

# Guidelines for Thesis Preparation

## Higher Degree by Research Students

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*These Guidelines should be considered in conjunction with Higher Degree by Research Policies and Procedures. These documents are available on the [Compliance, Legislation and Policy website](#).*

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### 1.0 HDR Research Thesis

- 1.1 A research thesis must be a substantial, original contribution to the knowledge or understanding of a field of study and must demonstrate the capacity of the candidate to conceive, design, carry to completion and appropriately present independent research.
- 1.2 A thesis is examined principally in terms of:
  - a. The candidate's understanding of the field of study;
  - b. The candidates demonstrated capacity to conceive, plan and conduct a program of research;
  - c. The significance of the thesis as a contribution to knowledge or understanding of knowledge in the field of study; and
  - d. The originality of the work embodied in the thesis.
- 1.3 Irrespective of the format of the thesis, it must demonstrate that the candidate has:
  - a. Adequately surveyed the literature relevant to the thesis
  - b. Demonstrated appropriate skills in the gathering and reporting of critical analysis
  - c. Demonstrated the capacity to conceive, design and carry to completion independent research; and
  - d. Made a substantial, original and significant contribution to the knowledge or understanding in the field of study.
- 1.4 A decision on the format of a thesis should be made early in candidacy and with advice from the candidate's Thesis Committee.
- 1.5 A thesis, irrespective of format, must include appropriate acknowledgement for any co-authored work included as part of the thesis. Candidate's should refer to the requirements of the *Guidelines for the Attribution of Research Outputs in the HDR Thesis*.

### 2.0 Format of the Thesis

- 2.1 A Thesis will include:
  - a. A title page that shows the candidate's full name, name of the Enrolling School, title of the thesis title of the degree, and the year of submission (or re-submission).
  - b. The page immediately following the title page must contain a declaration page. The candidate's signature and the date of signing should follow this declaration.
  - c. An abstract of at least 200 words that gives a clear and accurate account of its main arguments, methodology, scope and findings.
  - d. An acknowledgements statement and any required attribution statements.
  - e. A contents page.
  - f. Thesis manuscript.
  - g. List of references.
- 2.2 Further information about the format of a thesis is set out in the *Guidelines for Thesis by Publication and Hybrid Thesis* and *Guidelines for Creative Production Theses*.
- 2.3 A thesis must be prepared in English and should use academic language appropriate in the discipline. It should be free of typographical and grammatical errors and the candidate should ensure that the presentation of all illustrative, graphic and other non-textual material is high-quality.
- 2.4 If a thesis includes a published research output in the main body of the thesis, or as an appendix, a statement must be included in the front matter of the thesis to indicate that permission regarding copyright has been obtained from publishers, where necessary. For example, the statement may say "I have obtained permission from the copyright owners to use any third-party copyright material reproduced

in the thesis (e.g. questionnaires, artwork, unpublished letters), or to use any of my own published work (e.g. journal articles) in which the copyright is held by another party (e.g. publisher, co-author)

2.5 The maximum length of a doctoral thesis is 100,000 words

2.6 The maximum length of a masters thesis is 60,000 words.

2.7 The maximum length of an exegesis forming part of a doctoral thesis is 40,000 words.

2.8 The maximum length of an exegesis forming part of a masters thesis is 20,000 words.

2.9 A thesis must be presented as A4 size. The margins must be not less than 4 centimetres on the spine side of the page, and 2.50 centimetres on the opposite side, top and bottom of the page. If a thesis is printed, it may be printed on both sides of the page. One-and-a-half line spacing should be used between lines of text. Text pages must be numbered sequentially.

### **3 Funding Source Acknowledgement**

3.4 HDR candidates supported by the Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) are required to acknowledge this support in all research publications, including the research thesis, that come from the HDR research. An example acknowledgement statement would be, 'This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship'.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS/LINKS/FORMS**

[Curtin University Act 1966 \(WA\)](#)

[Rule No. 10 made pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Doctor by Research](#)

[Rule No. 11 made pursuant to Statute No. 12 – Enrolment: Degree of Master by Research](#)

[TEQSA Higher Education Standards Framework](#)

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2015](#)

[Education Services for Overseas Students \(ESOS\) Act](#)

[Competition and Consumer Act 2010](#)

[Course Approval and Quality Manual](#)

[Universities Australia Principles for Respectful Supervisory Relationships](#)

Guidelines for the Attribution of Research Outputs in the HDR Thesis

Guidelines for Thesis by Publication and Hybrid Thesis

Guidelines for Creative Production Thesis