



# CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE EVALUATION TOPICS

The following topics are provided to inform candidates on the expected areas of focus for Confirmation Committees. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, as each Committee is given broad discretion in order to evaluate the research direction of each candidate.

For more details on the role and expectations of candidates, supervisors, the Confirmation Committee and other stakeholders, please refer to the [Confirmation Guidelines](#).

## EXPECTED EVALUATION CATEGORIES

Each candidate will be expected to make an oral presentation that demonstrates a sound understanding of the research topic, and then provide a verbal defence of the research that is appropriate given the stage of the project. Additionally, issues of data retention and management, and ethics and safety considerations will also be discussed.

Specific topics of consideration are likely to include, but are not limited to:

### 1. Critical review of recent work in the field

For instance, whether a preliminary literature review has been completed, and whether the literature review demonstrates adequate understanding of research area.

### 2. Updated Research Proposal

The overall research proposal should be assessed in terms of the feasibility, aims, significance, and originality. The scope of the research should be appropriate for the degree.

### 3. Research Plan

For instance, whether the:

- Research design and methods are appropriate to the project
- Candidate displays sound knowledge of field of research
- Draft thesis outline is appropriate, given the stage of research
- Candidate is familiar with the requirements for the style of research thesis planned
- Issue of IP is an area requiring action/consideration

### 4. Timetable for completion of the thesis

For instance, whether draft timelines are appropriate and achievable.

### 5. Resource Implications

An assessment may be made as to whether the research project is adequately resourced, including whether:

- Laboratory access is appropriate
- Adequate infrastructure and funding is available
- Adequate technical support is available
- Further training or assistance is required.