

## NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CHAIRPERSON OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER OF MASTER OF MEDICAL RESEARCH THESIS

### STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE

The degree of Medical Research (*MMedRes*) 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.

### NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

The Master of Medical Research is a 120 credit-point program offered full-time or part-time on campus. Candidates are required to complete coursework of three core courses and an elective and an 80 credit point dissertation (research) component.

### 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 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%

## 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 (ie 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

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