

NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF CHAIRPERSON OF EXAMINERS OF DOCTOR OF MUSICAL ARTS SUBMISSION

STANDARD FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE

The degree of Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) is established under the University's Higher Degree Research Policy and is awarded for an integrated program of coursework and research. This degree qualifies individuals who apply a substantial body of knowledge to research, investigate and develop new knowledge in one or more fields of investigation, scholarship and professional practice.

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 Doctor of Musical Arts program will have made an original contribution through a significant body of research that extends the frontier of musical knowledge and practice and will have substantial knowledge of research principles, methods and outcomes applicable to the fields of music theory and/or practice. They will possess:

- cognitive skills to demonstrate expert understanding of musical knowledge and to critically reflect on that theory in practice.
- Intellectual independence to think critically, evaluate knowledge, and to synthesise complex ideas, concepts and processes.
- expert technical and creative skills applicable to systematic investigation and reflection on theory and practice to generate original knowledge
- communication and/or performative skills to explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions, and practices
- communication skills to present cogently a complex investigation of originality or original research for external examination against international standards and to communicate results to peers, the wider artistic and scholarly community, and society in general
- Expert skills to design, implement, analyse, theorise and communicate research that makes a significant and original contribution to musical knowledge and/or creative practice.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The DMA is a professional development program with an integrated program of independent practice-based research and coursework. It may be taken full-time over three/four years or part-time over six/eight years. To be eligible for the award of Doctor of Musical Arts, a candidate must acquire 240 credit points (60 credit points for the coursework component and 180 credit points for the practice-based research component). Coursework components develop research skills and assist in the advancement of exegetical outcomes including via text, performance, recorded works and compositions. It is designed to provide musicians with extensive professional experience, and the opportunity to upgrade their skills and qualifications through research based on their professional practice.

THE RESEARCH SUBMISSION

The shape of the doctoral work may vary according to the exact topic and fitness for purpose as agreed in close consultation with academic supervisors. In general, DMA examination requirements include:

- 1 A written thesis component (40-80,000 words), plus

An integrated portfolio of creative works appropriate to the research topic including digital renderings of live performances, albums, movies, scores, websites or installations. In addition, secondary data might include recorded interviews, transcriptions; reflective journals or other evidence of practice-based research interrogation.

- 2 A written thesis (80,000 words).

THE EXAMINATION BOARD

At least two external expert examiners of international standing are appointed to assess the research. Examiners should have an appropriate academic background though one examiner may be chosen primarily on the grounds of extensive experience in the specific professional field. 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

Examiners are asked not to communicate directly with the candidate, the candidate's supervisor/s or each other until the assessment process has concluded. Examiners will be asked to submit independent reports and recommendations within 6 weeks of research submission or 6 weeks after attending a live performance.

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. The identity of the examiners and Chairperson of Examiners will only be revealed to the candidate at the conclusion of the assessment process. If this policy causes you concern, you are asked to not accept the task of examiner.

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, dependent upon the amount and standard of work completed in the relevant professional doctorate; OR
- 7 the research be failed.

ROLE OF THE 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. If the examination includes a live performance or the studio research, the Chairperson of Examiners will attend the live performance 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

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