

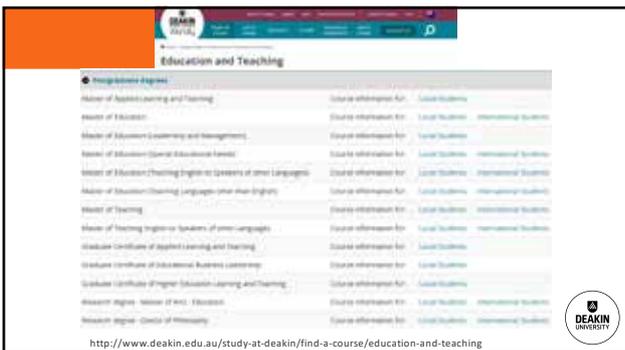
## Writing a PhD proposal

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### The rationale: why do this?

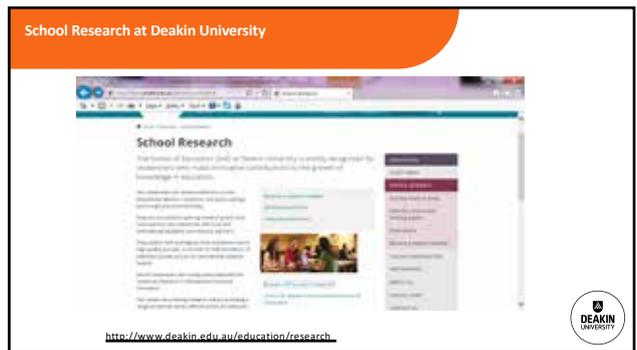
- Needs to be a contribution to knowledge in the field
- Be brave and tackle important problems that you, and other people, care about.
- If possible consider topics that have both practical and theoretical importance
- Be sure you are not working in an outdated theoretical paradigm
- Don't just find something someone else has done in another country and repeat for Indonesia, unless you have good reason
- It needs to be practical – do-able in the time, and practical in terms of data collection particularly if you are working in a university in another country.

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/find-a-course/education-and-teaching>



### School Research at Deakin University



<http://www.deakin.edu.au/education/research>



### Theoretical perspective

[How has this issue been addressed in the past and how will you address it?]

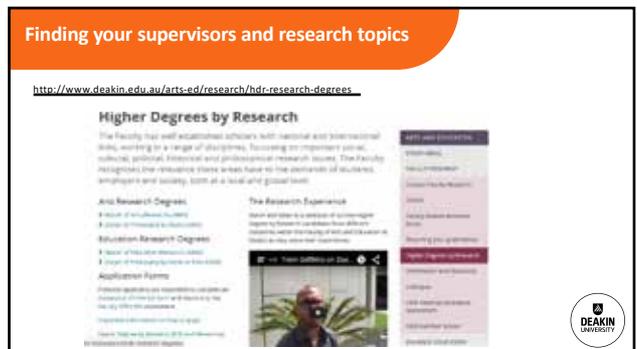
There is nothing so practical as a good theory.  
 You will find your theoretical perspective change as you work through a PhD but you should position your research in **current theoretical perspectives**.  
 Don't rely on Bloom for instance, or older versions of constructivism.  
 Contemporary theoretical constructs might include identity theory, or socio-cultural theory, disciplinary literacies, communities of practice and boundary crossing, pedagogical content knowledge ....

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### Finding your supervisors and research topics

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/research/hdr-research-degrees>




## Selecting your PhD supervisors

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/arts-ed/education/staff-teaching.php>

Match your research interests with your potential supervisors' research interests.

A panel of supervisors:

- 1 principal supervisor, 1 associate supervisor or
- 2 co-supervisors




## Examples of research topics for PhD

**Meiliasari (Indonesia) – PhD**  
Developing Pre-service Teachers' Pedagogical Content Knowledge Through Lesson Study

**Sibeso Likando (Zambia) - PhD**  
The Implementation of Lesson Study in mathematics: The case of Zambia

**Kathy Swinkels**  
Mathematically-Rich Interactions in Early Childhood Centres

**Ros Gillies**  
Learned or Invented? Nurses' Strategies for Calculating and Measuring Medicine Doses



### Additional entry pathways (optional)

Experience	Description
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ independently peer-reviewed</li> <li>➤ journal articles</li> <li>➤ conference papers</li> <li>➤ other publications</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: the contribution of the applicant must be described clearly where there are multiple authors.</i></p>
Research experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Professional reporting</li> <li>➤ Prior teaching</li> <li>➤ Research related awards/grants</li> <li>➤ Other evidence of research ability</li> </ul>

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/studyat-deakin/research-degrees-doctoral-and-masters/entry-pathways>

*You must provide evidence of the above, which has been independently assessed. You should also include details on the nature of your research ability, such as the length and content of the program or research with particular emphasis on the depth of any research component.*

**Thesis based on a series of publications prior to candidature**

*It is possible to be awarded a research masters or thesis based on prior publications. To be admitted, the publications to be included in this thesis must on the face form a coherent body of work that represent any substantial or great contribution to knowledge on the part of the applicant. The publications must normally*

## Starting PhD journey

PhDs in Australia *typically research only*

No coursework  
Usually 3 or 4 years  
**Education PhDs**

Usually can choose from a wide range of topics & methodologies  
**You need to be passionate about your topic**

Otherwise why spend three or more years of your life doing it!



## First step: Completing expression of interest form

### 7. PROPOSED THESIS/DISSERTATION

Please attach a draft research proposal of approximately 200 words using the following headings as a guide (template included on the bottom of this form):

- a statement of the research project/problem/question;
- the rationale for the proposed research and its significance;
- a discussion of relevant theoretical perspectives;
- and the method(s) by which the research will be conducted

Please refer to the website for guidelines.  
<http://www.deakin.edu.au/studyat-deakin/research-degrees-doctoral-and-masters/entry-pathways> for additional guidance

Is your research proposal attached?  Yes  No



### The PhD stages

- Expression of Interest & Submission of a Thesis Proposal
- Candidature Agreement
- Colloquium
- Obtaining Ethics Approval
- Data collection
- Analysis
- Writing the thesis
- Thesis submission
- Examination



### HDR Supervision decision

- ❖ How do you make decisions about who would be best to supervise prospective candidates?
  - The best fit for the prospective candidates
  - Supervisors’ research interests, track record and workload



### Identify the major research strengths of your target university

E.g. Science Education at Deakin:

- Inquiry pedagogies based on representation construction
- Student learning in science
- Teacher professional learning and school change
- International comparative studies and STEM participation
- Teacher identity and issues of teaching out of field
- Environmental and sustainability education
- School and community links



### Supervisors’ role in supporting prospective candidates?

- Provide support and feedback with proposal development
- Support prospective PhD candidates with information about scholarships available through DIKTI, Deakin, Australian Awards, Endeavour etc.
- Provide information about support available such as pre-departure support in Indonesia, DUELI test, support on arrival



### Advice on Scholarship application

*Is there specific advice you can offer candidates about applying for scholarships?*

- Include information about ongoing communication with potential PhD supervisors
- Develop a track record of publications or research
- Be specific about your future contributions. Don't just find something someone else has done in another country and repeat for Indonesia, unless you have good reason.



### How do you approach establishing a supervisory-candidate relationship early in candidature?

- Principal supervisors set regular meetings fortnightly or weekly
- Encourage and support the candidate to participate and present at HDR Summer School
- Read draft chapters prior to the meetings and provide feedback during the meetings



## PhD candidatures milestones

- Work backwards to ensure timeline completion
- Plan for the confirmation of candidatures and ethics application early
- Provide clear expectations of PhD research
- Set clear and achievable expectations



## PhD Examination

*How do you go about making decisions about who should be included in the list of potential examiners?*

- Experts in the field
- Someone who will be able to provide constructive feedback and appreciate
- The PhD candidate's plan - their future academic career

*In what ways do you involve the candidate in these discussions?*

- Ask their input from the candidate of potential examiners whom she does not want to be included in the list of examiners



## Most challenging

*Prior to the PhD journey*

Getting a scholarship

*During PhD candidatures at Deakin*

- Critical review and synthesis of the literature and how this connects to their study
- Data reduction and analysis
- Articulate a contribution to knowledge in the field



TERIMA KASIH  
THANK YOU

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