

Graduate Research: Thesis Examination Protocol

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Table of Contents

The purpose of our protocol	3
1. The Thesis	3
1.1. Thesis format	3
1.2. Length of the thesis	6
1.3. Content	6
1.4. Declarations	7
1.5. Editorial assistance	8
2. Thesis submission	9
2.1. Notice of intention to submit the thesis	9
2.2. Plagiarism checking	9
2.3. Submission format	9
2.4. Submission process	9
2.5. Submission against the advice of the school	10
2.6. Submission after candidature has lapsed	10
3. Examination Process	10
3.1. Nomination of examiners	10
3.2. Objecting to potential examiners	11
3.3. Examination process	11
3.4. Oral examination	14
4. Outcome of the examination	15
4.1. Award of degree outcome	15
4.2. Specified amendments outcome	15
4.3. Revise and resubmit outcome	15
4.4. Fail	16
5. Final thesis submission	16
Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS)	16
6. Grading Schemes	17
7. Appeals	17
8. Graduate Research Awards	17
8.1. Pro Vice Chancellor's commendation for Doctoral or Master's thesis excellence	17
8.2. University research medals	17

The purpose of our protocol

This document is authorised by the Graduate Research Candidature Procedure and provides detailed information regarding the thesis which is to be submitted for examination and the award of a graduate research degree. Specifically, this protocol details the requirements for the format and content of the thesis and the examination process from thesis submission through to examination outcome. Please read this protocol in conjunction with the following:

- Graduate Research Policy
- Graduate Research Supervision Procedure
- Graduate Research Candidature Procedure

Our Thesis Examination Protocol

1. The Thesis

All Adelaide University graduate research students must submit a thesis for evaluation at completion of the research component of the degree. The thesis length, format and content must be prepared in accordance with this protocol.

All work presented in the thesis, including any publications, must have been undertaken during the period of candidature. Manuscripts published, accepted, or submitted for publication prior to commencing the degree, either at a foundation university or at another university, must not be included in the thesis.

Under normal circumstances, the thesis must be presented in English. However, where academic reasons to submit the thesis in a language other than English exist, an application to vary thesis format should be completed and submitted to the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training for approval at the time of the Initial Review of progress. If approval is granted, a substantial abstract in English is required to be included in the thesis.

1.1. Thesis format

Graduate research theses at Adelaide University may be submitted in one of the following formats:

- Conventional format: A conventional research-focused thesis prepared as a written text comprised of conventional chapters presented as typescript.
- Publication format: A thesis comprising a combination of conventional chapters and peer-reviewed or draft research publications, with an option to include some research-focussed professional outputs, integrated with introductory, linking and concluding text that provides a coherent view of the context, methodology, originality and significance of the outputs.
- Creative work and exegesis format: A major original creative or visual work accompanied by an exegesis.

Prior approval must be obtained from the supervisory panel and Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training to present a thesis in a format other than those described above. The application to vary thesis format should be submitted to the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training at the time of the Initial Review of progress.

A statement on the potential and/or actual impact of the research must be included in each graduate research thesis. In no more than 500 words, this statement should outline the actual or potential social, cultural, environmental, and/or economic impact that may result from the research undertaken. The impact statement may also include a discussion on how such impact could be achieved.

1.1.1. Conventional format

A conventional thesis format, also known as a traditional or monograph format, is a single, coherent document structured with a standard sequence of preliminary pages, commonly with an introduction, literature review, methodology, findings/results, a discussion, and a conclusion.

1.1.2. Publication format

Theses in publication format incorporate publications in place of traditional chapters. The term 'publication' is to be understood broadly and can include any of the following:

- Unpublished manuscripts in preparation for publication but not yet submitted,
- Manuscripts submitted for publication or in revision following peer review,
- Manuscripts accepted for publication but not yet published, and,
- Published manuscripts.

Some research-focused professional works may be included in a thesis by publication format alongside publications.

All publications included in the thesis must derive from research undertaken during candidature. Publications and professional works generated outside of candidature cannot be included in the thesis.

A thesis in publication format must contain, in addition to the relevant publications, a contextual statement which normally includes the aims underpinning the publications, a literature review or commentary which establishes the relevance to a field of knowledge and provides a link between publications, and a conclusion showing the overall significance of the work and contribution to knowledge, problems encountered and future directions of the work. The discussion should not include a detailed reworking of the discussions from individual publications within the thesis.

An alternative version of the publication format, one which comprises a combination of conventional written narrative presented as typescript and publications as defined above, is also acceptable. Both the conventional written narrative and the publications must be closely related in terms of subject matter and form a cohesive research narrative. As above, publications must not derive from research undertaken outside candidature or have been accepted for any other University award.

All publications included in the thesis must be immediately prefaced by a *Statement of Authorship* which quantifies and details the graduate research student's contribution – in terms of the conceptualisation of the work, its realisation and its documentation – as principal author. All authors are required to sign the *Statement of Authorship*, and co-authors must give written permission for the publication to be included in the thesis. In addition to clarifying the graduate research student's contribution to a paper, a *Statement of Authorship* also provides clarity about the publication status of the work and therefore, the scope of changes that examiners can recommend.

The length and number of publications to be included in a publication format thesis is discipline dependent and will be determined by the supervisory panel. The primary consideration is that the body of work included in the thesis satisfies the requirements for the degree for which the thesis is presented.

1.1.3. Creative work and exegesis format

In creative disciplines, the thesis may be submitted in the creative work and exegesis format. The creative work may take the shape of one of the following forms:

- novel, poetry, biographical work, memoir, screenplay, stage play or other textual form
- film, television pilot, web series, audio narrative or other mixed media
- design sketches, renderings, visual or 3-D models, animation or virtual reality works
- illustration, fine art works (jewellery, sculpture, photography, etc)
- music composition (including instrumentation and/or digital), live performance recordings.

The exegesis should contain a description of the form and presentation of the creative practice which constitutes the remainder of the thesis and, among other things, an analytical commentary and consideration of the work in the broader framework of the discipline. The exegesis should demonstrate mastery of the conceptual and scholarly skills associated with graduate research candidature.

In the case of a thesis submitted in the creative work and exegesis format:

1. The creative work must be documented using a digital medium appropriate to its form, such as video, audio, or high-resolution images, and the creative work and exegesis must be submitted as separate files.
2. The word count for the exegesis would normally not exceed 30,000 words for Doctor of Philosophy, 20,000 words for Master of Philosophy and 15,000 for Master of Research theses.
3. It is vital that a clear relationship is established between the creative work and exegesis.
4. The relationship between the exegesis and creative work should be complementary, clearly articulated, and specific in relating the creative work produced to the theoretical, social, cultural and historical considerations appropriate to providing a critical and informed account of the research itself.
5. The purpose of the exegesis is to describe the research process undertaken and to elaborate, elucidate and place the creative work in context. The exegesis should contain a description of the form and presentation of the creative work as well as an analytical commentary and consideration of the work in the broader framework of the discipline. It

should demonstrate mastery of the conceptual and scholarly skills associated with the relative graduate research program.

6. In particular, the exegesis should demonstrate:
 - a. An articulation of the proposition or question underpinning and guiding the research,
 - b. A clearly structured argument in support of the proposition,
 - c. A comprehensive understanding of the methodology for conducting the research (both through the exegesis and the creative practice),
 - d. A thorough knowledge and appropriately critical understanding of creative practice relevant to the candidate's nominated area of research,
 - e. A thorough understanding of the significant critical and theoretical references relevant to the nominated research topic,
 - f. Logical and specific links to the creative work produced during the research, and
 - g. An indication of the contribution to knowledge (in the topic or discipline area) made through the creative practice and writing.
7. The exegesis should not include:
 - a. Only a reflection reporting on the production of the creative work,
 - b. Extended descriptions of (or claims for) the completed creative work, and
 - c. Research in an area that is not directly relevant to the creative work.
8. The same conventions for the conventional written theses apply to the exegesis.

1.2. Length of the thesis

The maximum word limit for the thesis, including footnotes but excluding tables, diagrams, bibliography, references and appendices, is:

- 80,000 words for a Doctor of Philosophy thesis
- 40,000 words for a Master of Philosophy thesis
- 25,000 words for a Master of Research thesis

The final thesis, inclusive of any post-examination revisions, must not exceed the maximum word limit for the degree program.

Prior approval must be obtained from the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training if the thesis is to exceed the maximum word limit.

1.3. Content

Unless otherwise required under a joint PhD agreement, the content of the thesis should be arranged in the following order:

1. A title page giving the:
 - a. Title of the thesis in full,
 - b. Name of the graduate research student as it is recorded in PeopleSoft (the University's student record keeping system),
 - c. School of the University associated with the work,
 - d. Date when submitted for the degree,
 - e. Name of the degree for which the thesis is being submitted.

2. A table of contents.
3. A list of figures.
4. A list of tables.
5. A glossary and/or table of abbreviations.
6. A glossary of uncommon terms and general abbreviations used throughout the text listing all abbreviations used in the thesis except those in widespread use.
7. An abstract of no more than 500 words.
8. A statement of no more than 500 words on potential and/or actual impact.
9. A signed declaration (the required text is indicated below).
10. Acknowledgement (optional).
11. The main text.
12. Bibliography/references cited following a protocol used by a major international journal in the student's research area of study or as determined by the Dean of Research (or delegate).
13. Appendices, if any.

1.4. Declarations

The declaration page for the thesis must include specific text as indicated below. The text varies depending on whether the thesis contains work already in the public domain (i.e. publication) and whether the graduate research student is in receipt of a Research Training Program scholarship or fee-offset.

For a thesis that does not contain work already in the public domain

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of Adelaide University and where applicable, any partner institution responsible for the joint award of this degree.

I give permission for the digital version of my thesis to be made available online via the University's digital research repository, the Library Search and also through web search engines, unless permission has been granted by the University to restrict access for a period of time.

For a thesis that contains publications

I certify that this work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in my name, in any university or other tertiary institution and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text. In addition, I certify that no part of this work will, in the future, be used in a submission in my name, for any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution without the prior approval of Adelaide University and where applicable, any partner

institution responsible for the joint award of this degree. The author acknowledges that copyright of published works contained within the thesis resides with the copyright holder(s) of those works.

I give permission for the digital version of my thesis to be made available online via the University's digital research repository, the Library Search and also through web search engines, unless permission has been granted by the University to restrict access for a period of time.

Research Training Program (RTP) Declaration

Any graduate research student who receives Australian Government funding through a Research Training Program (RTP) funded scholarship or fee-offset (all domestic graduate research students) **must** include the following declaration in their thesis.

This research was supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220.

This applies to all domestic graduate research students. International graduate research students who did not receive an RTP funded scholarship or fee-offset should not include this declaration.

Additional declarations

In addition to the above, graduate research students must declare the following in the thesis when applicable:

- Any additional funding sources.
- Whether any digital editorial assistance or generative AI tools were used in preparing the thesis and the extent of its use.
- Whether any third-party human assistance was provided in preparing the thesis (including editing) and whether these parties are knowledgeable in the academic discipline of the thesis.
- Whether the graduate research students received any help from, or work was carried out by, other people or organisations, including Adelaide University.

The declarations should be specific, detailed and exhaustive.

1.5. Editorial assistance

When desired, and provided that the assistance is acknowledged in the thesis, a graduate research student may engage the services of a professional editor to assist in the preparation of the thesis. In such cases, Editors must follow the [IPEd standards for editing practice](#), and limit their assistance to 'Language and Illustrations' and for 'Completeness and Consistency' in accordance with Standards D and E.

2. Thesis submission

2.1. Notice of intention to submit the thesis

Approximately three months prior to planned submission, graduate research students should submit an Intention to Submit form. Once submitted, the Principal Supervisor will be asked to nominate thesis examiners.

2.2. Plagiarism checking

The use of iThenticate is compulsory prior to submission of a thesis for examination. iThenticate is a text matching software tool, that compares documents submitted to an extensive database of web pages and scholarly content and produce a similarity score and report. iThenticate checks for originality and ensures non-original work has been cited appropriately. Graduate research students must submit their thesis to iThenticate and include their iThenticate report with their thesis submission.

2.3. Submission format

In the case of a conventional or publication format thesis, a single PDF file will be submitted for examination purposes. In the case of a creative work and exegesis format thesis, the creative work must be documented in digital format, and the creative work and exegesis must be submitted as separate files.

2.4. Submission process

All graduate research theses are to be submitted online to a thesis management system accessible through the Student Portal. Following submission, approval from the Principal Supervisor and Area Approver is required before the Graduate Research School can commence the examination process.

The graduate research student will be notified once the Area Approver has approved the thesis for examination and the student's candidature will be stopped, along with any active scholarships.

If the thesis submission is not approved at any stage in the process, a discussion must take place between the graduate research student, supervisory panel and, if required, Area Approver. Upon resolution of any outstanding issues, the graduate research student will then need to resubmit an amended version of the thesis for approval.

If the Graduate Research School has received the approved nomination of examiners at the time that the thesis is approved by the Area Approver, the thesis will be dispatched for examination along with all required documentation. If the examiner nomination has not yet been submitted by the Principal Supervisor and approved by the Area Approver, the Graduate Research School will not be able to commence the examination process until that approval is received.

2.5. Submission against the advice of the school

The Graduate Research School is unable to accept a thesis that has not been approved for examination by the relevant School. When the graduate research student disagrees with the School's advice about the readiness of the thesis for examination, it is expected that the dispute will be dealt with, in the first instance, at the local level by the Dean of School or delegate, such as Graduate Research Coordinator.

If the dispute cannot be resolved at the local level, the matter should be referred to the Pro Vice Chancellor – Graduate Research Training. The Pro Vice Chancellor will deal with the matter in consultation with the Dean of Research (or delegate) of the relevant College and the Dean of School or Graduate Research Coordinator concerned, if required.

2.6. Submission after candidature has lapsed

If the graduate research student's candidature has lapsed, thesis submission will only be permitted when the following conditions are met:

- The thesis has not departed from the field of study the graduate research student was pursuing during candidature,
- The thesis, including the literature review, is up to date for the time of submission,
- The Principal Supervisor and School are prepared to certify that the thesis is worthy of examination, and
- The Principal Supervisor and School are prepared to support the graduate research student through the examination process.

3. Examination Process

3.1. Nomination of examiners

Upon receipt of the graduate research student's notice of intention to submit the thesis, the Principal Supervisor will be asked to nominate three prospective examiners. In nominating examiners, the Principal Supervisor must ensure that they are academic or affiliate members of a research institution or, where this is not the case, must provide information about the employment, research, supervisory and examination experience for the consideration of the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training.

For Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Philosophy theses, the University will appoint two independent examiners who are external to the University. Examiners for a Master of Research thesis may be internal to the University but must be independent of the research. Examiners should be free from any conflict of interest. Members of the graduate research student's supervisory panel are not eligible to act as examiners.

To ensure the integrity, fairness, and academic rigor of thesis examinations, examiners must:

- Be qualified to at least the same level as the award they are examining or have equivalent research experience.

- Be actively associated with a university or an institution of higher learning (higher education provider), or a research institution.
- Have international standing in the research field.
- Whenever possible, have recent (within the last five years) research activity within the research field.
- Have the capacity to arrive at an independent assessment of the thesis, free of any bias in respect of the methods or frameworks used in the research.
- Have supervisory and/or examiner experience at the degree level at which they examine.
- Not have acted in a supervisory capacity during the graduate research student's candidature or have been a close collaborator or co-author with the graduate research student of their supervisors within the last five years.
- Not have any real or perceived conflict(s) of interest with the graduate research student, their supervisors or anyone involved in the graduate research student's candidature as specified in the [Australian Council of Graduate Research Conflict of Interest Guidelines](#).
- Must be from different institutions, and where possible, at least one examiner must be based overseas, except if being appointed as an internal examiner for a Master of Research thesis.
- Not be advised of the identity of the other nominated examiners nor have their identity revealed to the graduate research student prior to the oral examination of the thesis.
- Not be a titleholder or employed by Adelaide University (in any capacity) or its foundation universities within the last five years, except if being appointed as an internal examiner for a Master of Research thesis.
- If applicable, sign and return a Confidential Disclosure Deed when confirming availability and willingness to participate in the examination.

3.2. Objecting to potential examiners

Graduate research students have the right to identify any person(s) they believe should not be considered to examine their thesis. This does not mean that the Principal Supervisor is obliged to present the graduate research student with an exhaustive list of potential examiners. Rather, the onus is on the graduate research student to raise any objections. The graduate research student may exercise this right only once, prior to the commencement of the examination process. Objections can be registered at the time of the notice of intent to submit the thesis. An objection does not serve as a veto.

3.3. Examination process

Examiners are asked to complete the examination of the thesis and provide their reports within four weeks. The Graduate Research School will remind examiners if their reports have not been received by the due date and follow up with regular reminders where necessary. An oral examination is required as part of the examination for all PhD and MPhil graduate research students.

While the Graduate Research School will endeavour to ensure that the examination is completed in a timely manner, it is not possible to guarantee an outcome within a specified timeframe.

Additionally, Graduate Research School staff are not at liberty to disclose any details regarding the examination until the whole examination process is complete, and an outcome has been determined.

Examiners will be provided with the following:

- Assessment criteria for the thesis
- Examination outcome options
- Conflict of interest guidelines
- Information on whether there is an embargo on the thesis
- A Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement if the thesis contains significant confidential information.

3.3.1. Assessment criteria for graduate research theses

Doctor of Philosophy thesis assessment criteria

Examiners are to assess whether the thesis demonstrates:

- Capacity to undertake independent original research, resulting in a significant original contribution to knowledge.
- Expert understanding of current research-based knowledge in the field.
- Analytical, critical and creative thinking to systematically investigate, evaluate, critique and appraise research.
- Design, adaptation or use of research methodologies suited to the field to generate significant new knowledge.
- Complex problem solving with logical, critical and creative thinking.
- Commitment to ethical action and social responsibility in research.
- Effective communication of complex concepts.
- Capacity to apply research outcomes for social, cultural, environmental, and/or economic impact.

Master of Philosophy thesis assessment criteria

Examiners are to assess whether the thesis demonstrates:

- Capacity to undertake independent research.
- Deep understanding of current research-based knowledge in the field.
- Analytical, critical and creative thinking to systematically investigate, evaluate, critique and appraise research.
- Use of methodologies appropriate to the field to investigate significant open research questions.
- Complex problem solving with logical, critical and creative thinking.
- Commitment to ethical action and social responsibility in research.
- Effective communication of complex concepts.
- Capacity to apply research outcomes for social, cultural, environmental, and/or economic impact.

Master of Research thesis assessment criteria

Examiners are to assess whether the thesis demonstrates:

- Developing capacity to understand and undertake independent research.
- Advanced understanding of current research in the field.
- The application of analytical, critical and creative thinking to investigate and evaluate research.
- Use of established research methodologies to address open questions in the field.
- Complex problem solving with logical, critical and creative thinking.
- Commitment to ethical action and social responsibility in research.
- Effective communication of complex concepts.
- Capacity to apply research outcomes for social, cultural, environmental, and/or economic impact.

3.3.2. Examiner recommendations

In addition to their written reports, examiners are asked to recommend one of the following categories when submitting their preliminary report:

1. **Award of degree:** the thesis presented is of the standard required for the degree and no amendments are required.
2. **Award of degree subject to the specified amendments:** the thesis presented is of the standard required for the degree after the specified amendments have been made to the satisfaction of the University.
3. **Not to be awarded the degree but be permitted to resubmit the thesis in a revised form:** the thesis is not acceptable for the award of the degree in its current form and major restructuring or rewriting is required to raise the thesis to the required standard.
4. **Not be awarded the degree:** the thesis presented is not of the standard required for the degree.

Examiners do not have the option of recommending a lesser degree qualification.

Examiners of an MRes thesis will also recommend a grade. See Grading Schemes below.

3.3.3. Consideration of the examiners' reports

The process for consideration of the examiners' reports is as follows:

1. If both examiners recommend the award of the degree with or without amendments, the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training will normally accept the recommendations of the examiners, and the examination can proceed to the oral examination.
2. If the examiners present divergent recommendations and at least one examiner recommends that the thesis be revised and resubmitted or the degree not be awarded, the supervisors will be sent copies of the examiners' reports, and the Principal Supervisor will be asked to comment on them and to make a recommendation on behalf of the supervisory panel. All the examination reports and recommendations will be reviewed by

the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training who will determine if the case is to be discussed by the [Graduate Research Matters Sub-committee] or if a third examiner is to be appointed. The [Committee] may determine that the oral examination may proceed, that a third examiner is appointed or that the thesis should be revised and resubmitted. In cases where a third examiner or arbitrator is appointed, the [Graduate Research Matters Sub-committee] will consider all three examiners' reports, together with the Principal Supervisor's report before determining the outcome or the next step in the examination process.

3. If a third examiner is appointed, they would independently examine the thesis and make a recommendation.
4. If both examiners recommend revise and resubmit, the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training will normally accept the recommendations of the examiners, and the graduate research student will be offered an opportunity to revise the thesis prior to resubmission to the examiners.
5. If both examiners recommend the degree not be awarded, the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training will normally accept the recommendations of the examiners.

When there are extenuating or extraordinary circumstances, the [Graduate Research Matters Sub-committee] or the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training, may vary the process outlined above. Variations will occur rarely and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

3.4. Oral examination

The graduate research student will receive copies of the examiners' written reports, and the oral examination will be scheduled approximately two weeks later. The oral examination will be scheduled to start at some time during the normal working hours for the University, and may be in person, online or a combination of both. Whenever possible, the oral examination should occur on campus.

The oral examination will be in two parts: the first part consists of a 20-30 minute presentation by the graduate research student and may be open to the public. This will be followed by a closed question-and-answer session with the examiners. The maximum duration of the oral examination, inclusive of the graduate research student's presentation, is not to exceed three hours.

An Independent Chair will lead the oral examination. The graduate research student and the examiners will be in attendance. The graduate research student may request the presence of up to three support persons in attendance. The Principal Supervisor can attend the oral examination only at the graduate research student's request. Any support persons in attendance (including supervisors) are not permitted to participate in the oral examination in any way.

Arrangements will be made to provide any additional support that may be needed to accommodate for a disability or other accessibility requirements where a current Access Plan is in place.

Upon confidential considerations/discussions, the outcome of the oral examination will be verbally communicated to the graduate research student at the end of the oral examination

session and then confirmed in writing. The examiners must recommend one of the examination outcomes as outlined in this protocol. A repeat oral examination is not permitted unless approved by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training for exceptional circumstances.

4. Outcome of the examination

Following the oral examination the Graduate Research School will formally convey the outcome of the examination to the graduate research student, the supervisory panel, the Dean of School and other relevant graduate research leaders where relevant by email.

4.1. Award of degree outcome

When examiners recommend that the degree be awarded, the graduate research student will have up to four weeks to lodge their final thesis copy with the Graduate Research School.

4.2. Specified amendments outcome

When required, amendments to the thesis should only be made on receipt of written notification of the examination outcome from the Graduate Research School. Graduate research students are permitted a maximum of six weeks from the date of notification to undertake the required amendments and to lodge their final digital thesis with the Graduate Research School.

Applications for additional time in which to complete amendments will be considered only when exceptional circumstances exist. Such an application, in writing and detailing the reasons for the request, must be endorsed by the Principal Supervisor and the Dean of School (or delegate) or Graduate Research Coordinator. The endorsed application must then be lodged with the Pro Vice Chancellor – Graduate Research Training for consideration. If no application for extension was submitted and approved, amended theses submitted after six weeks will not be accepted for the award of the degree.

4.3. Revise and resubmit outcome

In the case of a revise and resubmit outcome, graduate research students should discuss the result with their supervisors to determine how much additional research and writing will be required before the thesis can be submitted for re-examination.

When revising and resubmitting, the following procedures apply:

- a. A graduate research student will normally be re-enrolled and a maximum of six months of candidature will be granted to revise the thesis for re-examination for full-time students (12 months for half-time students).
- b. The graduate research student must notify the Graduate Research School when planning to resubmit.
- c. On submission of the revised thesis for examination, a comprehensive statement outlining the substantive changes made to the thesis prior to resubmission, together with

a concise defence against any of the examiners' recommendations for changes that were not accepted, must be provided.

- d. The Principal Supervisor and Area Approver must confirm that the thesis is ready for re-examination as part of the online thesis submission process.
- e. Under normal circumstances, the revised thesis will be examined by the original examiners. However, for valid academic reasons, the [Graduate Research Matters Sub-committee] may decide that the thesis be examined by different examiners.
- f. The examiners will be advised that the thesis has been revised and resubmitted and will be instructed to check whether the requirements for additional work specified have been addressed.
- g. Examiners will be advised not to introduce new areas of substantive concern in the re-examination.
- h. Normally an oral examination will determine the final outcome.
- i. Examiners will be advised that an additional 'revise and resubmit' outcome is not permitted. They will be able to recommend Pass, Pass with Amendments or Fail.

4.4. Fail

If the outcome of the examination is that the degree is not to be awarded, there is no recourse for a revised thesis to be submitted for re-examination to the degree for which it was submitted at a later date. The result is final.

5. Final thesis submission

Following the completion of any required amendments to the thesis, graduate research students are required to submit the final version of the thesis through the online submission system to the Graduate Research School along with a copy of final thesis with tracked changes, summary of amendments table and Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS) text.

Where applicable, an errata sheet must be included in the thesis to identify any third-party copyright-protected pages, sections, or figures for which the graduate research student does not hold permission to reproduce.

In keeping with the University's commitment to make research available for other researchers and the public, the thesis will be made available online through the University's digital research repository and the National Library of Australia's Trove service, unless arrangements have been made to restrict access for a period of time, such as where dissemination of the research is prevented by ethical, privacy or confidentiality matters and the thesis is under embargo.

Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS)

The AHEGS is a Commonwealth initiative that assists in both national and international recognition of Australian qualifications and promotes international mobility and professional recognition of graduates. The graduation statement is additional to other documentation such as degree parchments and academic transcripts and is based on nationally agreed specifications approved by the Government. It is intended to provide potential employers and other institutions with a greater understanding of graduate's achievements.

In order for the University to be able to provide an AHEGS at graduation, all graduate research students are required to provide a 100-word (up to 900 characters with spaces) abstract of their research to be included on the AHEGS. The abstract must be endorsed by the Principal Supervisor on behalf of the supervisory panel.

6. Grading Schemes

Graduate research program grades are determined, approved, and communicated in accordance with the Graduate Research: Grading Procedure.

7. Appeals

Within the University, appeals against the outcome of the examination process are permitted on procedural grounds only, through the provisions of the Student Complaints Resolution Procedure.

8. Graduate Research Awards

8.1. Pro Vice Chancellor's commendation for Doctoral or Master's thesis excellence

Where an examiner has recommended that the degree be awarded with or without amendment, examiners are also asked to indicate whether the thesis is outstanding and deserves a commendation for Doctoral or Master of Philosophy thesis excellence from the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training. If both examiners rate the thesis as worthy of a commendation, and the graduate research student has completed their thesis during standard candidature time, the graduate research student will receive a letter of congratulations from the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training and a record of the commendation will be added to the prizes and awards section of the academic transcript.

8.2. University research medals

The University awards up to 20 Doctoral Research Medals and up to 10 Master by Research Medals for the highest quality research theses as nominated by examiners each year and selected by a research medal selection committee established by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Graduate Research Training. Both Master of Philosophy and Master of Research theses are eligible for a Master by Research Medal.