

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF EXAMINERS OF MASTER OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES RESEARCH THESIS

STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE

The degree of Master of Education & Professional Studies Research (*MEdProfStRes*) 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 Education & Professional Studies Research is a research program of advanced professional learning and develops greater expertise in research. Graduates will be able to apply an advanced body of knowledge and skills in a range of contexts for research, scholarship and as a pathway for further learning. Candidates will plan and execute a substantial piece of research, which is reported in the form of a dissertation. The dissertation will investigate a topic that is relevant to the candidate and would normally be expected to be approximately 30,000 words. The main objective of the dissertation is to provide candidates with the opportunity to engage in a major piece of research in education or 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.

GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Graduates of this program will have:

- a highly developed capacity for independent, autonomous, self-directed learning.
- the skills to interpret, apply and conduct research.
- achieved mastery of cognitive, creative, analytical, and critical skills consistent with the completion of a 30,000 word dissertation.
- the ability to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level.
- achieved the advanced intellectual skills needed to identify, investigate and explain issues in local and global education theory that require structured and systematic research.
- the advanced speaking, reading, writing, listening, interpretative and advocacy skills to equip them for leadership in their field, especially to communicate complex educational ideas to diverse social and cultural groups.
- the communication skills to work collaboratively with others in education or related fields in order to advance the interests of individuals (particularly those who experience disadvantage) and communities in the promotion of knowledge, skills and professional values.

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>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 report 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
Phone: +61 7 373 53817
