

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CHAIRPERSON OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER OF VISUAL ARTS SUBMISSION

STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE

The degree of Master of Visual Arts (MVA) 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 external expert examiners of international standing.

PURPOSE AND NATURE OF THE MASTER OF VISUAL ARTS

This program gives candidates the opportunity to extend their studio expertise by identifying challenges, exploring innovative solutions and advancing their understanding of the concepts underlying their work and the context in which it is produced. Graduates demonstrate high performance levels in their studio practice, having developed a strong theoretical understanding of that practice. The written document or exegesis is a support to the primary component of the submission which is the visual work.

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.

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.

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

Candidates will mount their visual work as a formal exhibition or other appropriate form of publication (site specific installation, video, film, CD, internet site, World Wide Web publications etc.). To accompany their visual work, candidates will submit a document of at least 5000 words that will provide a description of the social, artistic and discursive context of the visual work.

Examiners are requested to assess the submission according to the following criteria:

Thesis (the term "thesis" here refers to the combined visual work and exegesis)

- The extent to which the candidate has demonstrated originality, critical insight and the capacity to carry out independent research;
- The extent of the contribution to knowledge in a relevant field of professional practice; and
- The suitability of the thesis, or elements within it, for publication.

Written comments on the thesis should focus on its quality and usefulness in terms of the:

- statement and explanation of the problem dealt with in the thesis;
- explanation of techniques and justification of the methodology followed;
- synthesis and use of a range of literature;
- collection, analysis and presentation of data;
- critical reflection on theory and scholarly judgement in relation to the evidence presented; and

- written presentation, particularly its clarity, logic and organisation.

Visual Work

- The degree of innovation evident in the content, form, or technique of the work in relation to its genre of practice.
- The relevance of the work to its social context and to other visual discourse.
- The thoroughness of research, analysis, and experiment evident in the accomplishment of the work.
- The potential effectiveness of the work to engage or affect an intended audience.

They are asked to make a recommendation according to the four categories specified in the Assessment Report Form, namely 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.

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%

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.

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 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

thesisexams@griffith.edu.au
