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

**HDR Preliminary Thesis Topic Proposal**

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

**Instructions:** This preliminary thesis topic proposal form will need to 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 3 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 have them sign the last page. In the cases where no supervisor have been contacted, applications will be returned to you for supervisor sign off. USQ have research topics that you can search and choose from at: [Research Thesis Topics](http://webapp.usq.edu.au/research) or you can write your own proposal and search for supervisors in that research area at: [Find a USQ Expert](http://webapp.usq.edu.au/expertfinder/?keyword=&FORcode=0&FilterContactType=3)

HDR applicationswill be assessed on receipt of all required documentation as outlined on the [Application steps](https://www.usq.edu.au/research/graduate-research-school/future-hdr-students/application)

**Section 1: To be completed by the applicant**

**Applicant Name:**

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**Thesis Topic:**

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**Thesis Topic ID Number** (if applicable)

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**Proposed Principal Supervisor**

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**Proposed Associate Supervisor(/s)**

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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**

Please summarise your thoughts on how the research would progress over your candidature. The overall plan should be discussed with your proposed Principal Supervisor and a summary provided here. Please add a timeline indicating key dates for your proposed course of study (i.e. Confirmation of Candidature, Data Collection, Data Analysis, and Thesis Submission).

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**Possible funding of Research Activities (required)**

Indicate how the 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. Any research costs that go beyond the normal HDR Allocation, will be covered by either the external funding sourced by the student or self-funded.

The topic resources plan will be approved at the Confirmation of Candidature.

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