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| http://www.usq.edu.au/extrafiles/marketing/logos/USQ_Ver_1_FullCol.jpg | University of Southern Queensland  CRICOS: QLD00244B NSW02225M TEQSA: PRV12081 |

**Preliminary Thesis Topic Proposal**

This form is to be used by students seeking entry to a USQ Higher Degree by Research Program

**STUDENT NAME:**

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**Instructions:** This preliminary thesis topic proposal form would normally be discussed and completed in consultation with the proposed Principal Supervisor prior to applying for acceptance into a Higher Degree by Research (HDR) program. The length of the proposal should be about 4-5 pages. This preliminary thesis topic proposal form establishes a broad framework for the research topic that the student will elaborate on during the provisional candidate period, leading to the submission of a peer-reviewed thesis proposal.   
If you have made contact with a USQ Staff member who has indicated a willingness to supervise the research topic, please provide their details below. If not you are strongly encouraged to contact potential supervisors prior to submitting your application. In the cases where no supervisor has been listed USQ will attempt to locate a potential supervisors on your behalf however this will delay the processing of your application.

HDR applicationswill be assessed on receipt of all the requested documentation as outlined on the [How to apply](http://www.usq.edu.au/research/research-students/apply) web site.

**PROPOSED PRINCIPAL SUPERVISOR:**

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**PROPOSED ASSOCIATE SUPERVISOR(S):**

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**THESIS TOPIC:**

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**THESIS TOPIC ID NUMBER** (if applicable)

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**TOPIC AIMS:** Present in dot points the key aims and/or research questions of the topic.

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**TOPIC SIGNIFICANCE:** Please provide information on how this topic leads to significant advances in the field of study.

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**BACKGROUND / DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC (including key references)**

Please provide a general introduction of the topic; briefly review the current research in the field; highlight your own research experience in this field and any preliminary work that has been conducted on this topic.

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**PROPOSED METHODS**

Outline how you plan to conduct the research. Please provide information on the following issues: access to research laboratories; detail of field work; access to computing facilities other than desktop PC; any possible animal and human ethics clearance.

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**PROPOSED TIMETABLE AND MILESTONES**

The overall plan should be discussed with your potential supervisor and a summary provided here, if possible. If you have been unable to discuss this with a potential supervisor, please summarise your thoughts on how the research would progress over your candidature. You may wish to add a timeline indicating key dates for your proposed course of study.

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**POSSIBLE FUNDING OF TOPIC ACTIVITIES**

Indicate how research activities are to be funded, e.g., research grants that will assist the topic. Please include an estimate of the main costs needed to carry out your proposed study, and if this is expected to come from USQ, an external funding body, or will be self-funded.  The topic resources plan will be approved at the Confirmation of Candidature.

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| **Student Signature:** | **Date:** |

**SUPERVISOR STATEMENT To be completed by supervisor (If identified)**

Please comment briefly on this proposal in terms of feasibility; support for the topic; and confirm willingness to supervise this topic. The supervisors should show how the topic is linked to the University’s strategic research agenda; how it links to national and international research activities in this field; and whether the topic is linked to research conducted in a national research organisation.

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| **Proposed Supervisor Signature:** | **Date:** |
| **Proposed Associate Supervisor Signature:**  *(Optional)* | **Date:** |