

Faculty of Science

Initial Project Review

The initial project review is the first formal review of a HDR student's academic performance to ensure that the student is on track and focused from the very beginning of their candidature. It is also a great opportunity for the candidate and their supervisory team to receive feedback from the student review panel on the project design, progress-to-date and general research direction.

Graduate Research Moodle Page <https://lms.monash.edu/course/view.php?id=51441§ion=3>

To be completed by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students between the first 3 to 6 months (full-time) or 6 to 12 months (part-time) of candidature and Master of Philosophy (MPhil), and Master of Science (MSc) students between the first 3 to 4 months (full-time) or 6 to 8 months (part-time) of candidature.

SECTION 1: TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HDR STUDENT

1.1 Personal details

Monash student ID:	27876594
Full name:	Ana Cristina Fabela Hinojosa
School:	Earth, Atmosphere and Environment
Candidature start date:	20-09-2024
Candidature end date:	20-03-2028

1.2 Course in which you are enrolled

☒ **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** ☐ Master of Philosophy (MPhil) ☐ Master of Science (MSc)

1.3 Research Plan

Please attach a Research Plan. This should include the following suggested format:

- a thesis title
- a preliminary literature review;
- an outline of the research significance;
- an outline of the applicable research plan methodology;
- a summary of the equipment, facilities and resources needed for the project;
- a brief statement indicating possible risks to research progress;
- a brief statement of progress to date and any issues/concerns you may have; and
- timeline of anticipated progress in the coming 12 months, including milestones.
- MDP Pathway Plan (optional) – Guide to assist in planning MDP activities throughout your candidature (templates available [here](#) under Monash Doctoral Program)

The literature review should be expressed in paragraph format. The other aspects of the plan can be expressed in simple dot point format. Please refer to the [Faculty of Science Graduate Research Moodle Page](#) for further information and School specific requirements

1.4 Research Impact Statement

Please see the Instructions to Students for writing the Research Impact statement on Moodle.

Antarctica's bed topography data currently has local uncertainties of hundreds of meters in elevation due to sparse and unevenly distributed radar surveys, significantly limiting our ability to predict ice sheet behaviour and sea level rise contributions. Through the BedSAT project, I am developing a novel modelling approach that integrates remote sensing data and airborne-derived estimates, with mathematical and numerical ice flow models to substantially improve bed topography resolution and accuracy. I aim to derive a continent-wide bed topography dataset and conduct sensitivity analyses of dynamic ice loss to different realisations of topographic roughness through 2300CE. My work will quantify how bed topography uncertainties affect ice mass loss projections. This improved understanding can provide more reliable sea level rise predictions, and enable evidence-based policy decisions for climate adaptation strategies. This open-source approach and FAIR data principles will ensure these improvements benefit the broader scientific community and support more effective climate change mitigation planning.

1.5 Project Management Training Module (PhD student only)

Have you attended the 'Applying Project Management Principles and Techniques to Your Research' Training Module? **Yes x** No ☐ N/A ☐

If no, you must book in and complete the module prior to your Confirmation of Candidature.

SECTION 2: MAIN SUPERVISOR'S REVIEW

2.1 Academic Progress

The HDR student has:

- made satisfactory progress in the research program Yes ☒ No ☐
- demonstrated that their English language proficiency is of a standard required to complete the degree Yes ☒ No ☐
- appropriate time to spend on their project and not impacted upon by other employment commitments Yes ☒ No ☐

Please make comments only if any issues or risks to academic progress have been identified:

Graduate Research Handbooks: <https://www.monash.edu/graduate-research/faqs-and-resources>

SECTION 3: PANEL REVIEW

3.1 Review Panel Members

(For information regarding panel roles and responsibilities: <http://policy.monash.edu.au/policy-bank/academic/research/mrqs/grad-research-progress-management-procedures.html> (Section 5))

Panel Chair	
Independent panel member 1	
Independent panel member 2	
Other panel member (if required)	

3.2 Review of project feasibility and supervisory team

Please mark as appropriate:

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

1 2 3 4 5

a)	is the project feasible for a completion in a 3-3.5 year timeframe for PhD or 2 year timeframe for MSc and MPhil					
b)	is the supervisory team appropriate for the project					
c)	has the supervisory team discussed in detail the significance, methodology and approach with the student					

3.2.1 Has an alternative plan been developed in the event that the project design is not feasible?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

If ticked No or N/A provide explanation:

3.2.2 Is external collaboration/expertise required for the project?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3.2.3 If 'yes', has this been set up?

Yes ☐ No ☐

3.3 Student Progress

Please mark as appropriate, the student:

Strongly Agree

Strongly Disagree

1 2 3 4 5

a)	has diligently and effectively applied themselves to the research project and is making satisfactory progress in the research project					
b)	has formulated a research project that is sound and rigorous, supported by an appropriate application of methodologies					
c)	is able to write to a level required of the degree					
d)	has provided a detailed statement of progress to date, and a realistic timeline of anticipated progress in the coming 12 months					
e)	has sufficient time available during the week to devote to their study and research					
f)	is able to access adequate resources and equipment in order to complete their research project, and as per the Code of Practice (https://www.monash.edu/graduate-research/faqs-and-resources/content/chapter-five/5-2)					

General Comments:

If a rating of between 4 and 5 has been identified, relevant parties will be contacted by their school Postgraduate Co-ordinator for further discussion.

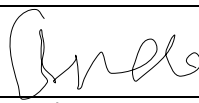

To be completed only if a rating of between 4 and 5 has been identified:

3.3.1 Please complete the below table (attach separate page if required).

Areas for student improvement	Strategies to assist improvement (incl. goals and targets)

SECTION 4: APPROVAL

Panel report has been discussed, and read by the student and their Main supervisor:

	Print name:	Signature:	Date:
Candidate:	Ana Fabela Hinojosa		6 / 3 / 2025
Main Supervisor:	Felicity McCormack		6 / 3 / 2025
Panel Chair:			

This report will be reviewed by the school postgraduate co-ordinator if issues or risks with the project feasibility, supervisory team and student academic progress have been identified.

Please submit this form to your [School Postgraduate Administrator](#) *.

*For School of Chemistry Candidates, please follow the instructions on [Moodle under School specific requirements](#). Upload the fully signed milestone proforma, along with all of the final documentation related to the milestone to Moodle, within 5 days of the panel meeting.