

MIGR policy changes

Since MIGR introduced new policies in December 2014 and applied them retrospectively to currently enrolled research postgraduates, the MPA has received a huge number of complaints.

The most contentious issue has been the retrospective application of the policy changes, but other matters that have been raised are: all milestones becoming hurdles; acceptable reasons for milestone extensions (the fact that serious illness and lack of supervision are no longer acceptable reasons); end of candidature and applications for extensions; minimum three month enrolment period; and changes to the research training skills/coursework requirements.

The MPA organised an information session to allow postgraduates to question MIGR about the policy changes. A call for comments was put out to the postgraduate community by the MPA and a submission prepared in an effort to summarise the issues raised by postgraduates. The [MPA submission](#) was tabled and discussed at the July Graduate Research Committee (GRC) meeting, where our two MPA postgraduate representatives on GRC spoke to the item. The GRC sent a [formal response](#) to the MPA.

The MPA President and MPA Executive Officer subsequently met with the Chair of GRC and negotiated the following:

1. That all HDRs who originally enrolled with an approved four year plan for their PhD research projects would have any applications for candidature extensions treated with special consideration. This was in acknowledgement of the potential disadvantages that the retrospective policy application may have on this cohort of postgraduates.
2. That serious illness, lack of supervision and employment will no longer be specifically excluded from being accepted as legitimate reasons for milestone extensions. All applications will be considered on their merit and in light of whether or not they were “beyond the student’s control”.