

FHES Guideline for Admission to Doctoral Programme Form

Introduction

This guideline is intended to assist doctoral students in the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences (FHES) at Auckland University of Technology (AUT) in completing their Admission to Doctoral Programme form (formerly PGR2). It provides an overview of the required sections, key considerations, and references to relevant documents and resources. For further information, students are encouraged to refer to the [Postgraduate Handbook](#), [GRS documents](#) and the [FHES Canvas page](#).

Before engaging with academic supervisors or developing your research proposal, you **must complete an online application** to confirm your eligibility [here](#). Only after the FHES Postgraduate Research Office has verified your eligibility will your Admission to Doctoral Programme form be processed. Failure to complete the online application first is likely to cause significant delays.

Throughout the proposal development process, we recommend ongoing discussions and feedback with your proposed supervisors. Your proposal should be consistent with methodological and disciplinary norms in your field of research. Suggested headings, word counts and links to resources are provided for guidance only.

Research Proposal

Working Title (10-15 words)

Provide the proposed title of your research. Usually, the title embodies the research question and methodology.

Literature/Past Research Review (250-350 words)

The review of literature along with other sources as appropriate, should define key concepts and terms, and provide a brief synthesis of the existing knowledge in the field. The review should illustrate where the proposed research may extend, contribute to, or address gaps in the current body of knowledge.

Research Question(s) (10-20 words)

Clearly state the research question(s). Ensure they are focused, methodologically congruent, and framed as a question.

Design of the Study (500-750 words)

- **Methodology:** Outline your overarching methodology, including the research paradigm, theoretical frameworks, and researcher positionality, as applicable.

- **Research Phases:** Detail each phase of your study, stating the aims, objectives, or hypotheses, and their alignment with the research question.
- **Methods:** Describe your sample, recruitment strategy, and data collection and analysis methods.
- **Cultural Considerations:** Identify the social, cultural, and ethnic groups likely to take part in, benefit from, or be impacted by your research. Describe how your research aligns with te Tiriti o Waitangi principles, particularly in its relevance to tangata whenua. Refer to [Te Tiriti o Waitangi in Research in Aotearoa](#) resources.
- **Ethics:** Outline key ethical issues raised by your research for participants, yourself as the researcher, and the wider community. Refer to the [AUT Research Ethics /Matatika Rangahau resources](#) here.
- **Timeline:** Provide a timeline for major activities and completion of the research using a Gantt chart or similar. Refer to [Research Basics](#) of the Faculty PGR Canvas Page for a sample Gantt chart and 'how-to' video.