

## UTS:Law Postgraduate Research Degree Assessment Criteria

Places in the UTS:Law postgraduate research program are limited, highly sought after, and highly competitive.

The Faculty of Law undertakes an assessment process that takes account of career stage, and considers both quality and impact. It comprises four equally weighted criteria that have been carefully chosen to span a breadth of academic and professional experiences to assess research potential:

1. Previous academic achievements
2. Research output
3. Professional experience – strength and relevance to the candidates opportunities
4. Research proposal

Please note that these criteria complement and extend the requirements in UTS' *Application for Admission and Scholarship HDR Form, last updated 22/06/12*.

### 1. ACADEMIC ACHEIVEMENTS

Academic achievements will be assessed on

- i. the extent of successfully completed studies (e.g., Bachelor's degree, Honours degree, Master's degree)
- ii. the demonstrated and verified level of attainment in those studies (GPA or similar)
- iii. The extent of independent research and writing undertaken as part of those studies: eg Masters by Research, Honours with a thesis component.

### 2. RESEARCH OUTPUT

Research outputs will be assessed on their quality and impact relative to the candidate's opportunity. Research outputs include publications (e.g. peer reviewed academic journal articles, research reports, contributions to industry publications, conference papers, academic journal papers, etc), and presentations (e.g. seminars, conferences, digital media, etc).

You may be asked to provide copies of publications as part of the pre-assessment process.

Quality will be assessed according to

1. the quality of the research contribution ie originality of analysis and clarity of writing style
2. the quality of the location of the contribution e.g., the standing of the publication, conference, etc.

The impact of the research outputs will be assessed by considering what has changed as a result of releasing the research output. For example, how was the output received by in the organisation/sector/field; to what extent has it been taken up in the organisation/sector/field, cited by others, adopted in practice, etc

### 3. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: STRENGTH AND RELEVANCE

Professional experience is about the demonstrated impact of an applicant's work to date as well as the role of research and independent writing in their professional life. The term 'professional experience' should be interpreted broadly, for example it may include both paid employment and volunteer roles. The strength of professional experience will be assessed relative to the candidate's opportunities, including stage of career.

Applicants should give details of their professional experience in their CV and make a case for its strength and

relevance.

#### 4. RESEARCH PROPOSAL

If you are eligible to apply we will require you to prepare a research proposal. Candidates should apply the following guidelines when writing a proposal for UTS:Law.

Aim for 5-10 pages. You will need to work hard to be concise while demonstrating excellence in your critical thinking and communications skills. These skills are consistent with entry level requirements for higher degree research students.

##### *Proposal Structure*

##### Introductions and significance

- State your research problem first (ie not the general issue, but your own specific question and working hypothesis or answer you anticipate)
- Make a case for the significance and importance of your intended research. Why does it matter? To whom? What use will it be?

##### Background

- Explain the background to the research problem through a review of relevant literature that demonstrates a sound knowledge of past and recent work in your research area. Be sure to include peer-reviewed literature in your reading and analysis and locate your own ideas in the field ie who you disagree with or whose ideas you are building on.
- Summarise and critique the main findings reported by others

##### Proposed research questions and contribution

- Link your findings from the literature review to your own ideas. That is, specifically, what will you ask and answer? Are there any hypotheses to be tested?
- What are the expected outcomes? What do you see as your contribution to the topic under study? What use will it be? To whom? In what ways?

##### Proposed research design

- Theoretical framework: what are your preliminary ideas about theoretical frameworks that might guide your study?
- Methodology: what methodology fits well with your question and theoretical framework? Are you thinking of using case studies, surveys or some other method? Will you be purely doctrinal or draw on other disciplines or fields of knowledge?
- Data: What type of data will help you answer the questions? Where and how will you collect the data? What are the alternatives if your preferred source is unavailable?

##### References

- List your readings as a bibliography