

# **Guidelines for Accreditation of Research Higher Degree Supervisors at USQ**

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The University of Southern Queensland recognises that quality supervision is an essential component of providing a high quality program for research higher degree students. The University must ensure high quality supervision to all of its research higher degree students, which will lead to successful learning outcome and completion within the University's timeframes. As part of ensuring high quality supervision the University will maintain a list of Accredited Supervisors and Provisionally Accredited Supervisors. Accreditation may be provided at the doctoral and/or the Masters level(s) and at the supervisor and/or co-supervisor level. The following outlines the process for Accreditation of supervisors for research higher degree students.

## **Accreditation**

### **1 Qualifications**

Accredited Supervisors will normally hold a degree at the level they will be accredited. Other qualifications and experience may be deemed to be equivalent as advised by the Dean of Faculty.

### **2 Research Activity**

A Supervisor will normally be Research Active Academic Staff as defined by the University.

### **3 Period of Accreditation**

The period of Accreditation will be for 3 years notwithstanding that a staff member may move from provisional Accreditation to Accreditation within those 3 years. In that case a new 3 years period will commence.

### **4 Accreditation Process**

A staff member will apply for Accreditation to the Dean who will endorse the application if appropriate and forward it to the Graduate Research Committee for final approval.

### **5 Experience and Training**

Applicants must have undertaken the University's Research Supervisors Program or demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Dean that they have an equivalent level of experience or training. An equivalent level of experience or training will normally only be recognised for staff who have previously supervised a research higher degree student to successful completion.

## **6 Special Circumstances**

Deans may recommend to the Graduate Research Committee that non research active staff be granted Accreditation where a previous and sustained track records, qualification and supervision experience exists.

### **Provisional Accreditation**

Where Provisional Accreditation is sought the applicant must meet the criteria for Accreditation, but with the following exceptions.

#### **1 Qualifications**

If the held research degree is at the next lower level staff may be given Provisional Accreditation as a co-supervisor at the higher level as part of a Faculty's mentoring and staff development program.

#### **2 Changing Accreditation**

Staff who upgrade their qualification(s) and/or become Research Active may request that Provisional or full Accreditation be granted. Accreditation would be for a period of 3 years from the new date.

#### **3 Special Circumstances**

Deans may recommend to the Graduate Research Committee that non research active staff without a proven track record be granted Provisional Accreditation as part of a Faculty's mentoring and staff development program. In such a case provisional Accreditation will be for co-supervision.