Faculty of Science
School of Psychology

Doctorate of Clinical Psychology
Graduate Program

Research Guide 2013
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Information in this publication is correct as at 6th March 2013, but may be subject to change. In particular, the University reserves the right to change the content and/or the method of presentation and/or the method of assessment of any unit of study, to withdraw any unit of study or program which it offers, to impose limitations on enrolment in any unit or program and/or to vary arrangements for any program. This guide should be read in conjunction with UWA Policy and Procedures - [http://www.studentadmin.uwa.edu.au/welcome](http://www.studentadmin.uwa.edu.au/welcome)
INTRODUCTION

This Guide has been designed to be of use to you as you undertake the research dissertation component of the Doctorate of Clinical Psychology. The Guide provides information that previous students have found useful in undertaking their research. It is designed to provide you with an overview of the research component of your degree and the expectations of you as a student regarding your research, as well as information on the format of your research proposal and thesis, important dates, and administrative and supplementary information.

As far as possible within the policy and procedure guidelines of UWA, this guide remains a work-in-progress. You are always welcome and should feel free to discuss or clarify the information in the Guide with the UWA staff responsible for the program.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES OF THE RESEARCH THESIS

On completion of the research thesis, you will have demonstrated your ability independently to design, execute, and analyse a high quality research study with direct relevance to Clinical Psychology and to present this in a format which follows the guidance from an appropriate research journal.

The process of deciding on a topic, designing a research study, collecting and analysing data and writing up a research thesis is an important opportunity for you to undertake a scientist-practitioner approach to your professional practice. Competence in undertaking research work in an applied setting and communicating the results of research to an interested audience lies at the centre of an evidence-based approach to clinical practice. Research is not simply an adjunct to clinical work: it is at the heart of the evidence-based and evidence-generating practice of Clinical Psychologists. Research is the very foundation of our profession. Applied research skills and a deep understanding of the research literature, when combined with developing professional experience, provide a solid basis for conceptualising, understanding and solving clinical problems.

CHOOSING A RESEARCH TOPIC

Since the dissertation units exist within a professional degree program where students are acquiring the skills to work as Clinical Psychologists, it is reasonable for topics to reflect the research questions, the research methodologies, and analytic methods applicable to this setting. Both "Basic" and Applied research approaches are appropriate, as long as the topic has clinical relevance.

There are many different types of research projects and it is important to note that, despite a strong tradition of experimental research at UWA, your research thesis need not be experimental, albeit experimental work will be welcomed. Appropriate research could include a program evaluation, analysis of part of a data set collected in collaboration with research partners, or laboratory-based experimental research.

What is important however is that your thesis contributes in some way both to your own development and to the body of knowledge about the topic you have chosen? This contribution can occur in a number of ways.
If you are unsure about whether a topic is suitable for a DPsych, consult the Program Director, Romola Bucks (romola.bucks@uwa.edu.au). Even apparently disparate topics can and do have clinical relevance so do not think too narrowly about this issue!

Staff Contacts for DPsych Research

A list of research interests for the UWA Psychology Academic Staff is provided in Appendix A, but check the School of Psychology website (www.psychology.uwa.edu.au) for any updates as new staff arrive. You are welcome to contact any academic staff regarding a possible research topic and research supervision. However, remember that your area of research must have a Clinical focus, and this issue should be addressed in your conversations with potential supervisors.

Enrolment in the Research Dissertation Components of the Degree

If you enrolled prior to 2012, you need to enrol in two components to the thesis component, four units in total (PSYC9919/9909 and PSYC9922/9910), totalling 48 points. On making satisfactory progress in part 1 of each component, you will receive a grade of AC (Assessment Continuing)

From 2012, your 48 point research component has three parts:

- In Year 1, you will take
  - PSYC8680 Thesis preparation (Semester 1) – 6 points – graded UP
  - PSYC8681 Thesis proposal (Semester 2) – 6 points – graded UP

- Then from Year 2 onwards, you will take
  - Clinical Psychology Research Thesis comprising 6 parts, usually at the rate of 18 points per year.

The first two units involve teaching as well as preparing a systematic review and a research proposal. Failure to pass any component of these units will result in the award of a ‘fail’ grade and will require you to re-enrol in order to continue in the program. Thereafter, the remaining units have no lecture or tutorial components. Rather, making constructive use of the input and feedback provided by your research supervisor, you must complete an empirical research dissertation in order to pass these units. Progress in this third part will be determined through submission of a satisfactory progress report at the end of each semester of enrolment. If you fail to make satisfactory progress, you will be required to re-enrol in the unit that forms that part.

Your supervisor is likely to be supervising a number of research students (at Doctoral, Masters and Honours level). Different supervisors have different methods of supervision. Your supervisor, for example, may require you to attend regular meetings either independently or with other research students. Your supervisor will discuss with you his or her expectations regarding contact over the year. Appendix B provides a list of responsibilities for you as a research student, which you may wish to use as a basis for discussion with your supervisor. We also recommend you complete the Student Perceptions of Research Supervision, which can be found at: http://www.catl.uwa.edu.au/evaluation/student-research.
THE SCOPE OF THE DPsych THESIS

The DPsych thesis is meant to be the equivalent of a 1-year full time research project. The scope should be commensurate with this timeframe.

There are several ways that you may demonstrate an appropriate scope. Every thesis must contain at least two substantial components. At least one of these should be an empirical study. The other component could be any of the examples below, or other option as approved by your supervisor and the DPsych Thesis Coordinator:

1. A program of research; that is, 2 or more conceptually related research studies;
2. One study of reasonable scope IN ADDITION to a formal systematic review, integrative review, or meta-analysis that is conceptually relevant to the study.
3. A single study that, clearly, would require one year of full time research, e.g., one that requires large sample sizes, challenging-to-obtain clinical samples, and/or a longitudinal design.

For single sample studies, the two part requirement should still be met. For example, comparing performance of a clinical sample with normative data, prior to conducting inferential statistical analysis to test study hypotheses. Or, factor analyzing scale(s) prior to reporting inferential results, or subsample analysis, in addition to the main analyses.

Alternatively, a few single cases, relevant to the thesis could be reported in addition to the main study results.

Appendix E contains some example DPsych thesis titles.

Your Research Proposal

Your research proposal is an essential component of the research process, and is central to obtaining ethics committee approval for your research. Through the proposal, you demonstrate your understanding of the context for your study as well as the rationale for undertaking your research, an understanding of research design, data analysis, and pertinent research issues. The more time and effort you spend in thinking through and developing your proposal, the easier you will find it to conduct your research and write up your research dissertation.

As part of the process of ensuring everyone is on track, and to ensure transfer of learning throughout the DPsych cohort of students, you will be asked to present a brief overview of your research proposal with other DPsych students in a presentation session in Semester 2 (as part of PSYC8681). This session is an important chance to gain valuable feedback.

The format of your proposal should be as follows:
Page 1

The following information should be presented in standard form at the top of the first page:

TITLE:

STUDENT:

SUPERVISOR(S):

ABSTRACT: This should be an outline of the project. It must be between 200 and 250 words in length.

Page 2

ESTIMATED COSTS: This should consist of the most detailed possible estimate of costs including “hidden costs” such as photocopying, postage, and telephone calls. Your supervisor will check your proposal carefully to ensure that the project can be concluded using available infrastructure and such funding as the supervisor and/or student are willing to commit to the project.

In research areas in which a suitable project could not reasonably be developed without incurring exceptional costs (e.g. the purchase of test protocols, medical kits, or participant recruitment through newspaper advertising) the school may contribute additional funds up to a total of $500. If the estimated costs to be borne by the School exceed this amount, then the supervisor and student should discuss funding arrangements with the Head of School before the proposal is submitted.

Participant costs should be set out separately in this section. DPsych research projects are allocated 90 unpaid student hours from the Research Participation Scheme (RPS) that operates during semester in our first and second undergraduate years. In the event that more than 80% of total RPS hours have been used before the end of a semester the School will allow students to draw on the balance of their exceptional research costs provision to pay participants up to $10 per hour during the remainder of that semester only. Any unpaid participant hours that a project draws from the RPS in excess of its allocation are charged at $10 per hour. In research areas in which a suitable project could not be developed using the RPS population the Head of School may approve immediate and ongoing access to paid participant funding on the same basis (i.e. at up to $10 per hour up to the balance of the exceptional research costs provision).

Before drawing funds in excess of their exceptional research costs provision, students must provide the School's Accounts and Purchasing Officer with a written authorisation for those excess costs to be met from funding sources under the control of their supervisor and/or the Head of School.

Things to note in respect to participant support:

- The notional value of unused participant hours cannot be used to pay for other research costs.

- The School provides students with short term cash advances for the purpose of making participant payments. Students should ask the School's Accounts and Purchasing Officer for further information on participant payments.
• For legal and ethical reasons it is important that the participant payments not be represented as an hourly pay rate for casual employment. Rather they should represent the School's contribution towards the costs incurred by volunteer participants and should be described as such in any recruitment materials or correspondence.

• Volunteer participants engaged in long or multiple sessions incur lower costs per hour and should ordinarily be offered a “whole of experiment” contribution that equates to less than the hourly rate for single sessions.

ESTIMATED TESTING TIME: This should be a realistic estimate of the anticipated testing time, including time to be spent collecting data for preliminary pilot studies.

TIMETABLE: Give a timetable for initiation and completion of every phase of the research project, including analysis and write-up.

ETHICAL ISSUES: Briefly mention ethical issues, and how these have been satisfactorily addressed. To say there are no issues is not sufficient. As a minimum, note how data will be stored and informed consent obtained. Read the APS and NH&MRC codes of conduct and ensure you comply with all points. Your proposal should include a full ethics committee proposal for submission to the UWA Human Research Ethics Office (HREO). (Note: the HREO proposal is not part of the word count for the proposal). Application forms and guidelines can be found on the HREO website at: http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/human-research/welcome-to-HREO.

If you are working on a study which has already received HREO approval, note that here, and replace the HREO application with a copy of the approval letter(s), instead.

RELEVANCE TO THE DEGREE SPECIALISATION: Address your proposed project(s’) relevance to Clinical Psychology and your specialist track, if applicable. This section should be no longer than ½ page.

SCOPE OF THE PROPOSAL: Briefly provide a rationale for how your proposed project(s) match with the expectations for a 1-year full time research thesis. This should also be no more than ½ page in length.

You and your supervisor should discuss these last two issues prior to completion of the proposal and your supervisor should see and provide you with feedback on these two subsections prior to submission.

Page 3 onwards

This is the main body of the proposal. It should describe all of the important details of your proposed project. It should consist of the following sections:

Introduction

The Introduction should put the proposed study in its historical and experimental context and then indicate the rationale of the proposed study. It should not be a detailed review of the literature and should normally not exceed 1000 words. If appropriate, this may take the form of a summary of your systematic critical review, especially the key recommendations for future research.

The Introduction should also state, as precisely as possible, the question(s) which the proposed study is designed to answer and what the significance of the findings is likely to be. You should draw out untested issues leading to your research question – either
conceptual (e.g., untested variables) or methodological (e.g., experiment versus correlation designs).

**Note:** If the systematic review you prepared in Semester 1 (PSYC8680) is relevant to your thesis, you may wish to add this as an appendix to the proposal.

**Aims and objectives**

These should be stated in the form of clear, concise research questions. For quantitative studies it will usually be possible to formulate objectives as testable hypotheses concerning the relationship between the variables which will be measured (e.g. ‘the aim is to determine whether anxiety levels are higher among people with arthritis than those with back pain’ OR ‘the aim is to determine whether higher anxiety levels are associated with avoidant coping strategies’ OR ‘the aim is to determine whether pre-operative anxiety levels predict speed of discharge from hospital’). If you cannot do this, your research question is probably not sufficiently well-defined. Sometimes students are nervous about stating hypotheses very clearly; for fear that they may not be confirmed. But these fears are groundless -- whether or not your data confirm the hypothesis you are testing will have no influence at all on how high a mark you obtain for your dissertation. As long as there was good justification for the hypothesis (based on theory and previous research) and the study was carried out appropriately (e.g. with reliable measures and adequate design and sample size) you will have tested a reasonable hypothesis successfully, even if you did not find support for it. This constitutes a sound and useful piece of research. By contrast, if you do find a significant result but had not clearly specified that this was expected in your hypotheses, then it will appear that the result may just have been a chance finding that emerged from multiple exploratory analyses, and the value of the finding (and your research) will be weakened.

Formulating testable hypotheses is not usually appropriate for qualitative research (except for some forms of semi-quantitative content analysis), but specific aims should still be clearly specified (e.g. ‘the aim is to establish similarities and differences between reported coping strategies of people with arthritis and back pain’, OR ‘the aim is to establish the range of meanings and connotations associated with epilepsy, comparing those of sufferers, their families, and health professionals’ OR ‘the aim is to discover whether and how subjective perceptions of back pain change over time, and how these perceptions are linked to treatment decisions’). Do NOT just state that you wish to ‘explore’ a topic; you should know and indicate at the outset of the research what you want to find out, from whom, and why. These initial objectives need not constrain your research, as you will still be able to incorporate additional hypotheses and analyses which emerge as a result of early findings.

**Method**

The following information is required, but you are welcome to present it in a different order, combine or subdivide sections, etc. in order to enhance the clarity of your research proposal.

**Participants** To show that your study is feasible you should state the number of participants you require (giving sample size/power calculations), exclusion/inclusion criteria and their reasons, and where you will recruit these from, giving evidence of the availability of sufficient numbers of suitable participants (e.g. expected number of eligible patients attending participating clinic during data-gathering period).

**Design & Procedure** Describe the design of the study (e.g. randomisation to groups, longitudinal, case-control) and briefly outline the procedures you intend to use. Detail how
informed consent will be obtained, and the process the participants will go through, and provide information on debriefing.

**Materials/methods** Specify the equipment or other materials (e.g. questionnaires) to be used, giving evidence of the suitability, availability, sensitivity, reliability etc. of the methods of measurement you have chosen. Copies of questionnaires to be used should be provided to accompany the HREO ethics application.

Pilot data may be included, if available. Students might well, for example, draw on knowledge gained in their Honours project.

**Analysis**

Outline the main analyses you will employ to achieve your stated objectives. This section may include one or more figures (or tables) illustrating in at least broad outline the possible outcomes of your study.

**References**

The layout of the references should follow APA 6th Edition formatting. Every reference cited in the text must be given in full in the list of references and the latter must not contain any references not mentioned in the text.

**Word limits**

Your DPsych thesis proposal has an upper word limit of 4000 words (from Introduction to the end of Analysis, but not including references). It will not always be necessary to write to the upper limit; some proposals will require 3000 rather than 4000 words, some perhaps less. There is no "% leeway" on the upper values, you should not go beyond the range, but equally do not feel obliged to go to the upper boundary if there is no need.

**N.B.** All elements of the research proposal can and should be discussed with your supervisor. The final proposal will receive formative feedback, but no mark. Submission of the proposal is a requirement of PSYC8681 but, because you will work on this with the support of your supervisor, no mark will be awarded. You should discuss the feedback you receive with your supervisor and then amend, as appropriate, prior to HREO ethics application submission.

**Preparation and Submission of Assignments**

Your proposal and HREO application are to be submitted by 5.00pm on the due date (see UIMS – PSYC8681). You should include the following, signed and dated statement:

I declare that this written assignment is my own work and does not include (i) material from published sources used without proper acknowledgment or (ii) material copied from the work of other students. I also declare that this assignment has not been submitted for assessment in any other unit.

I confirm that this assignment complies with University School guidelines on academic conduct, and that the word count is true and correct.

I understand that the work submitted may be reproduced and/or communicated for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

I have an electronic copy of this assignment in my possession.

All work should be thoroughly checked for typing, spelling and grammatical errors before being submitted. Grammatical and spelling errors reduce the clarity of your work and make
your assignment appear unprofessional. Your proposal should be supported by references using APA style of referencing.

**ETHICS COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

All research carried out within the School is subject to UWA Human Research Ethics Office (HREO) approval. Students wishing to conduct research with hospital patients or staff will also need to apply for ethics approval from those institutions. They should discuss with their supervisor whether to seek initial approval from UWA and then seek reciprocal approval through the hospital, or vice versa. Be warned, hospital ethics procedures usually take substantially longer than UWA procedures.

Students should attach all relevant ethics documentation (e.g. Participant Information Sheet, Consent Form, questionnaires) to the proposal.

**NB:** To ensure that the ethics committee do not waste time reviewing proposals that have not been approved by research supervisors, your ethics forms (with attached proposal) need to be signed and submitted **by your supervisor.** For this reason, you should work closely with your supervisor to prepare the relevant documentation for ethics approval.

To apply for approval to conduct research involving human participants follow the process outlined at [http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/human-research/welcome-to-HREO](http://www.research.uwa.edu.au/staff/human-research/welcome-to-HREO). This entails preparing and submitting various documents, including your research proposal, Human Research Ethics Application, Human Research Ethics Risk Assessment Checklist as well as any Information Sheets or Participant Consent Forms. These all need to be completed to your supervisor’s satisfaction. He or she will then forward your application (once ready for submission) to the Head of School who will forward the document to the Human Research Ethics Office for processing.

The Human Research Ethics Office (HREO) will notify the Chief Investigator/Research Supervisor if and when ethics committee approval has been granted and that the research project can begin. Remember, data collection is NOT permitted before HREO approval.

You may collaborate on a study which has already received the relevant approvals. The supervisor is responsible for the conduct of the study, but you are responsible for your own conduct, as well. Students should familiarise themselves with all approved protocols. If a study already has HREO approval, ensure you submit a copy of the Ethics Committee approval letter(s) with your proposal.

**Ethical considerations**

1. **Informed consent:** You need to obtain informed consent from each participant. Participants have to be given detailed information regarding studies in which they are asked to take part.

2. **Debriefing your participants:** All participants should be offered a debriefing form, either in hard copy or an e-copy. This form provides information regarding the general background of the study. It should include a brief description of the methodology, information on how to contact the researcher for more information, and information on how to contact the Human Research Ethics Office. It should also contain, where appropriate, at least two references to published articles related to the study that are readily accessible.

3. **Treatment of participants:** You should treat participants with dignity, respect, and sensitivity in accordance with guidelines on research with human participants. They
should be informed at the outset about what they are expected to do and any possible unpleasantness they may experience. They (or their parent/guardian) must provide written consent before proceeding with the study. Participants must be informed that they are free to withdraw without penalty at any point during the session.

4. **Maintaining participants’ confidentiality**: If you are collecting confidential information from participants (e.g., information via a questionnaire) then you must ensure that participants cannot be identified without their expressed permission. Any details of any participants that have been collected for one specific study cannot be passed on to others without informed consent.

## Conducting Your Research Study

Upon receiving approval, you may start your data collection. It is essential at this point to keep in regular contact with your supervisor, who will be able to assist in the inevitable event of difficulties in collecting and analysing data. Remember, in applied research there are often many factors out of your control. These include problems with recruitment or delays in obtaining Ethics Committee approvals. **Regular reporting of progress (see page 17) is required each semester.** Throughout all of this, it can be helpful to keep in mind that the purpose of the research dissertation is for you to develop your skills as a scientist-practitioner. It is not required that you conduct ‘the perfect’ study, rather that you show the development of your skills and knowledge through your thesis.

## Your Research Thesis

The thesis should concisely report the individual research project you have carried out. While the markers of your thesis will have expertise in psychology, please remember that they may not be expert in the area of your research. Therefore, the research needs to be understandable to a reader with a general knowledge of psychology.

You are expected to have discussed your research in detail with your supervisor before submission of your thesis. **Supervisors usually provide feedback on two written drafts only.**

### Length and Format of Research Thesis

A DPsych thesis is a substantive piece of work. We recommend that you write no more than 20,000 words. However, the details of your particular thesis word count should be discussed with your supervisor. It may be useful to know that recently passed DPsych theses had word counts ranging from 17,000 to 25,000 words. Remember, brevity and clarity are required both in clinical and in research practice so do not be tempted to write more than is absolutely necessary to communicate your work. Word counts exclude references, abstracts and appendices, but do include figures and tables. Please provide a word count.


### Finding a Suitable Journal for your Research Thesis

In helping you to prepare your work for possible publication, you are asked to find a journal or journals which would be a suitable place to publish your work. Your supervisor will be able to advise on a suitable journal or journals for your research.
You will need to write a brief summary (one page maximum) identifying the chosen journal(s) and justifying the appropriateness of this choice for your work. This summary statement should be signed by both the student and the supervisor and appended to the thesis.

Contents of the Manuscript

The contents of the submitted thesis should be as follows:

1. **Title page** as for a thesis, i.e. with statement that it is being submitted “as a partial requirement for the degree of Doctor of Psychology” etc. (See Appendix D for an example Title Page).

2. **Statement of contribution.** Your thesis should contain the following signed/dated statement:
   “This thesis is my own composition, all sources have been acknowledged and my contribution is clearly identified in the thesis. This thesis has been substantially completed during the course of enrolment in this degree at UWA and has not previously been accepted for a degree at this or another institution.”

3. **Acknowledgments.** In many cases, students may have enlisted the assistance of external organisations (e.g., schools, clinics, or other workplaces) in the course of data collection. In such instances, it is good practice to acknowledge the relevant individuals or organisations in the thesis acknowledgements. You should also discuss with your supervisor the best way to provide feedback to those who have assisted.

If you have presented any of your thesis work, you should list the conference or publications here, using APA 6th Edition referencing.

3. **Table of contents** which should indicate the sections of the thesis and what is provided in the appendices, if any.


5. **Appendix 1:** Justification of choice of journal.

6. **Appendix 2:** Information sheet, consent form, and debriefing information, as well as a completed Human Research Ethics Office Annual/Final Report Form.

7. **Appendix 3** - if needed. This should be included only if you choose to provide extra information for the examiners. There is no assumption that any additional material will be included.

In addition, over-riding APA formatting requirements is the need to leave a margin of 3.5cm on the inside so that the thesis can be read when bound.
Research Thesis Submission

Your submission deadline should be negotiated with your supervisor, but will usually be October 31st (or the nearest Monday).

Nomination of examiners:
Whilst your supervisor submits the nomination of examiners form, you will have to contribute to finding your examiners. Your supervisor will usually ask you to draft the form, and to help find suitable examiners by checking the literature you have used for academics who might be able to offer the required level of expertise/knowledge to evaluate your work.

Your supervisor needs to submit a nomination of examiners’ form to the Postgraduate Administrative Officer no less than 3 weeks before submission of your thesis. You are responsible for ensuring that this form has been signed by your supervisor(s) and that you provide the correct contact details of your nominated examiners (this can prevent lengthy and unnecessary delays in the examination process of your thesis). This form can be found in your LMS unit or can be accessed by your supervisor on Sharepoint.

When you submit your thesis to the Postgraduate Administrative Officer for examination you must include:

(1) Thesis submission form signed by the:
   (i) Student
   (ii) Supervisor(s)
   (iii) Head of School/Director of Postgraduate Programs (the PAO can arrange this on your behalf).

The thesis submission form can be found in your LMS unit.

(2) One CD containing:
   (i) a copy of the thesis (formatted for Microsoft Word) and appendices;
   (ii) a complete raw data set;
   (iii) and either a text file explaining layout (i.e., identifying the variable name, the construct or variable the variable corresponds to, and, when appropriate, the labels corresponding to each value) OR an SPSS file where the variable and value labels are completed for each variable.

** Please ensure your CD is clearly labelled with:
- your name
- your student number
- date of submission

** CDs and markers for clearly labelling your CD are available from the Psychology General Office.

(3) Four bound copies of the thesis.
Students should also familiarise themselves with the University’s Academic Conduct guidelines: http://www.teachingandlearning.uwa.edu.au/staff/policies/conduct.
Examination of Thesis

Two external examiners will be invited to examine the research thesis. In exceptional circumstances, such as if there is substantive disagreement between them, an internal examiner will be asked independently to examine the thesis.

Markers are asked to use the following merit criteria:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Score</th>
<th>Merit Criteria</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td>Of the highest merit. Fewer than 5% of candidates worldwide would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Strongly competitive at international levels. Fewer than 20% of candidates would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>An interesting, sound and compelling thesis. Approximately 30% of candidates would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>A sound thesis, but lacks a compelling element in some respect. Approximately 30% of candidates would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>The thesis has potential, but requires major revisions. Approximately 20% of candidates would score in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Flawed</td>
<td>The thesis does not meet the required standard for this criterion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using the Merit Criteria described below, please indicate your scores for this thesis

- The thesis submitted in part, or all, for the requirement for the award of DPsych (Clinical) which you are examining is a substantial work generally based on independent research which shows a sound knowledge of the subject of the research, evidence of the exercise of some independence of thought and the ability of expression in clear and concise language.
- The candidate shows familiarity with, and understanding of, the relevant literature.
- The thesis provides a sufficiently comprehensive study of the topic.
- The techniques adopted are appropriate to the subject matter and are properly applied.
- The results are suitably set out, and accompanied by adequate exposition.
- The quality of English and general presentation are of a standard for publication.

[Markers enter scores of 1-6 in each of the shaded boxes below, using the above scale, i.e. 1=Exceptional and 6=Flawed]
Examiners are asked to recommend a classification:

**PASSED**

- The thesis be **PASSED** with no requirement for correction or amendments
- The thesis be **PASSED, SUBJECT TO MINOR REVISION** as indicated in my report to the satisfaction of the DPsych (Clinical) co-ordinator.
- The thesis be **PASSED, SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIVE AMENDMENTS** along the lines indicated in my report. The candidate be instructed to submit a detailed report to the DPsych (Clinical) co-ordinator outlining the amendments to the thesis for final classification, without further reference to the examiners.

**RE-SUBMIT**

- The thesis be RE-SUBMITTED for examination after completing the required extra work and revision indicated in my report. (A thesis which must be re-submitted requires alterations of such scale, complexity and/or conceptual significance that their adequacy should be appraised again by an external expert/s).  
  
  **Please indicate if you would be prepared to re-examine this thesis:**

- I am prepared to re-examine this thesis.
- I am NOT prepared to re-examine this thesis.

**FAILED**

- The thesis be FAILED and the candidate NOT be awarded the DPsych (Clinical) degree and NOT be permitted to resubmit the thesis in a revised form.

---

**Examiners' feedback**

The Postgraduate Administrative Officer will forward examiners' feedback and the confirmation of changes form to both the student and supervisor(s) once all examiners' reports have been received and classified by the DPsych Examination Committee.

**Responding to examiners’ feedback**

In responding to examiners’ feedback, students should write a letter or report detailing, point by point (with page numbers in the revised thesis), how they have responded to the issues raised by each examiner. This is the procedure you would normally follow for responding to journal article reviewers. Please respond carefully and constructively to all issues raised.

**When you submit your thesis revisions to the Postgraduate Administrative Officer you must include:**

1. **Confirmation of changes form signed by the supervisor(s).** As noted above, the confirmation of changes form will be emailed to you by the Postgraduate Administrative Officer.

2. **A report addressing the examiners’ comments and your revisions**
(3) One CD containing:
   (i) the final version of the thesis, with revisions (formatted for Microsoft Word) and appendices. This can be done using the track changes/review function in Microsoft Word;
   (ii) an electronic copy of your report addressing the examiners’ comments and revisions (Step 2 above)
   (iii) a complete raw data set;
   (iv) and either a text file explaining layout (i.e., identifying the variable name, the construct or variable the variable corresponds to, and, when appropriate, the labels corresponding to each value) OR an SPSS file where the variable and value labels are completed for each variable.
   ** Please ensure your CD is clearly labelled with:
   - your name
   - your student number
   - date of submission
   ** CDs and markers for clearly labelling your CD are available from the Psychology General Office.

(4) One bound copy of the final version of the thesis
Students should also familiarise themselves with the University’s Academic Conduct guidelines: http://www.teachingandlearning.uwa.edu.au/staff/policies/conduct.

Storage of completed theses
One copy of each successful DPsych thesis from past years is held in the Main Office. Students are encouraged to consult these theses as a means of helping them judge the type and scope of research appropriate for a DPsych project.

Student’s responsibilities following submission of thesis
When the thesis has been completed to the satisfaction of the examiners, a CD copy of the thesis will be given to the Test Librarian for filing in the School’s Test Library and one CD will be given to the student’s supervisor.

MPsyh equivalence
Some students will wish to have their thesis evaluated as being equivalent to an MPsych so as to allow them to complete Clinical Psychology registration. We understand that students are often under considerable pressure to obtain this registration prior to being able to take up a clinical post. Accordingly, we encourage you to submit your thesis as early as possible during your final year, so as to facilitate the timing of your degree award and starting your first job. However, if you wish to begin a clinical post before your thesis has been marked, please be aware that we can only review the thesis with a view to its MPsych equivalence once we have received the external examiners’ reports. Providing that they are positive, then the student can ask the DPsych Examination Committee to use these reports as a basis for determining whether the thesis can be regarded as being equivalent to an MPsych thesis. Students should be aware that the determination of MPsych equivalence does not constitute a formal agreement by the University that the thesis would be awarded an MPsych were it submitted for one. The examiners may require a number of amendments before the thesis can be passed and these will be required before a determination can be made regarding the final degree that UWA will award.
Important Dates

While almost a year of time may seem like a generous amount to complete your research thesis, once the various tasks associated with research are considered, there is not a lot of time available for delays in the research process.

Your supervisor will discuss with you the importance of various dates throughout the year, depending on their expectations regarding your research progress. It is a good idea to draw up a timeline early with your supervisor, and to get supervisor feedback on the reality of your expectations regarding the time needed to complete various parts of your research study.

The flow chart below sets out the relevant dates and time frames for activities involved in the research process. Please make sure you submit your research progress forms before each deadline.

Depending on the research project, students have, however, found it useful to have completed the early parts of the research project prior to the dates below.
### Flowchart for DPsych Research thesis

#### Year 1
- Student enrolls in research teaching units (PSYC8680 – Thesis preparation and PSYC8681 – Thesis proposal)
- Student obtains approved research proposal from supervisor/s and submits supervision agreement form (Appendix C) to postgraduate administrative officer (PAO) by October 31st, or nearest Monday.

#### Year 2
- Student enrolls in Research Thesis unit (parts 1, 2 and 3).
- Student completes milestones specified in proposal.
- Student submits Research Thesis 1 Progress Reports (Appendix D) to PAO by 30th April (RES 1A) and 31st October (RES 2A).
- Supervisor completes evaluation of progress and submits to the PAO before the School of Psychology examiners’ meeting.
- Research Thesis unit coordinator awards grade.

#### Year 3
- Student enrolls in Research Thesis unit (parts 4, 5, and 6).
- Student completes milestones specified in Research Thesis 1 progress reports.
- Student submits Research Thesis 2 Progress Reports (Appendix D) to PAO by 30th April (RES 1A) and 31st October (RES 2A).
- If the thesis is submitted for examination by the due date the progress report is not required.
- Supervisor completes evaluation of progress and submits to the PAO before the School of Psychology Examiners’ meeting.
- Supervisor submits nomination of examiners’ form to the PAO 3 weeks prior to thesis submission.
- Student submits completed thesis submission form, four copies of bound thesis and 1 CD copy to PAO. Student should receive examiners’ reports and thesis classification within 3 months of submitting thesis.
- Student submits a cover letter outlining the revisions made to the thesis, supervisor certification form of corrections form, a bound copy and a CD copy of the revised thesis within 4 weeks. If student or supervisor requires longer making the requested corrections, student should contact the unit coordinator.
- PAO expects to have a final thesis classification from the DPsych Examination Committee (DEC) within 4 weeks from receipt of revisions and certification of correction by supervisor.
- If student has not submitted thesis for examination by the re-enrolment period for the next teaching semester, he/she will need to re-enroll in the unit for the next teaching period. If student then submits the thesis for examination by the census date of the current teaching period he/she will be permitted to withdraw from the unit.
## APPENDIX A – STAFF RESEARCH INTERESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Staff Member</th>
<th>E-mail Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal psychology</td>
<td>W/Prof Colin MacLeod</td>
<td><a href="mailto:colin.macleod@uwa.edu.au">colin.macleod@uwa.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Neil McLean</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prof Andrew Page</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr Neil McLean</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Assoc. Prof Werner Stritzke</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Visual perception
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APPENDIX B – RESEARCH STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

A research student’s responsibilities include:

1. Arranging regular meetings with your supervisor(s);

2. Communicating to their supervisor the type of guidance and comments they find most helpful;

3. Taking the initiative in identifying difficulties and problems;

4. Consulting your supervisor about resources available within the School of Psychology and the wider University;

5. Maintaining progress in accordance with the stages outlined in the Flow Chart;

6. Presenting written material as required in sufficient time to allow for comments and discussion;

7. Producing seminar papers or other presentations as requested by their supervisor;

8. Taking due account of the supervisor’s opinion;

9. Deciding, in consultation with their supervisor, a submission date for the thesis.
APPENDIX C - SUPERVISION AGREEMENT FOR RESEARCH

School of Psychology

Student name ________________________________________________________________

Student number __________________________________________________________

Course _____________________________________________________________________

Supervisor name __________________________________________________________

Supervisor’s email address and contact number __________________________________

Supervisor: The student has discussed the title of the project with me:

Yes/No

Supervisor: The student has shown me a written research proposal of the project:

Yes/No

Supervisor: I agree to supervise this student for the project titled

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

Yes/No

Supervisor signature __________________________________________ Date _______

Student signature ___________________________________________ Date _______
Running head: EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS, COPING, AND HRQOL IN IPD

Executive functions, coping, and health-related quality of life in
Idiopathic Parkinson’s disease

Diana Harvey
Bachelor of Science (Psychology), Bachelor of Psychology

This thesis is presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Doctor of Psychology
(Clinical and Clinical Neuropsychology) of the University of Western Australia

August, 2011

Supervisor: Professor Romola Bucks

Word Count: 17,890

I declare that this written assignment is my own work and does not include (i) material from
published sources without proper acknowledgement, or (ii) material copied from the work of
other students.
APPENDIX E – EXAMPLE DPsych Thesis Titles

“Body mass and psychological functioning as factors associated with bullying in children and adolescents: A longitudinal study using structural equation modeling” – supervised by Sue Byrne

“Cognitive deficits in obstructive sleep apnoea and the effect of continuous positive airway pressure treatment” – supervised by Romola Bucks


“Executive functions, coping, and health-related quality of life in idiopathic Parkinson’s disease” – supervised by Romola Bucks

“Exploratory investigation of information processing style and autistic-like traits in non-clinical samples of individuals with elevated eating disorder psychopathology” – supervised by Sue Byrne and Murray Maybery

“Measuring mindfulness and examining relationships with the underlying cognitive skills” – supervised by Andrew Page

“Prospective memory failure in healthy ageing and Alzheimer’s disease: Underlying mechanisms of failing to ‘Remember to remember’” – supervised by Mike Weinborn

“The effects of transcranial direct current stimulation (TDCS) on movement and the motor cortex: a TMS study” – supervised by Geoff Hammond and Andrea Loftus

“The influence of depressive and anxious symptoms on readiness to change substance and alcohol use at intake and over treatment” – supervised by Andrew Page

“Is prenatal testosterone exposure related to autistic-like traits? An investigation of surrogate measures” – supervised by Murray Maybery and Andrew Whitehouse

“The Role of Body Mass, Depression and diabetes related self-efficacy in type 2 diabetes: Findings from a randomised controlled trial” – supervised by Sue Byrne and Emma Dove

“When the thin-ideal is also sexy: the roles of self-esteem and social comparison in predicting negative consequences for young women” – supervised by Vance Locke
APPENDIX F – DPsych Research Thesis Progress Report

The Progress Report should be completed and signed by both the student and supervisor and submitted to the unit coordinator by 30 April (RES-1A enrolment) or 31 October (RES-2A enrolment).

SECTION A:
To be completed by the student.

STUDENT DETAILS

Student’s Name:__________________________________________________________

Supervisor(s):_________________________________________________________________

Title of Thesis:________________________________________________________________

STATEMENT OF PROGRESS

1. Attach a copy of your previous research thesis progress report (Attachment 1). Outline any changes made to your research project since submission of that report:

2. Complete an outline of progress made toward completion of your thesis (attach a separate sheet if necessary):

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<tr>
<th>Milestones Completed</th>
<th>Date of Completion</th>
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3. Develop a timeline that will enable you to complete your research thesis by the due date (attach a separate sheet if necessary):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones To Be Completed</th>
<th>Anticipated Date of Completion</th>
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**SUPERVISOR EVALUATION OF PROGRESS**

I have supervised ____________________________ (insert student’s name) and I am of the opinion that satisfactory progress HAS / HAS NOT (circle one) been made toward completion of the research thesis over this teaching period.

We propose inviting the following two potential thesis examiners to examine the thesis

Potential external examiner and reason for nomination:

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Potential external examiner and reason for nomination:

________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________

Supervisor’s signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Candidate’s signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________
UNIT COORDINATOR EVALUATION OF PROGRESS

I have read the annual progress report and supervisor’s evaluation of progress for ___________ __________________________ (student’s name) and I am of the opinion that student has made progress towards thesis and I am satisfied to award the grade of _________ for unit PSYC__________________ (insert unit code)

Unit coordinator’s name: ________________________________________________________

Unit coordinator’s signature: __________________________ Date: ___________________