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## Professional editors for graduate research theses

### GSA Council Policy Statement

#### GSA Position

GSA supports the University of Melbourne’s current policy which precludes the use of professional editors for research theses in all but exceptional cases.

RHD candidates who have difficulty with the high level of academic English required for research theses are better served by being provided opportunities for the development of academic writing skills during the early and middle phases of their candidature, and the University should provide more support for these opportunities.

#### Rationale

Research theses are intended to be the sole work of the graduate researcher, and the use of a professional editor may undermine this.

Providing more opportunities for graduate researchers to develop their academic writing skills will improve the quality of University of Melbourne candidates, and enhance candidates’ success in their degrees and future careers. Professional editing of a thesis is unlikely to provide similarly beneficial outcomes.

Research supervisors already have the responsibility for reading and critiquing candidates’ theses.

Professional editors are expensive, and not all graduate researchers would be able to afford to hire one. Thus, allowing the use of professional editors may disadvantage some candidates.

#### Record of Review

Date	Reason for Review	Created/Revised by
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