

Advice for Examiners

Doctor of Philosophy Degree by Submission of Published Work
by Staff of the University

The purpose of the “Doctor of Philosophy degree by submission of published work by staff of the University” at Curtin is to provide the opportunity for staff members to submit for recognition academic work they have produced on the basis of their research whilst a staff member of Curtin.

The application shall be a thesis in one of the following forms:

- a series of published works and/or peer reviewed publications accompanied by an exegesis incorporating a full explanatory introduction and review section to link the separate works and to place them in the context of an established body of knowledge. If not otherwise given, a literature review and detailed data and descriptions of methods shall be included as appendices. Any published work of which the applicant is a joint author may only be included in the thesis provided the work done by the applicant is clearly identified.
- a series of literary or creative works accompanied by an exegesis incorporating a full explanatory introduction detailing the contribution of the author; a review section to link the separate works and to place them in the context of an established body of knowledge; a literature review; and a description of methods where appropriate. Any literary or creative work of which the applicant is a joint author/creator may only be included in the thesis provided the work done by the applicant is clearly identified.

The work, or collection of works, on which the applicant relies shall be comparable in quantity and academic quality to that which is required for a Doctor of Philosophy degree in the same general field of study. In other words, the published works and exegesis together must be a substantial original contribution to the knowledge or understanding of the field of study and demonstrate the capacity of the candidate to conceive, design and carry to completion independent research. The applicant should uncover new knowledge either by the discovery of new facts, the formulation of theories or the innovative re-interpretation of known data and established ideas.

The thesis should be examined principally in terms of:

- (i) The applicant's understanding of the field of study;
- (ii) The applicant's demonstrated capacity to conceive, plan and conduct a program of research;
- (iii) The significance of the thesis as a contribution to knowledge or understanding of knowledge in the field of study; and
- (iv) The originality of the work embodied in the thesis.

In assessing the thesis, the examiners should prepare a report on the prescribed form, indicating whether or not the criteria in (a) - (d) below have been satisfied.

The thesis should demonstrate that the candidate has:

- a) a thorough knowledge of the literature relevant to the field of study;
 - b) a high level of skills in the gathering and analysis of information and report presentation;
 - c) demonstrated a critical, perceptive and constructive analysis of the subject;
 - d) carried out original and significant research in the field.
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After examination of the thesis, the examiner shall make one of the following recommendations:

- The applicant be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
The Examiner may specify this category for a thesis that contains only errors of presentation or non-substantive deficiencies which are easily amended. The University Graduate Studies Committee will require that the candidate make such amendments as pointed out by the Examiner; or
- The applicant not be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
The Examiner may specify this category for a thesis that contains substantive errors or deficiencies which cannot easily be amended. The candidate will not have the right to resubmit the thesis.

The examiner is requested to detail as fully as possible in the report the reasons for this recommendation.

Names of Examiners are not released to the candidate unless the Examiner specifically approves the release of his/her identity, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (refer Question 1 on the *Examination Report* form). Only the Dean, Graduate Studies (or nominee), the Chairperson of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee and the Chairperson of the Thesis Committee may communicate with the Examiners regarding the examination process while the thesis is under examination.

The University requests that the thesis be examined independently, and that your report will be made available to the University in confidence.

An examiner may recommend to the University Graduate Studies Committee an oral examination of the candidate to clarify aspects of the thesis. In this instance, the examiner shall clearly specify the purpose of the oral examination and the nature of the questions to be put to the candidate (refer Question 3 on the *Examination Report* form).

Dean, Graduate Studies
Office of Research and Development