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Graduate research timely completion

GSA Council Policy Statement

GSA Position

GSA recognises the importance of timely completion for graduate researchers at the University of Melbourne. However, measures to increase the percentage of timely completion should focus wholly or mainly on initiatives that support graduate researchers toward completion.

Rationale

The problem of timely completion does not belong to graduate researchers alone, but also to the student–supervisor relationship, faculties and graduate schools, and wider University and national models for research training. Therefore, improving and enhancing existing research training models at the University will provide a systematic approach that tackles the source of untimely completions.

In the absence of improved resources to support graduate researchers toward timely completion, other measures could simply result in more graduate researchers leaving their degrees without completion. This in turn would result in a loss of potential research block funding and reputational damage for the University, as well as being a poor outcome for graduate researchers.

Resource improvements to consider:

- more training for supervisors to improve efficacy of the relationship
- dedicated office space for all graduate researchers so they have a reliable place for study through the duration of their candidature
- development of peer support networks and other similar programs to reduce isolation and help graduate researchers feel part of their research community
- significant increase in provision of mental health resources for graduate researchers

Record of Review

Date	Reason for Review	Created/Revised by
May 2016	Adopted by GSA Council	
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