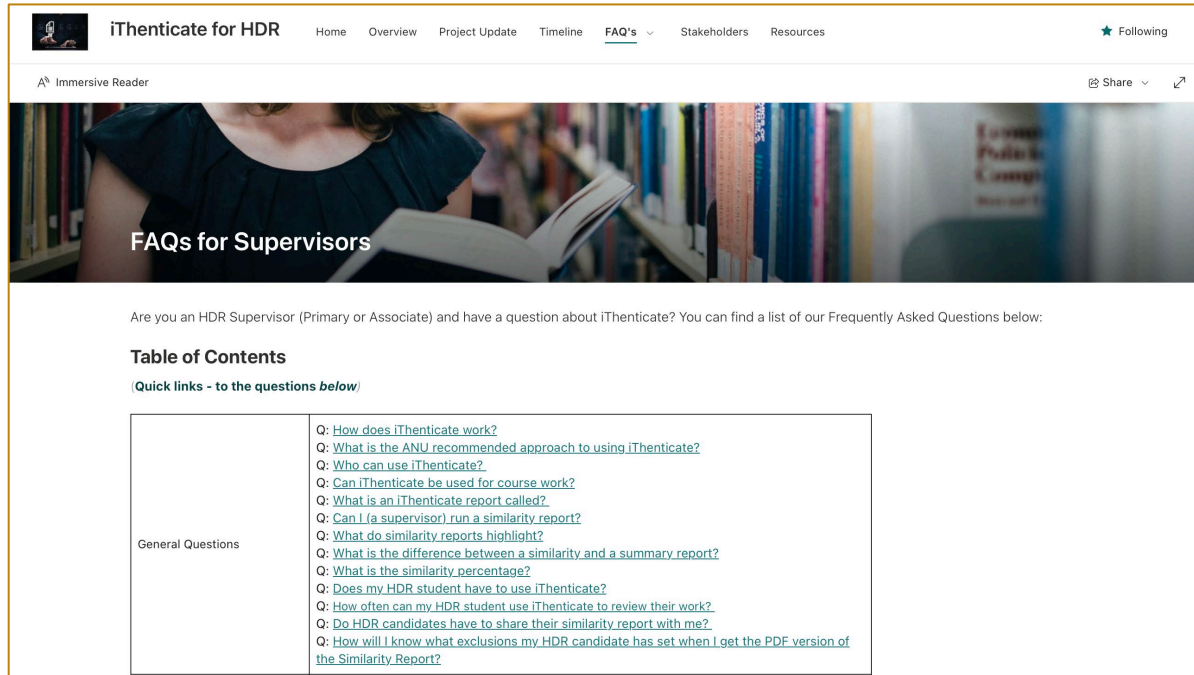
- A new online module for HDR candidates, and HDR supervisors.

- Developed by ANU Respectful Relationships Team, in support of the University's commitment to a safe and respectful workplace.

- All HDR candidates commencing from July 2024 are expected to complete in first 3 months.

- Optional completion by HDR supervisors qualifies as a Registration Renewal Activity.

- Complements other Respectful Relationships resources and training (which also qualify as Registration Renewal Activities).

- Available from May 2024 (access details will be communicated to HDR candidates & supervisors).

More information: https://www.anu.edu.au/students/health-safety-wellbeing/respectful-relationships

Key policy & practice updates for 2024
4. Candidate & supervisor use of *iThenticate*

Now implemented; see ANU Sharepoint site for resources

More information: https://anu365.sharepoint.com/sites/iThenticateforHDR

Key policy & practice updates for 2024
5. HDR candidates' ethics applications via REMS

The primary supervisor is responsible for setting up a REMS Team and Project for a HDR candidate.
See Training Guide & Video at REMS SharePoint site.

Research Ethics Management System (**REMS**)

HDR Candidates & Supervisors

August
2023

More information: https://anu365.sharepoint.com/sites/ResearchEthicsManagementSystemREMS > Training

HDR Supervision Resources – reminders

Through the **HDR Supervision Portal in Wattle**, you can access:

1. the *Supervising Doctoral Studies* package, comprising:

   - a diagnostic tool to help make best use of the resources,
     and 10 modules which address key topics in HDR supervision.

   - Completion of any 2 modules qualifies as a registration renewal activity.

2. **Blogs** and **Reading Packs** on topics of common interest, including:
   Candidate wellbeing | Cohort supervision | Disrespectful relationships | Examination | Expectations & boundaries | First Nations candidates & topics | HDR carers | Oral examination |Panel supervision | Reflective practice | Remote supervision | Supervision in the culturally-diverse academy | Writing groups

   - Completion of 1 Reading Pack qualifies as a registration renewal activity.

3. **Recordings of workshops**, including:
   Enhancing employability | Ethics & Integrity | Managing supervisory relationships | Mental health

More information: contact the HDR Supervision Development Team, or your HDR Convener; see *Research News* each month