



## Content and Form of the Research Degree Thesis

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### A. Content of the thesis for Doctor of Philosophy, Professional Doctorate and Masters by Research (excluding Doctor of Philosophy by Portfolio of Publications)

1. The thesis is the material form of a sustained program of research that has produced original findings. The thesis may be either:
  - a. a written text comprised of conventional chapters presented as typescript; or
  - b. a written text containing a combination of peer reviewed publications and conventional chapters presented as typescript (Thesis Containing Published Research); or
  - c. creative or visual works together with an exegesis (a thesis by creative practice).

### B. Content of the thesis for Doctor of Philosophy by Portfolio of Publications

2. The thesis will consist of:
  - a. portfolio of refereed publications (as defined in Guideline AB-58 AD7: [Presentation of the Research Degree Thesis, or Exegesis \(Consolidated\)](#)) based on original research
  - b. a substantive integrating written component, which is to set out:
    - i. an argument linking the papers together into a coherent theme and
    - ii. the way the publications submitted represent an advance in knowledge in the research degree student's discipline or field, or
    - iii. the application of new knowledge or critical inquiry in original ways, or
    - iv. new expressions of knowledge or critical creative insight.
3. The total submission must be at a standard appropriate for the award of the degree of PhD.
  - a. The integrating written component must also contain a substantial theoretical component relevant to the research degree student's discipline or field. There is no stipulated word length, as what is appropriate will vary with the nature of the submitted work and the research degree student's discipline or field. Any additional research should only be directed towards the development of the integrating theme.
  - b. The publications must have been subjected to a peer review. There is no minimum number of publications specified. It is expected that for the majority of publications, the applicant will be the sole or first named author. The publications submitted should follow a coherent theme and be of a sufficient number for the body of work to constitute a substantial and original contribution to knowledge.
  - c. The submission will not include unpublished work, review articles, newspaper articles, articles in non-refereed professional journals, works where the applicant's role was that of editor, or any work that has been previously submitted to meet examination requirements for an award at this or any other higher education institution.

### **C. Form of the thesis for examination**

4. The thesis may be presented for examination in electronic form, and is required to comply with Guideline AB-58 AD7: [Presentation of the Research Degree Thesis, or Exegesis \(Consolidated\)](#).
5. The research degree student must submit a thesis for examination to the Research Degrees Committee that:
  - a. meets the University's requirements for research integrity;
  - b. is an accurate account of the research program;
  - c. is assessable according to examination criteria; and
  - d. conforms with Guideline AB-58 AD7: [Presentation of the Research Degree Thesis, or Exegesis \(Consolidated\)](#).
6. The submission of a non-standard thesis requires the approval of the Dean of Research (or delegate) before being presented for examination.

### **D. Originality and eligibility**

7. The work on which the thesis is based must be the original work of the research degree student.
8. The work included in the thesis must have been conducted during enrolment. The work must not have been previously submitted to meet examination requirements for an award at this or any other higher education institution.
9. A research degree student will normally make a formal presentation of the thesis to an Academic Unit/Institute/Research Centre seminar prior to the commencement of the examination process.
10. When submitting a thesis, a research degree student must affirm that:
  - a. to the best of their knowledge, the thesis contains no material written by another person except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis;
  - b. the material in the thesis has not been the basis of the award of any other degree or diploma except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis;
  - c. all substantive contributions by others to the work presented in the thesis, including jointly-authored publications, have been clearly acknowledged.