

## **NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CHAIRPERSON OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER OF ARTS RESEARCH SUBMISSION**

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

The degree of Master of Arts Research (MARes) 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 Arts Research is a program of advanced professional learning which develops expertise in research. It is a 80-credit point program comprising 20 credit points of research-oriented coursework and a 60 credit point thesis or creative/professional product with dissertation:

- The thesis will investigate a topic that is relevant to the candidate and would normally be expected to be approximately 30,000 words.
- The creative/professional product with dissertation comprises a written dissertation of 15,000 words supported by an appropriate bibliography. The project comprises the production of a creative or professional work of around 15,000 words (e.g. journalism, film script, novella, documentary etc.); a significant exhibitable body of visual work; or a field/industry equivalent work or product.

The research is designed to build on previously studied research courses that have developed candidate's understandings of current social, cultural and educational theories, research methodologies and design. The main objective of the thesis or dissertation is to provide candidates with the opportunity to engage in a major piece of research in the Humanities within a relevant discipline. By doing this they will come to understand better the nature and dynamics of the discipline and to demonstrate the capability to work at a high level in the application of theory and research skills to a substantial piece of research and to further doctoral study.

Graduates will be able to apply a body of knowledge, concepts, methods and skills in a range of disciplinary contexts within the Humanities for research, scholarship, creative investigation and as a pathway for further learning.

### **THE EXAMINATION BOARD**

At least two expert examiners of international standing, at least one of whom is external to the University, 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 the 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%

## ROLE OF CHAIRPERSON OF EXAMINERS

The task of the Chairperson of Examiners is to consider the reports of the examiners and make a recommendation to the Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School on the outcome of the examination. The Chairperson of Examiners does not undertake an independent examination of the thesis, although he/she may need to consult the thesis in order to make judgements about the comments of the examiners.

The Chairperson's report to the Dean, Griffith Graduate Research School should include a number of sections:

1. **A brief summary/overview of the examination reports.**
2. **A collation of the examination reports.** The collation may be provided under the headings in the examiners summary form (i.e., significance of substantial contribution to the knowledge of the topic, standard of literacy presentation; methodology; survey of literature and documentation of statements; suitability for publication).
3. **Recommendation on the outcome of the examination**, including:
  - description of the extent and nature of any new work/revisions/corrections that **must** be completed in order for the degree to be awarded;
  - description of what new work/revisions/corrections are optional or desirable;
  - a recommendation on who should oversee and assess any new work/revisions/corrections. In most circumstances, it is expected that the Chairperson of Examiners will verify minor revisions and corrections; and
  - a timeframe for completion of any new work/revisions/corrections.

When the reports of the examiners cannot be sufficiently reconciled, a recommendation should be made on whether:

- a third examiner should be appointed;
- an adjudicator examiner should be appointed to consider and report on the thesis and on the reports of the examiners.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

A copy of an example report or further advice on the role of the Chairperson of Examiners or the examination procedure may be obtained from:

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

\*\*\*\*\*