

Guidelines for the Attribution of Research Outputs in the HDR Thesis

Higher Degree by Research Students

These Guidelines should be considered in conjunction with Higher Degree by Research Policies and Procedures. These documents are available on the [Compliance, Legislation and Policy website](#).

1.0 Acknowledgement and Attribution

1.1 Acknowledgement: The acknowledgment of the contributions of various people who made the HDR completion possible is important to include at the beginning of a thesis or exegesis.

1.2 Attribution: The contributions to the genesis, thematic development and synthesis of data or concepts that advanced the development of a research output should be considered within an attribution statement especially, but not always, if they have resulted in a research output (publication).

2.0 Disclosure Obligations for Co-Authored Work.

2.1 HDR candidates are examined by the outputs of a body of work, usually in the format of a thesis or creative work and exegesis. HDR candidates need to fully disclose all aspects of contributions made to a thesis or exegesis for the examiner to make a valid assessment of the body of work as a product that allows the award to be given to the individual. It is absolutely necessary that the content of the thesis has the appropriate references, as well as attribution of the work by co-authors.

2.2 During the writing of a HDR thesis many candidates are encouraged to publish their work during their enrolment. The publications are often with multiple authors. If the work is co-authored, and is included as part of the thesis, either as a publication or it is used to form, or inform, one or more parts of the thesis text, it is essential for the HDR candidate to declare that the work was co-authored. Within the thesis this is called attribution. This is a transparent declaration to the examiners that not all the work within the thesis being examined is 100 percent that of the candidate.

2.3 If a co-authored paper, or material or original concepts from that co-authored work are used in the thesis, it is essential that an attribution statement is included in the thesis.

2.4 An attribution statement is usually presented in a thesis or exegesis as an attribution table, where co-authors sign that they agree with the attribution statement. A simple percentage statement of contribution is not sufficient. The domains of attribution may vary according to the area of research but must always meet the criteria for authorship.

2.5 When the candidate has a thesis chapter that is an extended text version of a published paper, the chapter work and the published paper needs to be declared and any co-authorship also clearly attributed.

2.6 When the candidate has published papers relevant to the thesis but these do not need to appear as a full text chapter in the thesis, the candidate may include these as appendices and refer to these in the thesis body. These papers still require appropriate attribution statements to be included.

2.7 The main body of a thesis can only include publications that are published or classified as 'in-press'. A candidate may include a paper that has been submitted to a journal in an appendix. However, it is never appropriate to indicate that this work is "submitted" or "under review" and no journal name should be mentioned. If this material is co-authored appropriate attribution statements need to be included.

3.0 When Two or More HDR Students Are Authors on a Paper

3.1 Concurrent authorship by HDR candidates is often a valid output from a HDR project, but only one candidate (the first author) should claim this as a co-authored output. It is important that the appropriate signed attribution statement is included in the thesis.

4.0 Example* of An Attribution Statement

Percentage contribution by field of activity: Indicate the percentage time each Author contributed.

	Conception and Design	Acquisition of Data and Method	Data Conditioning and Manipulation	Analysis and Statistical Method	Interpretation and Discussion	Final Approval	Total % contribution
Co-Author 1 (name)							
Co Author 1 Acknowledgment: I acknowledge that these represent my contribution to the above research output Signed:							
Co-Author 2 (name)							
Co Author 2 Acknowledgment: I acknowledge that these represent my contribution to the above research output Signed:							
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	

* Some areas may wish not to allocate a percentage value and would rather have the co-author tick a box signifying their contribution.

RELATED DOCUMENTS/LINKS/FORMS

[Curtin University Act 1966 \(WA\)](#)

[Rule No. 10 made pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Doctor by Research](#)

[Rule No. 11 made pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Master by Research](#)

[TEQSA Higher Education Standards Framework](#)

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2015](#)

[Education Services for Overseas Students \(ESOS\) Act](#)

[Course Approval and Quality Manual](#)

[Universities Australia Principles for Respectful Supervisory Relationships](#)