

Guidelines for preparing your 50 word citation

Your citation summarises your research, the contribution you have made to knowledge and conveys the impact and significance of your work to a lay audience.

The 50 word citation is a formal statement of your accomplishment as a doctoral graduate. It summarises your research, the contribution you have made to knowledge and conveys the impact and significance of your work to a lay audience. A good citation uses clear, non-specialist language, which can be understood and appreciated both by fellow scholars and the family members of La Trobe graduates at your graduation ceremony. Your citation will also appear in print on the Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement ([AHEGS](#)). All graduates from Australian universities receive an AHEGS in addition to the academic transcript and testamur.

It is not an easy task to encapsulate the entirety of your doctoral findings into a plain language 50 word summary. It may take you a bit of time to get it right, so work with your supervisor. To help get started consider answering the following questions for an intelligent non-specialist:

- What was your thesis about?
- What were your findings?
- How do these contribute to knowledge and/or practice?
- Why does that matter/what are the implications?

Craft these sentences into a coherent citation that you will be proud to hear read at your graduation. You will need to explain any technical terms within the citation and to use the following structure:

Dr X studied/examined/investigated/explored
[description of project].

The research found/revealed/identified/resulted in/produced [description of findings].

The findings/results/outcomes contribute to/enhance/improve/reinforce/provide insight into/build on/advance/affirm /confirm [description of the value or outcome of the project].

You should ensure your citation is no longer than 50 words.

The Graduate Research School will approve your citation and may edit the spelling, grammar and format if required. Overly long or unclear citations will be returned to the principal supervisor for amendment..

Sample citations

Philosophy

Dr Magnifique studied the relationship between ethical theories and animal protection movements. She showed that a rights-based ethic can support animal welfarism, and that utilitarian ethics can support animal abolitionism. Her research has both philosophical and political implications, and identifies common ideological ground for rival camps in an important social movement.

Planning

Dr Exemplar explored the practices and attitudes of rural planners in peri-urban Australia. Peri-urban regions include conflicting land uses yet planners tend to imagine them as simply rural and agricultural. Conflict is inevitable. The findings provide an historical and contemporary analysis of the performance and negotiation of practice in a changing region.

Microbiology

Dr Templantation studied mitochondria, tiny compartments in cells that provide over 90% of their energy. She determined how genetic information in the mitochondrial genome of a simple amoeba is transcribed and processed. The findings provide insights into the origin, evolution and function of all mitochondria, including our own.