

Policy: Higher degree by research – examinations

Purpose

To outline the standards for Higher Degree by Research theses submitted for examination.

Overview

This policy covers Higher Degree by Research theses submitted for examination by ANU students.

Scope

Theses submitted for the award of a Master of Philosophy, Professional Doctorate, or Doctor of Philosophy.

Policy statement

1. This document is to be read in conjunction with the [Research Awards Rules](#).
2. The University ensures that processes are in place to ensure that Higher Degree by Research theses:
 - a. Uphold the fundamental principles of quality and integrity in scholarly work;
 - b. Align with the University reputation and principles of integrity and academic freedom;
 - c. Make a distinct contribution to the knowledge of a subject area;
 - d. Are a coherent, integrated and original body of work; and
 - e. Are at the appropriate standard for the AQF level of the qualification.
3. The award of a Higher Degree by Research is granted only following an independent assessment of the quality of the research thesis. The assessment is undertaken by expert examiners with international standing in disciplines relevant to the thesis.
4. Appropriate conflict of interest declarations and, if appropriate, actions, are undertaken to ensure that professional and personal relationships between examiners and either a student or their supervisors, or relationships between examiners and the University, do not impact on the independence of the

assessment.

5. Conflicts between recommendations by examiners are resolved appropriately with a focus on equitable practice between individual cases.
6. The final decision on the award of a degree rests with the appropriate Associate Dean of the relevant College, subject to any appeal rights detailed in the *Research Awards Rules*.
7. Theses are submitted in a format appropriate to the type of thesis.
8. Where the submission of a thesis for examination is not supported by the primary supervisor, appropriate educative advice is given to a student prior to the submission.
9. Except in cases involving confidential information, patent applications, and copyright material, research undertaken within the University including research theses is publicly and freely available in accordance with the Open Access Policy and Open Access Research Procedure.
10. The administration of thesis examinations ensures the integrity of the assessment process between the candidate, the examiners and the academic College.

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