

# HDR Independent research placements FAQ

Industry Partners



## Information for potential industry partners

### What is a Higher Degree by research candidate?

A Higher Degree by Research candidate is someone who wishes to undertake self-directed research on a particular project culminating in a thesis. JCU offers a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and a Doctorate (PhD).

### How long does it take to complete an MPhil or PhD?

The MPhil program takes up to 2 years full time or part time equivalent. The PhD is 3.5 years full time or part-time equivalent.

### How does a research placement with a HDR candidate differ from other placements / work integrated learning opps?

The primary aim of a research placement is focus on a short term, self-contained research project or R& D activities related to their field of study.

“Placements” encompass a wide range of scenarios beyond the traditional placement or internship.

At JCU we recognise research placements as any opportunity for a research candidate to apply research capabilities with a research end user ( industry partner) in an area related to their research.

### What happens?

A [project plan](#) is developed by the candidate, academic mentor and yourselves to set out clear expectations and work during the placement.

The academic mentor is not a formal title. It is usually the candidates primary advisor and they support them during their placement and the rigor of the research project.

There is no employment contract between the Candidate for placement and as such the Candidate is not held to obligations whilst undertaking the placement. Candidates remain enrolled at the university whilst completing the placement and receive a stipend (provided by you), not an hourly rate.

Next, the [placement agreement](#) outlines that the primary purpose of the placement is for the candidates educational purposes. It also sets out the intellectual property requirements of which Intellectual Property created during the project will vest upon its creation with the Industry Partner.

## **Can I choose the candidate?**

Yes. The GRS can help advertise the opportunities in specific areas of your choosing and do a selection panel or you can discuss with potential advisors in Colleges around topic areas and liaise with them to find suitable candidates with those topic areas that might suit.

Once we know who the candidate is, we work with you to complete the paper work and the background admin and then off you go!

## **How is the placement developed?**

The research placement is developed in collaboration between the candidate, the advisor and the partner organisation. Research & Development (R&D) activities to be undertaken by the Higher Degree Research candidate during the research placement must be mutually agreed by all parties.

The activities should be related to the candidates area of research, reflect both the interests of the partner organisation and offer a professional development opportunity for the candidate. The candidates ability, access to resources and time allocated for education and mentoring should all be considered.

## **How long should the placements be?**

The duration of research placements is ideally 3 calendar months minimum (equivalent to 60 days full time) and no longer than 6 months and can be completed part-time or full-time.

## **When should the placements occur?**

Placements can be undertaken at any time, usually after the confirmation of candidature. ( 6 months aprox into a candidates studies) However, we like to try and identify candidates early ( in the first 18 months ) and capture in writing the candidate's intention to do an placement with you. Once it is captured in writing, the candidate can then do the placement at any time during their studies. Many candidates undertake placements after submitting a thesis whilst it is being examined. It is totally up to the candidate and their advisors and yourselves when best to undertake the placement.

## **What about IP?**

Prior to commencing the placement, important documentation covering intellectual property (IP) will be executed by all parties. Typically, the placement IP is held by the partner organisation.

### **What is my financial obligation as an Industry partner?**

It is preferred that the partner provide a low cost stipend which equates to approximately \$7,700 for a 3 month placement based on JCU's min scholarship stipend rate (\$33,500 per annum in 2023) This is paid to the university in a lump sum and the university pays the candidate in fortnightly installments.

### **Do I need to sign an agreement?**

YES. An agreement including intellectual property (IP) details will be organised by JCU and signed by all parties. JCU have a template that industry can use or candidates are able to use a template provided by you if you have one. We also have a work health and safety proforma we asked to be filled in and returned to JCU.

### **Does a research placement need to be undertaken on-site?**

No. A placement may be undertaken on-site, on-campus, or remotely.

**For more information contact:**

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