

FAQs: Higher Degree by Research Students

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| <p>1. <i>What is happening to the SCA?</i></p> | <p>UNSW and the University of Sydney have now signed a Heads of Agreement which proposes that the way SCA degrees are delivered may change from Semester 1 2017. If the ongoing negotiations are successful, it is expected a formal Agreement will be signed later in 2016 between Sydney and UNSW.</p> |
| <p>2. <i>Why is this happening?</i></p> | <p>All three institutions want to ensure the ongoing quality and sustainability of arts education. The University of New South Wales, the University of Sydney and the National Art School have been exploring opportunities since last year for a closer association between the three institutions, with the aim of strengthening the delivery of visual art and design education in NSW.</p> |
| <p>3. <i>What does a Heads of Agreement mean and is it final?</i></p> | <p>A Heads of Agreement is a commitment to work through the details required to come to a formal and binding agreement. It broadly outlines the areas to be covered in the formal agreement and outlines the principles underpinning this endeavour. Though the decision is not final it obliges both parties to make their best efforts to achieve the formal agreement.</p> |
| <p>4. <i>What does the Heads of Agreement say?</i></p> | <p>If the Heads of Agreement proceeds, then from 2017 all current SCA students except those undertaking the MMI will be able to continue their degree either by transferring to UNSW and graduating with a UNSW degree, or remaining enrolled in a University of Sydney degree and graduating with a Sydney award. For coursework students remaining in the BVA and MCA, the units of study will be taught by UNSW staff. Special arrangements will be made for all research students on an individual basis to ensure their degree is managed in the best way.</p> <p>The arrangements specifically allow for all currently enrolled SCA students to graduate with a degree from The University of Sydney.</p> |
| <p>5. <i>If the formal agreement is signed when do the changes occur?</i></p> | <p>Once the formal agreement is signed by Sydney and UNSW both universities will act swiftly to ensure a smooth transition for Semester 1 2017. We will keep you updated on the progress and any changes to this timeline.</p> |

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| <p>6. <i>When will there be further detailed information for me?</i></p> | <p>The two universities will continue discussions over the coming months, and we will contact you to keep you informed during this period. We will also hold information sessions at Rozelle campus so we can provide up to date information in person.</p> |
| <p>7. <i>Will I be able to complete my PhD or Master of Fine Art at the University of Sydney? If not, where will I complete my degree?</i></p> | <p>We will work with all current SCA research students on an individual basis to find the best academic plan. You will be able to continue your degree by transferring to UNSW and graduating with a UNSW degree, or remain enrolled in a University of Sydney degree and graduating with a Sydney award. The path available to each student will likely depend on a number of factors, particularly supervision, and the University will work individually with each student to explore the most appropriate path forward.</p> <p>We understand that a number of factors will inform the right path for you and are committed to working with you directly about what is needed to support you in finalising your degree. This will involve detailed discussions with you regarding your requirements. Our aim is to make this transition as smooth as possible for you.</p> |
| <p>8. <i>Will I have access to similar studios and facilities currently provided by SCA?</i></p> | <p>These are all important questions which will inform whether the best path for you is to continue at the University of Sydney or transfer to UNSW. However, we will need to work with you about the specific requirements of your creative work or thesis to be able to give you accurate information.</p> <p>We will contact you to advise how you can make an appointment for an individual consultation.</p> <p>This may depend on your specific circumstances. However, assuming normal progression we expect that your completion date will remain unchanged.</p> <p>Information on how this transfer will be managed will be provided at the student information sessions to be scheduled, and we will also send you information by email. You will also be able to discuss this transfer at your individual consultation session.</p> |
| <p>9. <i>What does this mean for my supervision?</i></p> | |
| <p>10. <i>Will this change how I submit my thesis?</i></p> | |
| <p>11. <i>Will my examination timeline still include an exhibition?</i></p> | |
| <p>12. <i>Will the change impact my scholarship?</i></p> | |
| <p>13. <i>If I move to UNSW will my completion date remain the same?</i></p> | |
| <p>14. <i>If I am interested in transferring to UNSW, what do I have to do?</i></p> | |

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| <p>15. <i>I am an international student, does this impact on my visa?</i></p> | <p>If you continue in your degree at the University of Sydney then your visa will remain unchanged. However, if you transfer to UNSW then UNSW will need to issue a new eCOE that you will have to report to DFAT as per a normal student transfer. Staff at both UNSW and Sydney will assist in this process.</p> |
| <p>16. <i>My progress review is due soon. How will it be managed?</i></p> | <p>You will need to complete your progress review as per the normal process.</p> <p>The APR is an online process managed by the Higher Degree by Research Administration Centre. If you have any questions regarding this process please contact them:</p> <p>HDRAC Reception: +61 2 8627 4343. HDRAC Email enquiries: hdrac.3@sydney.edu.au</p> |
| <p>17. <i>What is planned for Callan Park?</i></p> | <p>It is too early to know. The University is in discussions looking at options for the future use of the site.</p> |
| <p>18. <i>I have another question not covered here. Who should I contact to discuss?</i></p> | <p>If you have any questions regarding this process please contact HDRAC:</p> <p>HDRAC Reception: +61 2 8627 4343. HDRAC Email enquiries: hdrac.3@sydney.edu.au</p> |