

Faculty Indigenous Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence

Guidelines

Monash is a University that seeks to recognise and reward outstanding doctoral thesis excellence by graduate research students. The Dean's Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence was introduced in 2017 in recognition of the growing number of exceptional theses considered for the Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal and Vice-Chancellor's Commendation for Thesis Excellence.

In addition, the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences is committed to supporting our Indigenous Australian students. The Faculty Indigenous Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence was established in 2017 to demonstrate the Faculty's commitment to this endeavour.

Each year, a maximum of one award will be made to doctoral students who have fulfilled their degree requirements and presented as outstanding contributors to research. This document outlines the application procedure associated with the Award.

AWARD BENEFITS

- The Faculty Indigenous Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence includes a certificate signed by the Dean; and a monetary prize of AUD\$1,000.

ELIGIBILITY

The following eligibility criteria apply:

1. Students may self-nominate or each school may nominate doctoral students for the Faculty Indigenous Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence.
2. Nominees must have fulfilled the requirements for the degree and had his/her result ratified by the Graduate Research Committee in the designated year.

Lapsed, re-admitted and unsupervised students are not eligible. Late nominations will not be considered.

The Faculty will confirm eligibility with the [Yulendj Indigenous Engagement Unit](#) for nominees for the Faculty Indigenous Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence. Additional documentation may be requested.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be assessed on the information provided in their nomination submission. Nominating schools must demonstrate that the student has achieved the highest research achievements in the designated year. Schools must only nominate students with high quality theses. If students do not meet the selection criteria they should not be put forward for consideration.

The examiners' reports will be the principal source used to establish the quality of the nominee's thesis. Nominees should provide tangible evidence of overall thesis excellence as represented by one or more of the following criteria:

1. The thesis has made a substantial and significant contribution to knowledge and/or professional practice in the field of study concerned
2. The thesis demonstrates the student's capacity to plan and execute original research to the highest international standards
3. The thesis demonstrates an ability to generate new knowledge and understanding
4. Publications resulting from the thesis research (during enrolment) have been independently assessed as being of a high quality or impact (nominations should indicate if the thesis included published works)
5. Peer recognition by invitations to speak at conferences or meeting of learned bodies
6. Prizes awarded on the basis of the thesis research
7. Length of enrolment
8. Offers of positions

The Faculty will reserve the right to withhold an award in a particular year if it believes that the nominees are not of sufficiently high calibre.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations must be made by Schools based on those who have been deemed to have been presented amongst the best doctoral theses for the faculty in the designated year. Each nomination must be made via the **Faculty Indigenous Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence** nomination form.

Nominations must be accompanied by examiner reports; publications records (if applicable) and any other evidence supporting the nomination should be attached.

TERMS OF THE AWARD

Presentation of the award may take place at a faculty or academic unit function in the year following the award of degree. Other options are available.

A Faculty selection panel shall assess and rank nominees following the nomination year to make the selection from the nominees. The Faculty will reserve the right to withhold an award in a particular year if it believes that the nominees are not of sufficiently high calibre.

IMPORTANT DATES

Task	Date
Call for submissions	Anytime throughout year
Nominations submitted to Faculty Research Office	Anytime in year
Faculty selection panel	March 2021
Announcement of Award recipients	Later in the year

PROCEDURE

1. Nominators should address the selection criteria and attach all relevant material. The submission should be kept to a minimum.
2. A School representative should submit the nominations forms and supporting documentation to the Faculty Research Office no later than **16 March 2021**.
3. The Faculty Research Office will collate the nominations for consideration and convene a selection panel to assess each application against the selection criteria.
4. Nominees will be advised of the outcomes via the Faculty Research Office.