Procedures for Confirmation of PhD Candidature in the School of Mathematics & Statistics, UNSW

Dear postgraduate research student,

In 2009, the UNSW Conditions for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy were modified to include new confirmation of candidature requirements.

To comply with this new policy, the School of Mathematics & Statistics holds a confirmation review for all first year PhD students in the School between 6 to 9 months after enrolment. The duration of this review is about 15 minutes, in which you will be required to submit a research proposal, which should be added as an attachment to your on-line submission on the Annual Progress Review system. It needs to include the following:

1. An indication of plans for your thesis as they currently stand
2. How this connects to existing literature
3. Some specific goals you expect to achieve in the coming 6-12 months
4. A statement that the research will be conducted in accordance with the UNSW policies for intellectual property, OHS and ethics (as required by the Graduate Research School)

The precise form of the proposal can vary, but it need not be longer than 1-2 pages. It should address points 1-4 as listed above but can do so in a number of formats, below are a few examples:

- A literature review and proposal of what you plan to do as your thesis project
- One or more draft papers you have submitted or are planning to submit based on your thesis work to date, supplemented by a brief outline of your plans over the coming year
- A brief introduction, then a plan (with timeline) of concrete problems to be tackled in the next 6 to 12 months.
- A list of key papers and books (related to the research topic) that you have read since enrolment, and further reading you are planning as you refine towards a stated research area for your thesis

Feel free to find a format that best suits you.

Otherwise, your confirmation review will follow the same structure as regular annual progress reviews, see attached document for details. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

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