

2.5 Develop a more consistent approach to higher degree by research (HDR) training with a focus on ensuring students build research, transferable and professional skills.

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The UQ Founders Pledge is open to anyone wishing to participate and UQ will provide entrepreneurs with networks and support to accelerate their aspirations. In 2019, 15 founders pledged their support.

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**3.2 Strengthen and grow international research collaborations to ensure we leverage the breadth of our research to make significant contributions to global**

**HDR administration**

In 2019, the delivery of HDR programs at UQ was reviewed in order to assess the outcomes of the organisational change in delivering a 'One UQ' approach with efficient and high-quality administrative processes, the partnerships required and to ensure UQ is responding to national expectations of research training performance and quality. With endorsement of the structure and a strong partnership approach to HDR programs, HDR candidates will benefit from high-quality and consistent experiences and increased opportunities for development and industry engagement, positioning UQ as a leader in meeting evolving national expectations for research training.

**UQ Founders Pledge**

In an Australian first, the UQ Founders Pledge was launched in 2019. With a growing number of UQ alumni undertaking successful ventures, the Pledge provides an opportunity for founders to give back to the UQ community in a meaningful way. To join, founders make a non-binding commitment to make a philanthropic gift in support of a cause at the University, at a time that is right for them—such as after the sale of their venture or an Initial Public Offering.

There is no minimum amount, no formal contract, and founders can give to whichever cause they have an affinity with at the time of their donation, whether for medical research, scholarships, or even entrepreneurial programs.