

## Advice for Examiners

### Master's (by Research) Degree by Submission of Published Work by Staff of the University

---

The purpose of the “Master's (by Research) degree by submission of published work by staff of the University” at Curtin is to provide the opportunity for staff members to submit for recognition academic work they have produced on the basis of their research whilst a staff member of Curtin.

The application shall be a thesis in one of the following forms:

- a series of published works and/or peer reviewed publications accompanied by an exegesis incorporating a full explanatory introduction and review section to link the separate works and to place them in the context of an established body of knowledge. If not otherwise given, a literature review and detailed data and descriptions of methods shall be included as appendices. Any published work of which the applicant is a joint author may only be included in the thesis provided the work done by the applicant is clearly identified.
- a series of literary or creative works accompanied by an exegesis incorporating a full explanatory introduction detailing the contribution of the author to the literary or creative works; a review section to link the separate works and to place them in the context of an established body of knowledge; a literature review; and a description of methods where appropriate. Any literary or creative work of which the applicant is a joint author/creator may only be included in the thesis provided the work done by the applicant is clearly identified.

The work, or collection of works, on which the applicant relies shall be comparable in quantity and academic quality to that which is required for a Master's (by Research) degree in the same general field of study. In other words, the published works and exegesis together must be a substantial contribution to the knowledge or understanding of the field of study and demonstrate the capacity of the candidate to conceive, design and carry to completion independent research.

The thesis should be examined principally in terms of:

- (i) The applicant's understanding of the field of study;
  - (ii) The applicant'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.
- 

In assessing the thesis, the examiners should prepare a report on the prescribed form, indicating whether or not the criteria in (a) - (d) below have been satisfied.

The thesis should demonstrate that the candidate has:

- a) adequately surveyed literature relevant to the thesis;
  - b) adequate skills in the gathering and critical analysis of information and report presentation;
  - c) demonstrated the capacity to conceive, design and carry to completion independent research; and
  - d) made a substantial contribution to the knowledge or understanding in the field of study.
-

After examination of the thesis, the examiner shall make one of the following recommendations:

**Recommendation**

**Explanatory Notes**

- Awarded.** *The thesis be passed with no requirement for correction or amendments other than minor typographical or editorial matters and/or minor textual and/or minor structural amendments, identified by the Examiner; or*
- Not Awarded.** *The thesis does not meet the criteria for the degree as specified by the University.*

The candidate has fulfilled the requirements of the masters degree. Minor typographical or editorial matters and/or minor textual and/or minor structural amendments, identified by the Examiner, may require correction before the thesis is ready for permanent binding and placement in the University Library.

The candidate should not be admitted to the masters degree on the basis of this thesis. The flaws in this thesis are substantial and make it inappropriate to award a masters degree for this work.

The examiner is requested to detail as fully as possible in the report the reasons for this recommendation.

---

Names of Examiners are not released to the candidate unless the Examiner specifically approves the release of his/her identity, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (refer Question 1 on the *Examination Report* form). Only the Dean, Graduate Studies (or nominee), the Chairperson of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee and the Chairperson of the Thesis Committee may communicate with the Examiners regarding the examination process while the thesis is under examination.

The University requests that the thesis be examined independently, and that your report will be made available to the University in confidence.

---

An examiner may recommend an oral examination of the candidate to clarify aspects of the thesis. In this instance, the examiner shall clearly specify the purpose of the oral examination and the nature of the questions to be put to the candidate (refer Question 3 on the *Examination Report* form). The final decision to conduct an oral examination will be made by the University Graduate Studies Committee.

---