



## NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF EXAMINERS OF DOCTOR OF VISUAL ARTS SUBMISSION

### STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE

The Degree of Doctor of Visual Arts (DVA) is established under the University's Higher Degree Research Policy and is awarded for an integrated program of professional work (coursework and research) which contributes to the generation of new knowledge and/or conceptual advances.

Candidates are encouraged to publish results of their research during candidature and may include one or more papers in the body of the thesis. The thesis preparation guidelines detail the requirements for inclusion of papers within the thesis (<https://intranet.secure.griffith.edu.au/research/griffith-graduate-research-school/preparing-my-thesis/inclusion-of-papers-within-the-thesis>)

### GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Graduates of the program possess the necessary expertise to provide leadership in their respective fields through the quality of their professional practice, research skills and ability to articulate a theoretical position within a visual arts discourse.

### COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The DVA is a professional development program with an integrated program of independent research and coursework. It is designed for graduates seeking to extend their studio research and practice, and make original conceptual advancements within their chosen discipline.

- the minimum and maximum duration of full-time DVA candidature is two years and four years respectively.
- the minimum and maximum duration of part-time DVA candidature is three years and eight years respectively.

During candidature, candidates are required to complete several milestones and academic progress reports. These include the following:

- **Early Candidature milestone** which occurs within six months if full-time and twelve months if part-time. The purpose of this milestone is to assess whether the candidate has a viable research project, and identify whether any further education, training or resources are required to ensure timely completion. The format for this milestone may include a written and/or oral component.
- **Confirmation of Candidature** which occurs within twelve months if full-time and eighteen months if part-time. The purpose of this milestone is to confirm that the project is appropriate to the degree for which the candidate is enrolled, provide feedback on the work completed to date, determine that suitable progress has been made, and address any issues such as supervision, ethics and resources. Candidates are expected to submit a research paper and to present and publically defend this paper before an audience comprising the assessing panel (principal supervisor and independent assessor) and general public.
- **Mid Candidature Milestone** which occurs within twenty four months if full-time and forty eight months if part-time. The purpose of this milestone is to assess whether the candidate is on track to complete by the due date, and ensure the candidate is on track to complete the candidature requirement of having at least one peer reviewed output accepted for publication during the candidature. The format for this milestone may include a written and/or oral component.

OR

- **Thesis and Candidature Review Milestone.** Candidates commencing from January 2017 are required to complete this milestone. The objective of the milestone is to provide a forum for a formative review of the work completed towards the thesis. The milestone allows candidates to gather feedback that

can be used to guide them towards the final research findings and to assure the quality of the thesis to be submitted for examination. The milestone also provides an opportunity to:

- review and confirm candidates' satisfactory progress toward and timeline for completion;
  - review and confirm satisfactory progress by doctoral candidates toward fulfilling the University research output requirement;
  - identify and provide recommendations to resolve any difficulties that might negatively affect quality of the research submitted or impede its timely completion;
  - provide the candidate an opportunity to present their preliminary findings;
  - monitor and support the development of the candidate's capabilities toward their research goals and career objectives.
  - The TCRM must be completed within the period 2.5 yrs – 3yrs EFT.
- **Annual Progress Report** is submitted on an annual basis to formally monitor progress. Principal supervisors and candidates are required to discuss performance and progress of the research, identify, address and resolve problems that may be affecting the research, and set milestones for the research to be met in the proceeding twelve months.

Policy Link: <https://www.griffith.edu.au/higher-degrees-research/services-support-resources/policies-guidelines-manuals>

## THE RESEARCH

The research activity for the DVA comprises two examinable elements, the written research and the studio research.

### The Written Research

The written research may be presented in one of three formats:

- 1 a theoretical dissertation unambiguously related to the candidate's research in studio practice; **OR**
- 2 an exegesis which:
  - gives a clear description of the research;
  - places the research in a disciplinary context;
  - states how the research was developed; and
  - explains the techniques and processes used in the work exhibited; **OR**
- 3 a CD ROM, in lieu of written research which communicates unambiguously the results of the research project, excluding the transcript of any interviews etc.

### The Studio Research

The studio research is a coherent body of visual images demonstrating a rigorous investigation of a single question or theme published by means of exhibition, performance, broadcast, screening, printed text or electronic medium. It can also include documentation of a series of events leading up to the final publication or exhibition.

## THE EXAMINATION BOARD

At least two external expert examiners of international standing are appointed to assess the submission. A member of staff of the University is appointed as Chairperson of Examiners, whose task is to consider the reports of the examiners and make a recommendation to the University on the outcome of the examination.

## EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

The written research is submitted at least one month before the studio examination and includes photographic or video documentation of no more than 10 images. The examination of the written research occurs before the examination of the studio work.

Examiners must make an independent report and recommendation and are asked not to communicate directly with the candidate, the candidate's supervisor/s or each other. The Chairperson of Examiners will be present at the examination of the studio research. Examiners will be asked to submit independent reports and recommendations Office within 6 weeks of the examination of the studio research.

The thesis examination process is conducted online through the Examiner's Evaluation Workcentre located in the Griffith University home page: [www.griffith.edu.au](http://www.griffith.edu.au)>Griffith Portal>Research>Academic Resources>Evaluation Workcentre:

- Examiners are asked to provide their recommendation on results of examination.
- Examiners are asked to provide a justification for their recommendation and a general evaluation of the thesis. Please note that in the case of competing recommendations, a recommendation may need to be set aside if not supported by a report detailing the justification for the recommendation.

Candidates are provided with copies of reports of the examiners and Chairperson of Examiners with their identity expunged. Their identity will be revealed to the candidate when the examination is concluded. If this policy causes you concern, you are asked to not accept the task of examiner.

## EXAMINATION OUTCOME

In summary, the University's Higher Degree Research Policy enables an examiner to recommend:

- 1 the research be awarded a pass; OR
- 2 the research be awarded a pass subject to minor revisions; OR
- 3 the research be awarded a pass subject to additional work being undertaken by the candidate; OR
- 4 additional work be undertaken, the research revised and then resubmitted; OR
- 5 the option of an appropriate masters degree when available, dependent upon the amount and standard of work completed in the relevant professional doctorate; OR
- 6 the research be failed.

Where there is substantial disagreement between the examiners, the University may:

- appoint an additional examiner to report on the research;
- appoint an adjudicator examiner to consider and report on the research and on the reports of the examiners.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Any questions about the research or the examination procedure may be directed to:

Thesis Examinations Office  
Griffith Graduate Research School  
Griffith University  
Bray Centre (N54) 0.21  
Nathan Qld 4111  
Australia

Email: [thesisexams@griffith.edu.au](mailto:thesisexams@griffith.edu.au)  
Phone: +61 7 373 53817

\*\*\*\*\*