

Acknowledgement of Country

RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nation on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University. RMIT University respectfully acknowledges their Ancestors and Elders, past and present. RMIT also acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Ancestors of the lands and waters across Australia where we conduct our business.

Create your own Statement of Purpose document responding to each of the sections using the guiding questions. Please pay attention to the character/word limits for compliance reasons. Overlength submission may affect your application assessment.

Please ensure you upload this document to your PhD Expression of Interest (EOI) application in the RMIT PhD application portal.

1. Introduction (750 characters: 100–150 words)

Purpose: Capture the selection committee's attention. Provide a concise overview of who you are, your cultural identity, and your motivation for pursuing Higher Degree by Research (HDR) studies.

Guiding Questions:

- What pronouns do you use, and how do they connect to your sense of identity or community?
- What motivates you to pursue a Higher Degree by Research (HDR)?
- What personal or community need does this research respond to?
- What are your long term aspirations, and how does your research proposal fit into them?

2. Cultural and Personal Background (1000 characters: 150–200 words)

Purpose: Share your story. Explain how your life experience has shaped your research interests and career goals.

Guiding Questions:

- What has your educational journey looked like so far?
- Were there barriers or enablers in your path to university?
- How have your cultural values and lived experiences influenced the way you see the world and your place in it?
- Who or what has inspired your academic and/or community leadership?

3. Academic Background and Preparation (1000 characters: 150–200 words)

Purpose: Demonstrate academic readiness. Describe your qualifications, research training, and areas of scholarly interest.

Guiding Questions:

- What degrees or relevant qualifications do you hold?
- What were your key academic achievements, including any thesis, projects, industry collaborations or research experience?
- How has your academic background prepared you for HDR study?
- Have you completed any Indigenous research methodologies coursework or participated in relevant programs?

4. Proposed Research (1250 characters: 200–250 words)

Purpose: Articulate a clear, thoughtful research direction. Show you have considered feasibility, relevance, and supervision.

Guiding Questions:

- What is your proposed research topic or area of interest?
- What questions or problems do you hope to explore?
- Why is this research important—to you, to your community, and to the field?
- What is the intended methodology or approach? Is it community-led or participatory?
- Are there specific researchers, centres, or supervisors at RMIT whose work aligns with yours?

5. Alignment with University and Program (750 characters: 100–150 words)

Purpose: Show how your goals align with the institution's values and capabilities.

Guiding Questions:

- Why are you applying to this university or program?
- What support systems (e.g., Indigenous research centres, scholarships, supervisor expertise) are attractive to you?
- How does the institution's approach to Indigenous research and reconciliation resonate with your goals?

6. Future Goals and Contribution (1000 characters: 150–200 words)

Purpose: Outline your post-HDR plans and the broader contribution you want to make.

Guiding Questions:

- What are your career goals post-PhD or Masters?
- How do you envisage giving back to your community and/or other communities?
- How will your research support Indigenous self-determination or knowledge sovereignty?
- What role do you hope to play in mentoring or uplifting other Indigenous researchers?

7. Closing Statement (500 characters: 50–100 words)

Purpose: End with confidence, clarity, and appreciation.

Guiding Questions:

- What final thought or message do you want the selection committee to leave with?
- How do you see this opportunity changing your life and those around you?
- What excites you most about becoming part of a research community?