

Strengthening Australia's research training system - Terms of Reference

The review will examine Australia's research training system, and consider the priorities for reform, including how to:

- ensure that Australia's research training models are comparable with the best in the world
- ensure that research graduates are equipped for and achieve employment outcomes in a range of sectors, including academic teaching, research and industry
- provide greater opportunity for industry relevant research training, including through
 - support for industry relevant research projects and experience
 - access to industry and business relevant skills within research training programs, such as entrepreneurial skills
 - recognition of prior experience in industry or other relevant employment
- remove barriers in the regulatory framework to facilitate innovation in degree models and align with international best practice, including
 - facilitating opportunities for more structured research training programmes, including through professional development, coursework and internships
 - supporting alternative pathways to a PhD that align with international best practice, such as master's degree preparatory models
- support admission and attainment for PhD candidates from non-traditional backgrounds, including supporting Indigenous research students
- ensure the research workforce pipeline is secure in fields of national importance, including areas aligned with national science and research priorities
- ensure that our research training system delivers a high quality research and learning environment and continues to support student choice and competition between providers, and
- make the best use of current resources invested in research training by all stakeholders, including universities, industry and the Australian Government.

A report will be provided by ACOLA to the Minister for Education and Training in March 2016.