

Integrity in planning postgraduate curriculum: developing research degrees in writing that work

Dr Donna Lee Brien



*School of English, Communication and Theatre
University of New England*

this paper

- outlines a possible program for postgraduate research degrees in creative and professional writing
- aim of generating discussion on the topic
- a framework for the timely completion of research candidates' theses
- and also for a broader education of students, including in professional and vocational areas
- Other benefits:
 - reduce anxiety for candidates
 - a range of additional benefits for supervisors and the hosting higher education institution

Outline of a possible program for a research PhD in writing

- What is offered now?
- What should such a program include?
- And why?
- Progressive vs ultimate outcomes
- Test case in 2006

Introduction to postgraduate study module

- What?
- Why?

Confirmation of candidature seminar and report

- What?
- Why?

Research paper and thesis workshops

- What?
- Why?

Research paper delivery and submission for peer-reviewed publication

- What?
- Why?

Professional practice module

- What?
- Why?

Conclusions

- proactively takes responsibility for assisting with the timely completion of the final thesis while helping prepare candidates for their futures
- Delors (1996) '[b]ringing out the talents and aptitudes latent in everyone fulfils ... the fundamentally humanist mission of education' (p. 80).
- possible transformation for all involved