

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Higher Degrees by Research – Information Update No. 3

17 June 2005



Welcome to the third Higher Degrees by Research Information Update. The aim of this publication is to provide staff with relevant and timely information about issues relating to higher degree administrative processes. In this issue:

- Report on PhD Supervision
 - Scholarships
 - Annual Progress Reports 2005
-

Report on PhD Supervision

A DEST-funded report on supervision of PhD candidates has recently been published and is available for downloading at http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/publications_resources/profiles/pedagogy_of_good_phd_supervision.htm.

Supervisors may recall some years ago being invited to participate in this study by Mark Sinclair of Central Queensland University, and some Curtin staff were among the 5000+ who participated. A synthesis of the findings indicates that:

Successful supervision involves assisting commencing candidates to demystify and structure their candidature. It requires frequent, timely and collaborative intervention by the supervisor and others in the first year of candidature. The supervisor should develop a trusting relationship with the candidate designed to boost confidence, sort out confusion, and monitor and celebrate the progress of the candidate through their research process. While interventions decrease in frequency and depth as the candidate becomes more self-reliant, there should be a greater emphasis on text generation by the candidate and rapid turnaround of text by the supervisor.

Scholarships

Applications for **Curtin Completion Scholarships** for Semester Two are due by June 30, 2005. Now that separations are no longer a component of Research Training Scheme funding, UGSC has relaxed the stringent time limits for eligibility, which now read:

“Students who initially enrolled prior to September 2000 must have been enrolled for not less than 3 and not more than 5 EFT years; or, Students who enrolled from 1st September 2000 must have been enrolled for not less than 2 and not more than 4 EFT years.”

The current round of **International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS)** for 2006 is now open and the **Curtin International Research Tuition Scholarships (CIRTS)** are being offered at the same time. By using the one application form, the application and selection process for CIRTS is much simplified from the 2005 procedure and ensures merit selection. Applications are due by August 31, 2005. A session for staff on completion of application coversheets will be organized to take place during July.

Annual Progress Reports 2005

This is the final year that Annual Progress Reports will be submitted in hard copy and from 2006 the process will be web-based. One area from each Division is taking part in a trial of the online Annual Progress Report process for 2005. The nominated areas from the Divisions are the School of Accounting, the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the School of Occupational Therapy, the Department of Media and Information and the Department of Spatial Sciences. All students and supervisors within the above named areas are required to take part in this trial. All other students and supervisors will submit a hard copy report.

Please be aware that, even if students are currently on Leave of Absence, and/or have been on Leave of Absence for the majority of the reporting period, a signed report and a timeline of work yet to be completed is still required as an indicator of the intent to continue enrolment in 2006.

Students are also required to indicate the Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines Classification (RFCD) code as part of the Annual Progress Report process this year.

Information regarding the Annual Progress Report process will be emailed to students via the Official Communications Channel to their Curtin provided email address. Supervisors will also be informed via email. The process will begin on 29 July, 2005 and completed reports must be submitted by Friday, 30 September, 2005.

Professor Léonie Rennie
Dean, Graduate Studies

