

Confirmations in Physics

Purpose

According to University policy (4.60.5), the general purpose of confirmation is threefold:

1. **advise** the candidate on the direction, scope, planning, and feasibility of the project; and about the acquisition or further development of appropriate research and professional skills
2. **review** the human, physical, financial resources needed to sustain the candidature
3. **assure** the university that continuation of the candidature is likely to lead to an assessable thesis during the funding period.

As for any milestone, the School needs to give the candidate written feedback that summarises their strengths, achievements and development needs, offers suggestions towards successful completion, and identifies the tasks to be completed and by when for the next milestone. The School also must also sign off that advisory team has been reviewed and comprises at least two active and academically appropriate advisors.

Attributes and Criteria

The School has a responsibility to students to ensure they are given the opportunity of developing the skills and attributes expected of a graduate of an internationally competitive PhD program in physics. Confirmation is an appropriate time to evaluate whether the student is starting to develop these skills and attributes, and to make recommendations to the student and advisors to help ensure that the student is given the best opportunity of doing so.

Listed below are the graduate attributes (see policy 4.60.3) relevant at the point of confirmation, with associated criteria that will be used to gauge progress.

In-depth, significant knowledge at the forefront of the field

- as evidenced in the report and at the interview, the student is familiar with the “state-of-play” in the field and can identify gaps in the current knowledge of the field

Capacity to communicate ideas effectively to a range of audiences inside and outside the field of study or discipline and to the wider community

- the seminar and report demonstrate that the student can successfully explain the project aims and background and its underlying physics to those outside the immediate field
- the report is written in good scientific English and is of an appropriate academic standard

Ability to conduct independent and original research and scholarship, which may be demonstrated by:

- **formulating viable research questions,**
- the scientific objectives of the project are clearly explained in the report.
- **designing and implementing methodologies appropriate to the discipline or field of study**
- the report gives a clear and specific proposed plan for completing the project

A clear understanding and demonstration of ethical, legal, social and civic responsibility as a researcher and member of the discipline

- the report references all sources and is free from plagiarism