

## **NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER OF SCIENCE THESIS**

### **STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE**

The degree of Master of Science (*MSc*) is awarded for an integrated program of structured learning and independent supervised study that produces a substantial piece of research in the form of a thesis for independent examination by at least two expert examiners, at least one of whom is external to the University and of international standing.

### **PURPOSE AND NATURE OF THE PROGRAM**

The Master of Science is a two-year full-time program providing candidates with advanced cutting-edge theoretical knowledge in their chosen area of specialisation, together with the practical and research skills necessary for employment in the industry and/or research laboratories. Candidates can select from the following majors: Clinical and Molecular Microbiology, Food Security, Medicinal Chemistry, or Nanoscience and Photonics. The program consists of coursework, both theoretical and practical coursework, as well as a research component (dissertation).

The coursework will provide critical evaluation of research and presentation, develop the candidate's knowledge and understanding of statistical analyses techniques as applied to scientific research and develop an awareness of research proposal design and background. Candidates will have the opportunity to develop a research proposal including aims, methodology and a literature review.

The dissertation, no longer than 60,000 words, involves applied research on a specific project, a seminar and thesis describing the research in detail.

### **GRADUATE OUTCOMES**

Graduates will be able to:

- review, interpret and critically analyse scientific literature in the relevant discipline
- identify appropriate research questions
- synthesise knowledge for the purpose of experimental and research planning
- design experiments and research programs that are rigorous and statistically robust
- complete technical tasks relating to specific disciplines
- present research findings using high level written and oral communication skills

### **THE EXAMINATION BOARD**

At least two expert examiners of international standing are appointed to assess the thesis. 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.

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.

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.

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

### THE EXAMINATION

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

- The submission meets the requirements and the candidate should be awarded the degree;
- The degree should be awarded subject to approved revisions or amendments;
- The submission should be revised and resubmitted; or
- The submission does not meet the standard expected for the degree.

Where there is substantial disagreement between the examiners, the University may appoint a third examiner or an adjudicator examiner to consider and report on the thesis and on the reports of the examiners.

For the purposes of future scholarship application at Griffith University **ONLY**, examiners are also asked to recommend a percentage grade for the thesis:

7	(High Distinction)	=	80% - 100%
6	(Distinction)	=	70% - 79%
5	(Credit)	=	60% - 69%
4	(Pass)	=	50% - 59%
3	(Fail)	=	below 50%

### FURTHER INFORMATION

Any questions about the thesis 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

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