



UNIVERSITY  
OF WOLLONGONG  
AUSTRALIA

# Australian Qualifications Framework

## **MASTER'S DEGREE (RESEARCH) TYPE DESCRIPTOR**

The Master's Degree (Research) qualifies individuals who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for research and scholarship and as a pathway for further learning.

### **KNOWLEDGE**

Graduates of a Master's Degree (Research) will have:

- A body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in one or more disciplines
- Advanced knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field of work or learning

### **SKILLS**

Graduates of a Master's Degree (Research) will have:

- cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and its application
- cognitive, technical, and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts, and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice
- cognitive, technical, and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level
- cognitive and technical skills to design, use and evaluate research and research methods
- communication and technical skills to present a coherent and sustained argument and to disseminate research results to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse, theorise, and disseminate research that makes a contribution to knowledge

### **APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**

Graduates of a Master's Degree (Research) will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:

- With creativity and initiative to new situations and/or for further learning
- With high level personal autonomy and accountability
- To plan and execute a substantial piece of research

## VOLUME OF LEARNING

The volume of learning of a Master’s Degree (Research) is typically 1-2 years.

| <b>PHD/MASTER’S BY RESEARCH TRANSFERABLE SKILLS</b><br>(source: University of Michigan PhD transferable skills <a href="http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/phd-transferable-skills">http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/phd-transferable-skills</a> ) | Skill rating, 1-5 | Personal strength, mark with * | Area to develop, mark with * |
|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Analysis &amp; Problem-Solving</b>  |                   |                                |                              |
| • Define a problem and identify possible causes  |                   |                                |                              |
| • Comprehend large amounts of information  |                   |                                |                              |
| • Form and defend independent conclusions  |                   |                                |                              |
| • Design an experiment, plan, or model that defines a problem, tests potential resolutions and implements a solution   |                   |                                |                              |
| <b>Interpersonal &amp; Leadership Skills</b>   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Facilitate group discussions or conduct meetings   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Motivate others to complete projects (group or individual)   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Respond appropriately to positive or negative feedback   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Effectively mentor subordinates and/or peers   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Collaborate on projects  |                   |                                |                              |
| • Teach skills or concepts to others   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Navigate complex bureaucratic environments   |                   |                                |                              |
| <b>Project Management &amp; Organization</b>   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Manage a project or projects from beginning to end   |                   |                                |                              |
| • Identify goals and/or tasks to be accomplished and a realistic timeline for completion   |                   |                                |                              |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize tasks while anticipating potential problems</li> </ul>                                     |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain flexibility in the face of changing circumstances</li> </ul>                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Research &amp; Information Management</b>   |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify sources of information applicable to a given problem</li> </ul>                              |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand and synthesize large quantities of data</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and analyse surveys</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop organizing principles to effectively sort and evaluate data</li> </ul>                        |  |  |  |
| <b>Self-Management &amp; Work Habits</b>   |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work effectively under pressure and to meet deadlines</li> </ul>                                      |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehend new material and subject matter quickly</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work effectively with limited supervision</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |
| <b>Written &amp; Oral Communication</b>  |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare concise and logically-written materials</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize and communicate ideas effectively in oral presentations to small and large groups</li> </ul> |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write at all levels — brief abstract to book-length manuscript</li> </ul>                             |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debate issues in a collegial manner and participate in group discussions</li> </ul>                   |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use logical argument to persuade others</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain complex or difficult concepts in basic terms and language</li> </ul>                          |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write effective grant proposals</li> </ul>  |  |  |  |