Higher Doctorate Degrees

Applicant requirements

An applicant for admission to enrolment must -

- have qualified, not less than seven years previously, for a degree of the university;
- be a current member of the teaching or research staff of the university and have been so for not less than six consecutive years full-time or an equivalent number of consecutive years part-time; or
- have qualified, not less than seven years previously, for a degree of another educational institution and have had a close research association with the university for not less than six years.

Work requirements

Work submitted for a higher doctorate degree -

1. must have been published not less than one year prior to submission;
2. subject to point 3 below, must be the original work of the applicant;
3. may include work jointly authored provided -
   i. the joint work is clearly indicated; and
   ii. a statement is provided that demonstrates how the applicant was responsible for a major portion of the work; and
4. must not have been previously submitted for a degree in any educational institution, unless the relevant higher doctorate committee in any particular case otherwise determines.

Degree requirements

To qualify for the award of a higher doctorate degree, the work submitted for the degree must:

- make an original, substantial and distinguished contribution to knowledge in the field concerned; and
- give the applicant authoritative standing in that field and the right to general recognition of this standing by scholars in the field.
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Application for admission

An applicant for admission must lodge with the faculty:

- an application for admission in the form approved by the faculty board; and
- three copies of each of the following -
  - the work submitted for the degree;
  - a summary of the development of the work, of approximately 1000 words;
  - a statement of the applicant’s view of the extent to which the work contributes to the advancement of knowledge;
  - where appropriate, statements in relation to any part of the work conjointly published or previously submitted for a degree.

Faculty higher doctorate committee

- Following receipt of an application for admission, the faculty must constitute a faculty higher doctorate committee to determine whether or not the applicant is qualified for admission to candidature.

- A faculty higher doctorate committee must comprise -
  - the dean of the administering faculty or nominee, who shall be chair of the committee;
  - the relevant head of department or equivalent, or nominee; and
  - one additional member being, where possible, a specialist in the particular field.

- Where a faculty higher doctorate committee determines that -
  - the applicant satisfies the requirements for admission to candidature; and
  - the work submitted for the degree is prima facie worthy of examination – the applicant is qualified for admission.

- Where all members of a faculty higher doctorate committee are not in agreement, the determination of the majority is the determination of the committee.

- A faculty higher doctorate committee must give notice of its determination to both the applicant and the Graduate Research Committee.
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Documents to be lodged

After admission, a student must lodge with the Graduate Research Committee, in a form approved by the committee, four copies of the documents lodged with the Faculty.

Examiners

Where an applicant is admitted

- the faculty higher doctorate committee must advise the Graduate Research Committee of the persons it considers appropriate examiners for the student’s work; and

- the student may, within 10 days after receipt of notice under paragraph 11.1.4, in writing advise the Graduate Research Committee of any persons the student objects, for stated reasons, to being appointed examiners.

The Graduate Research Committee, after considering the advice of the faculty higher doctorate committee and any objections from the student, must appoint three examiners to assess the student’s work.

Examiners must:

- be persons of outstanding reputation in the area of the work concerned;
- be from outside the university; and
- unless the Graduate Research Committee in any particular case otherwise determines, not have published, or engaged in substantial research collaboration, with the student.

Each examiner must independently:

- assess the student’s work; and
- report the results of the assessment to the Graduate Research Committee.

Advice to the student

The Graduate Research Committee must, by notice in writing, advise a student of the results of the examiners’ assessments.

Where one examiner only determines that a student’s work does not satisfy the requirements of the higher doctorate degree, the student may, within one month after receipt of advice of the results, appeal to the Graduate Research Committee.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the chair of the Graduate Research Committee must, after consulting with the faculty higher doctorate committee, appoint an adjudicator from outside the university to review the assessment of the dissenting examiner and report to the Graduate Research Committee.
After consideration of the adjudicator's report and consultation with the higher doctorate committee, the Graduate Research Committee must determine whether or not the student's work satisfies the requirements of the faculty higher doctorate degree; and the decision of the Graduate Research Committee is final.

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