Doctor of Medicine (Candidature with supervision)
Notes for Examiners

The Doctor of Medicine (candidature with supervision) at Monash University is configured as a doctoral-level degree and is pursued within a framework akin to a Doctor of Philosophy. It is not a higher doctorate program as at some other universities.

1. Governance

All matters pertaining to the MD degree are the responsibility of the Graduate Research Committee under the general direction of the University's Academic Board.

2. The submitted thesis

2.1 It is expected that MD theses generally do not exceed 100,000 words. Candidates have the option to submit either hard or soft bound thesis copies.

2.2 Monash University permits MD candidates to submit a thesis by publication. The thesis may consist either wholly or in part of papers that have been submitted for publication or are in press (faculty specifications vary). The thesis by publication should demonstrate a sustained theme. A summary of specifications is available at the URL below.

2.3 The examination of the thesis is undertaken by two independent and external examiners.

2.4 It is the practice at Monash to release the names of examiners who have agreed to act to the candidate.

2.5 The thesis is forwarded to an examiner in confidence. An examiner is under an obligation to maintain confidentiality and in no circumstance should the thesis or any part of the examination process be discussed with a third party without the prior approval of the Monash University Institute of Graduate Research.

2.6 Normally neither the candidate nor the supervisor is allowed to contact examiners directly during the examination process. Any request for the candidate and/or supervisor to contact examiners must be formally approved by the Monash University Institute of Graduate Research.

3. Examiner's assessment

3.1 The Committee wishes to receive clear advice (in English unless previously arranged) on specific aspects of the thesis and, to this end, the examiner is asked to place a tick by each statement as deemed appropriate in the enclosed report form. If an examiner reports negatively on any aspects referred to in Section 1 of the form then comments should be made in the written section.
3.2 Recommendation 2(ii) should be made only when the examiner can specify amendments so precisely that the Head of Department's decision is essentially a simple matter of fact.

3.3 To satisfy the requirements of the degree, the thesis must make a significant contribution to knowledge and understanding of the field concerned.

3.4 An examiner may request that the University obtains from the candidate clarification of specific points in the thesis. Such requests should be made only through the Monash University Institute of Graduate Research.

3.5 Oral examinations are not normally a part of the examination process.

3.6 In cases where examiners deem it necessary to annotate a thesis, it should be done lightly in pencil or by the use of temporary adhesive labels.

4. **Following receipt of both examiners’ reports**

   Unedited copies of the examiners' reports are forwarded to the candidate in due course.

   In the event that the two examiners disagree substantially in their assessment of the thesis, the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is required to convene an advisory panel to determine a course of action. Most commonly an advisory panel will recommend either that:

   • the thesis be revised and resubmitted to the original dissenting examiner(s) or
   • an adjudicator be appointed to review the two examiners’ reports, the candidate’s response to the reports and the thesis. The names of the examiners are not revealed to the adjudicator.