



NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CHAIRPERSON 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](http://www.griffith.edu.au/higher-degrees-research/current-research-students/thesis/preparation/inclusion-of-papers-within-the-thesis) (<http://www.griffith.edu.au/higher-degrees-research/current-research-students/thesis/preparation/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 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 component 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 component 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 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>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 Chairperson of Examiners.

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 the candidate be required to submit to an oral or written defence of the research or other work; OR
- 5 additional work be undertaken, the research revised and then resubmitted; OR
- 6 the option of an appropriate masters degree when available, dependent upon the amount and standard of work completed in the relevant professional doctorate; OR
- 7 the research be failed.

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

- approve the conduct of an oral or written examination;
- 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.

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 will attend the viewing of the studio research at which the examiners and candidate are present and will guide the discussion between the examiners and candidate. The Chairperson of Examiners does not undertake an independent examination of the research, although he/she may need to consult the written research in order to make judgements about the comments of the examiners.

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

1. **A brief summary/overview of the examination reports.**

2. **A comparison of the examination reports.** The comparison may be provided using the headings in the examiners summary report form.
3. **A 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 reconciled, a recommendation should be made on whether:

- an oral or written examination should be conducted;
- a third examiner should be appointed;
- an adjudicator examiner should be appointed to consider and report on the research 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
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