



## NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF EXAMINERS OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY SUBMISSION

### Standard for the Award of the Degree

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is awarded on the basis of a thesis prepared under supervision that makes an original, significant and extensive contribution to knowledge and understanding in the relevant field of study, as judged by independent experts applying accepted contemporary international 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.

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>).

### 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 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:

- 1 the degree be awarded to the candidate; or
- 2 the degree be awarded to the candidate subject to minor amendments, including typographical errors, being completed; or
- 3 the candidate be required to submit to an oral or written defence of the thesis; or
- 4 additional work be undertaken, the thesis revised and then resubmitted; or
- 5 the candidate be considered for a masters degree of the University; or
- 6 the degree be not awarded to the candidate.

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.

## 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](mailto:thesisexams@griffith.edu.au)  
Phone: +61 7 373 53817

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