

# Getting started



## Every HDR journey starts

with knowing what the expectations are.

Before you dive head first into your new adventure, you should know and understand what you are getting yourself into. Find relevant information on higher research degrees, the difference between the various offerings, timelines, and so on. Once you are satisfied that you can do this, start reading in the area you are interested in so you can form an idea in your head of what it is that you want to do. Think about who a good supervisor might be for this project. If you are not from within the university context you might have to search through the staff directories to identify a good candidate. Otherwise, try and find a postgraduate research coordinator in the relevant school of your chosen university and speak with them.

## There are three critical things:

- 1 Start reading early and widely and take good notes from the beginning.
- 2 Find your supervisors and be very clear on the roles and responsibilities in that relationship: .
  - > Understand the role of the supervisor
  - > Clarify mutual expectations
  - > Understand that critique is an important part of research; learn how to work with critique and feedback
  - > Respect your supervisor, also for the knowledge in their field. They will respect you for your knowledge in your field, too.
- 3 Preparation of your research proposal
  - > Understand the gaps in the literature
  - > Develop an understanding of appropriate methodologies and methods
  - > Understand how you want to analyse your data

### Tips

- > Carefully read all information about the administrative requirements of your higher degree.
- > Agree on the best approach to work together with your supervisor.
- > Understand your research interest and how it fits into the current research landscape.
- > Read widely and critically.
- > Understand your research question and find as much information as possible early on about how you can best answer this question.