EXAMPLE 1

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| Criterion 1: Academic Achievement (Weight 40%)  Demonstrate quality of the candidate's academic performance | completed by Student |
| **Q1**. List details of Undergraduate Degrees including Honours   * Include cumulative/final grade point average and discipline of study. * Specify topic/field and class of Honours (if applicable). | |
| I completed a Bachelor of XXX from the University of XXX, majoring in science. Upon graduating in 2020, I was awarded a Commendation for Academic Excellence for graduating with a 6.27 grade point average. Throughout my Bachelor of XXX, I excelled in courses which included high distinction grades in subjects such as AAAA, BBBB and CCCC, where content was specifically related to the fundamental knowledge required for the proposed research project. I completed multiple assignments, creating posters and presentations tasks as part of course requirements, I was able to achieve consistent high distinction grades for these efforts. As one of my final subjects of my undergraduate degree, I elected to undertake a special research project, further encouraging me in my pursuit of a career in research. | |
| **Q2.** List details of Post Graduate Degrees   * Include cumulative/final grade point average and discipline of study. * For research degrees/component of degree, specify the courses, grades and list the research topic. | |
| My success gaining hands-on experience in the research labs encouraged me to enrol in an Honours degree in science. In 2021, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Honours), specializing in pharmacology from the University of XXX, where I was awarded first class honours. I conducted a research project on blah blah blah with Dr Doctor. I excelled in the research component and successfully compiled a well-received thesis and presentation, with a grade of 88% for my dissertation. | |
| **Q3.** List any academic awards and/or prizes, particularly those related to research courses/and or activities. | |
| During my studies I was awarded membership to the XYZ Honours Society, recognising outstanding academic achievements among university students. Upon graduating, I was awarded a Commendation for Academic Excellence. My outstanding teamwork capabilities and team contribution to scientific research has been recognised with several awards during my employment at ABCD University, including Pro Vice Chancellor’s Excellence Award highly commended Professional Staff Team Excellence Award and The Vice Chancellor’s Award 2019 Excellence in Professional and Support Staff Service. | |

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| Criterion 2: Research Capability (Weight 20%)  Demonstrate evidence of research preparedness and capability | completed by Student |
| **Q1**. Describe your previous research experience and explain how this makes you suitably qualified for the proposed project. | |
| My research experience commenced with a special research project at XXX where I learnt skills relating to experimental design, molecular biology techniques and cell culture methods. I progressed to an XXXhonours research project where I investigated the blah blah blah. Through this project, I became proficient in performing biochemical assays, in vitro cell culture techniques and cell imaging while also developing skills in experimental design, data capture, analysis and interpretation. My honours work allowed me to collaborate with other research groups including the ABCDE Centre at ZZZ University where I was trained to perform Oxygen Radical Antioxidant Capacity (ORAC) Assays to a GMP standard. My combined experience in cell culture and oxidative stress provides me with an excellent foundation to undertake the proposed PhD project. Additionally, since the completion of my Honours degree (2019) I have been employed as a research assistant at Company YYY (2019 – present). Through this > 3-year research assistant role I have honed my laboratory and data processing skills, demonstrated that I can work effectively as part of a research team, and proven that I can effectively collaborate with external research partners and investors. | |
| **Q2**. Provide details of Research outputs.   1. List any peer reviewed Publications.You **must** Include:    * A full citation, including a **DOI** link for each publication (included in a peer-reviewed journal or scholarly book). Suggested format: Kim J, Eygeris Y, Gupta M, Sahay G (2021) Self-assembled mRNA vaccines. Adv Drug Deliv Rev 170:83-112. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addr.2020.12.014>    * The impact factor of the journal and the number of citations for the publication from Google Scholar (https://scholar.google.com.au/) | |
| Author A., Author B., Author C., Author D., & Author E (2020). Use of Blah Blah to Blah Blah Blah. Journal of Blah Blah Blah. doi:xx.xxx.xx.xxx.x.x.  Journal impact factor: 9.231, Number of citations: 6 | |
| 1. List any other research publications, conference presentations, research internships/volunteering etc | |
| Nil | |

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| Criterion 3: Research Project and Environment (Weight 20%)  Quality of the research project and environment. | completed by Student and Supervisor |
| **Project Title:** Click or tap here to enter text. | |
| **Q1**. Describe how this project integrates into a defined area of research at USC (<https://www.usc.edu.au/research>) | |
| The aim of this project is to use …. Blah blah….. This research project fits under the identified UniSC research area of health, medicine and well-being. Proposed supervisor Dr. Doctor belongs to the UniSC Research Group/Centre/Insitute, and this research will align with the Group/Centre/Insitute new research theme “Title of Research Theme”. The proposed research aligns with research areas at which UniSC is working at/above world standards (2018 ERA rankings) including Biological Sciences (FoR3101, Biochemistry and cell biology), Engineering (FoR4003, Biomedical engineering) and Medical and Health Sciences (FoR3215, Reproductive medicine). My research will produce publications, contributing to UniSC’s research performance metrics. The data that I generate in Year 1 will be incorporated into a manuscript already in preparation by the Lab, which I have been invited to work on as a co-author. The research that I do in year 2 and 3 will form the basis for a first author paper (submission expected mid-2025). I will also be given the opportunity to be included in the author team of any invited review papers and encouraged to attend scientific meetings to disseminate my research findings. | |
| **Q2**. What are the expected short- and long-term impacts of the research proposed? | |
| Short-term: Create new fundamental knowledge pertaining to how ….. XYZ is associated in the development of Health Condition which manifests in 8% of pregnancies, increases the chances of fetal demise by 10-fold and is a prominent feature in up to 65% of stillbirths. We are currently unable to predict FGR pregnancies and interventions are limited due to our poor understanding of the mechanisms driving FGR pathology. Most current FGR investigations employ placentas sampled at delivery following FGR diagnosis, making it difficult to separate pathological causes and consequences. Our 3D-placentoid system overcomes this limitation by providing a model to accurately study the formation of early placental villi, enabling direct observation of the pathology of OxS in early placental development. Long-term: Future goals for the placentoid model include using the system to trial novel therapeutic interventions for placental dysfunction. The award of this PhD RTP scholarship provides the means necessary for the candidate contribute significantly to the establishment of the placentoid system which, in the future, could become a bona fide screening tool for use in testing novel therapeutics aimed at ameliorating placental dysfunction. | |
| **Q3**. Provide details of resource requirements and available funding for this project. | |
| The budget for this PhD project is covered entirely by a Research grant (2022-2024) held by the principal supervisor and co-supervisor which will provide all materials, reagents and consumables required by the candidate across the project duration. The candidate will require microscopy and flow cytometry equipment housed off campus at the University of BBB. Image analysis software (ImageJ) is freely available and statistical software (Prisim) and referencing software (Endnote) will be provided to the candidate as part of UniSC computer and software provisions. The candidate requires a PC2 certified laboratory and associated tissue culture facilities for this project. In year 1, the candidate will have access to these facilities at the Sunshine Coast Health Institute (SCHI). | |

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| Criterion 4: Supervision team (Weight 20%)  Quality of advisory team including record of successful supervision, appropriate advisory load, complementary expertise. | Completed by Supervisor |
| Describe how the student/project will be supported by the supervisory team in terms of mentoring, supporting candidate development, time allocated to the project, supervisor expertise and capacity (i.e., the amount of time and resources that the supervisor can allocate) | |
| Principal supervisor, Dr. Doctor is a Lecturer at UniSC, in discipline XXX. Dr. Doctor will train and guide the candidate in obtaining and interpreting data generated throughout the project. As primary supervisor, Dr. Doctor will oversee all aspects of data collection, analysis, progress reporting, manuscript submission while also facilitating the candidates career development. Co-supervisor Prof Professor is a professor at UniSC and an expert in everything, Prof. Professor will guide the candidate in experiments relating to the use of this technology. Prof. Professor will also mentor the candidate and oversee progress reporting alongside Dr. Doctor. Dr. Other Doctor (PhD UQ, 2019) is joining the Doctor Lab as a postdoctoral scientist in January 2023 and will be a co-supervisor. Other Doctor is an expert in stem cell culture and bioengineering and has extensive hands-on experience with all molecular biology experiments described in this proposal and will mentor the candidate in the lab and oversee the candidate’s day-to-day lab activities. | |

EXAMPLE 2

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| Criterion 1: Academic Achievement (Weight 40%)  Demonstrate quality of the candidate's academic performance | completed by Student |
| **Q1**. List details of Undergraduate Degrees including Honours   * Include cumulative/final grade point average and discipline of study. * Specify topic/field and class of Honours (if applicable). | |
| Bachelor of XXX, graduating with a cumulative GPA of 6.44 as Chancellors Medallist from University of YYYY. | |
| **Q2.** List details of Post Graduate Degrees   * Include cumulative/final grade point average and discipline of study. * For research degrees/component of degree, specify the courses, grades and list the research topic. | |
| Master of ZZZZ, graduating with a Cumulative GPA of 6 from University of AAAA. Masters was completed as a combination of coursework and research. The research component included an ‘Applied Research Project’ (worth 10cp) and Dissertation (worth 40cp). The applied research project was a systematic literature review of sustainability and environmental education messages (delivered digitally) for pro-environmental behavioural outcomes. Dissertation project created frameworks and methodology to assess the effectiveness of an existing sustainability education campaign on real-world pro-social and environmental outcomes. The dissertation was presented at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI2021) and is part of an upcoming conference paper.  Other coursework included:   * Community Learning for Sustainability (GPA 7) * Education as a Pathway for Sustainability (GPA7) * Designing Sustainability Learning Experiences (GPA7) * Learning to lead for Sustainability (GPA7) * Solid Waste Management (GPA6) * Economics (GPA5) * Research Design and Planning (GPA7) | |
| **Q3.** List any academic awards and/or prizes, particularly those related to research courses/and or activities. | |
| * Award for Academic Excellence * Chancellor’s Medallist * University Commendation for Academic Excellence, * Environmental Science Prize, * Australian Federation of University Women Bursary Winner, | |

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| Criterion 2: Research Capability (Weight 20%)  Demonstrate evidence of research preparedness and capability | completed by Student |
| **Q1**. Describe your previous research experience and explain how this makes you suitably qualified for the proposed project. | |
| My research experience extensive and spans 11 years. This is evidenced in the formal acknowledgments offered across some of the following research outputs:   * Paper 1 details…. * Paper 2 details…. * Paper 3 details… * Paper 4 details…   During these 11 years, I have been offered a variety of opportunities to undertake a PhD, but have waited for the right project to integrate my skillset. The research outlined above and throughout this application demonstrates a wide scope of research covering environmental management, protected species, and area management, identifying and communicating risk, exploring the connection between people and nature (including Traditional Owners), and the behavioural impacts of sustainability and environmental education. My interactions with QPWS have reinforced that these skills are essential for understanding and communicating risk for the ABCD National Park managing risk on peaks and summits needs protected area management (managing environmental assets, protecting endangered species, controlling biosecurity threats), cultural heritage considerations (Traditional Owners wishes and preservation of culture) and an understanding of visitor education, communication and behavioural outcomes (understanding recreation, connection with nature, and behavioural patterns). I believe I am highly prepared, capable, and supported, to accomplish the goals of this research project. | |
| **Q2**. Provide details of Research outputs.   1. List any peer reviewed Publications.You **must** Include:    * A full citation, including a **DOI** link for each publication (included in a peer-reviewed journal or scholarly book). Suggested format: Kim J, Eygeris Y, Gupta M, Sahay G (2021) Self-assembled mRNA vaccines. Adv Drug Deliv Rev 170:83-112. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addr.2020.12.014>    * The impact factor of the journal and the number of citations for the publication from Google Scholar (https://scholar.google.com.au/) | |
| * + - Paper 1 details….     - Paper 2 details…. | |
| 1. List any other research publications, conference presentations, research internships/volunteering etc   **Upcoming Research Publications:**  Conference paper: SRI 2021 Conference proceedings  Report: Environmental Valuation project for Sunshine Coast Council. This includes Traditional Owner cultural heritage land-management considerations.  **Previous Research Publications:**  Conference Poster: Author list… (2021). Poster title… *Conference Name* (location, dates)  **Some Previous Report Publications:**  Report 1 details…  Report 2 details…  Report 3 details…  **Journalistic Reporting and Outputs:**  Editor and contributing author: *Magazine name* (digital magazine).  Freelance writer: AAAA Magazine (Australian print magazine and virtual outputs).  Eco Columnist: XXXX Magazine (Australian print magazine)  Creative Director and content creator: YYYY (educational digital media platform)  **Community engagement:**  Development and facilitation of sustainability education community workshops. Facilitated sustainability community events on campus during undergraduate studies. These were widely covered by the press. | |
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| Criterion 3: Research Project and Environment (Weight 20%)  Quality of the research project and environment. | completed by Student and Supervisor |
| **Project Title:** *Communicating and Educating for Sustainable Behavioural Change: Risk, Recreation, and Respect in the Glass House Mountains.* | |
| **Q1**. Describe how this project integrates into a defined area of research at USC (<https://www.usc.edu.au/research>) | |
| This research project looks specifically at communicating risk, visitor safety, and cultural heritage within protected area management. It fits within the research school of Science, Technology, and Engineering as it will explore the relationships between protected area management, managing Cultural Heritage sites, and using technology (digital communications) for sustainable asset management within National Parks. Engineered assets (i.e., railing, fencing, signage) also play a role in changing behaviours in protected areas and are to be assessed regarding their efficacy in reducing endangering visitor behaviour (to geology, fauna, flora, personal, and rescue personnel safety) that exists in the Glass House Mountains National Park (GHMNP)  ZZZZ’s most recent research and qualifications are a Master of ABCD, through the school of XYZ at University of YYYY. His/Her research and work in sustainability education enables him/her to bridge gaps between Science, Technology and Engineering, and social science and creative approaches to the communication of environmental messaging. During the course of this research project, there will be opportunities to connect and potentially collaborate with the School of Creative Industries to explore the development of creative technological communications, and the School of Health and Behavioural Science, for public risk. | |
| **Q2**. What are the expected short- and long-term impacts of the research proposed? | |
| This project has been developed in collaboration with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services (QPWS) to support an escalating need to evolve Park Management protocol for the XXXX National Park. Since COVID 19 the park has seen record visitor numbers. Antidotal reporting (by QPWS Rangers) attribute this rise in visitor numbers to locals exercising and recreating in national parks following COVID lockdowns. However, while available foot-traffic data supports the claims of an increase in visitor numbers, there have been no formal studies into motivations for increases in outdoor recreation, or review of visitor activity in the park.  In the short-term increased visitor numbers to the Park has put pressure on the stability of the geology, safety of flora and fauna (including threatened species) and has resulted in more frequent rescue operations from the Park summits and peaks. While QPWS have the resources to work on Management Strategies for flora and fauna, understanding why visitors choose to visit the Park and participate in risky behaviours that endanger themselves, rescue workers, and the mountain biome, is out of the scope of their planning and management teams’ current capacity. The short-term outcomes of this project will offer the QPWS a clear profile of the visitors to Park (via surveys and digital social media data analysis) so that planning and management teams can make decisions about how to manage this protected area. This includes the consideration of seasonal or permanent closures of some summit climbs due to Cultural Heritage wishes, and concerns about geology and the ability to maintain anchor points for safety teams use during rescue operations.  Longer term, this project aims to identify alternate ways of communicating risk and safety messages for the Park including the innovative use of technology for message delivery and engagement. This includes building on some of the basic structures that exist within QPWS offering digitally facilitated visitor surveys, the option to use social media data for risk modelling, expanding on virtual and augmented reality offerings, and engaging with Traditional Owners to share messages of cultural heritage to change behaviours from risky to respectful within the Park. | |
| **Q3**. Provide details of resource requirements and available funding for this project. | |
| This project has been developed in conjunction with QPWS. The team at QPWS have offered the use of QPWS visitor monitoring equipment for this project. The researchers already have access to the software, computers, cameras, and other equipment that would be required to explore digital messaging delivery. As this project begins, there will be the opportunity to apply for supportive funding to assist in facilitating larger-scale visitor surveys in the face-to-face capacity. These avenues have not yet been explored due to safety concerns regarding facilitation of face-to-face surveys during the winter COVID season. | |

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| Criterion 4: Supervision team (Weight 20%)  Quality of advisory team including record of successful supervision, appropriate advisory load, complementary expertise. | Completed by Supervisor |
| Describe how the student/project will be supported by the supervisory team in terms of mentoring, supporting candidate development, time allocated to the project, supervisor expertise and capacity (i.e., the amount of time and resources that the supervisor can allocate) | |
| Dr. Doctor has a strong research track record in conservation biology/genetics, translocation of threatened species and protected area management. As a Scientist in environmental management, conservation biology, and landscape ecology s/he will provide XXXX with the assistance required to understand visitor interactions and impacts on protected area management in contested landscapes. S/He has a strong publication track record and has supervised 1 PhD and 1 Masters student to completion in the last three years and is currently supervising two PhD students who are on track for completion in the next 12 months. S/He has also supervised 5 honours students to First Class graduation in the same time period.  Dr Doctor2 in a specialist in animal movement ecology, disturbance ecology and human-wildlife conflict. Her/His research involves using technology to understand behaviour within the environment, and using this information to improve management and species conservation. S/He has published 46 papers and one book chapter (15 as lead, last, or corresponding author), with 60% of publications in the top 10% of journals worldwide. Over the last five years, s/he has graduated four PhD students, one Masters by coursework student, and three Honours students (100% First class). S/He has been included on the supervision board to advise in minimising visitor disturbance of protected areas and for advice on the use of technology for understanding behaviour. Dr Doctor2 will be a co-supervisor on the project (0.2FTE). | |