



## NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CHAIRPERSON OF EXAMINERS OF DOCTOR OF EDUCATION THESIS

### STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE

The degree of Doctor of Education (*EdD*) is established under the University's Higher Degree Research Policy and is awarded for an integrated program of professional work 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>).

### COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The EdD program of study consists of a minimum of two years full-time work, half of which consists of an extended supervised research project.

### GRADUATE OUTCOMES

The EdD course prepares graduates for specialised practice in teaching and managerial careers in education. Its graduates will have highly developed skills in the critical analysis of educational issues and practices, and in the application of research, policy and future perspectives to the identification and solution of practical educational problems.

### THE THESIS

The supervised research project will result in a piece of work of approximately 50,000 words which demonstrates an original contribution to knowledge and understanding in the relevant field of study as judged by independent experts applying accepted contemporary standards. A thesis is considered to be a report on a scholarly project based on or manifested in rigorous experimental, theoretical, creative, empirical and/or design inquiry.

### THE EXAMINATION BOARD

At least two external expert examiners of international standing, 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 are requested to 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 Chairperson of Examiners.

## THE EXAMINATION

In summary, the University's Higher Degree Research Policy enables an examiner to recommend that:

- the research component be awarded a pass; or
- the research component be awarded a pass subject to minor revisions; or
- the research component be awarded a pass subject to additional work on the thesis being undertaken by the candidate; or
- the candidate be required to submit to an oral or written defence of the thesis or other work; or
- additional work be undertaken, the research component revised and then resubmitted; or
- the research component be failed.

Where there is substantial disagreement between the examiners, the University may appoint a third or an adjudicator examiner to consider and report on the thesis and any other work submitted 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 significant 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:

- 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 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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