Guidelines for Thesis Preparation
Higher Degree by Research Students

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.

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 student to conceive, design, carry to completion and appropriately present independent research.

1.2 The thesis is examined principally in terms of:
   (i) the student’s understanding of the field of study;
   (ii) the student’s demonstrated capacity to conceive, plan and conduct a program of research;
   (iii) the significance of the thesis as a contribution to knowledge or understanding of knowledge in the field of study; and
   (iv) the originality of the work embodied in the thesis.

1.3 Irrespective of the format of the thesis, it must demonstrate that the student has:
   (i) adequately surveyed the literature relevant to the thesis;
   (ii) demonstrated adequate skills in the gathering and reporting of critical analysis;
   (iii) demonstrated the capacity to conceive, design and carry to completion independent research; and
   (iv) 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 student’s supervisors.

1.5 A thesis, irrespective of format, must include appropriate acknowledgement for any co-authored work included as part of the thesis. Students 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:
   (i) a title page that shows the student’s full name, name of Enrolling School, title of the thesis (in title case), title of the Degree, month and year of submission (or re-submission).
   (A title page will be auto generated for online submission of the examination version of the thesis. If your title contains scientific text symbols in italic or roman fonts, or accented characters, the auto generator won’t recognise these. However, these may be included in the final, amended version of the thesis which you submit to the Library (espace) prior to completion);
   (i) the page immediately following the title page must contain a signed and dated Declaration page.
   (ii) an abstract of at least 200 words that gives a clear and accurate account of its main arguments, methodology, scope and findings;
   (iii) an acknowledgements statement and any required attribution statements;
   (iv) a contents page;
   (v) thesis manuscript;
   (vi) 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 Thesis*.

2.3 A thesis must be prepared in English and should use academic language appropriate to the discipline. It should be free from typographical and grammatical errors, and the student 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, “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).

   (i) The maximum length of a doctoral thesis is 100,000 words.
   (ii) The maximum length of a masters thesis is 60,000 words.
   (iii) The maximum length of an exegesis forming part of a doctoral thesis is 40,000 words.
   (iv) The maximum length of an exegesis forming part of a masters thesis is 20,000 words.
   (v) A print version of a thesis must be presented in A4 size. The margins should not be less than 4 centimetres on the spine side of the page, and 2.50 centimetres on the opposite, top and bottom of the page. A thesis may be printed double-sided. One-and-a-half line spacing should be used between lines of text. Text pages must be numbered sequentially.

3.0 Funding Source Acknowledgement

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

4.0 Further Information

*Curtin University Act 1966 (WA)*
*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 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*