

Schedule 3: Doctoral degree examination criteria and outcomes

Doctoral degree examination criteria

(1) To be awarded a pass, a doctoral degree thesis must:

- (a) demonstrate the candidate's command and critical assessment of a substantial and complex body of knowledge at the forefront of their field
- (b) demonstrate that the methods and techniques used are appropriate; and demonstrate an understanding of their principles, strengths and limitations
- (c) demonstrate that the candidate has generated original knowledge that makes a significant contribution to their field, in which the research objectives are tested or explored according to disciplinary norms
- (d) demonstrate the candidate's independence of thought and approach
- (e) demonstrate the candidate's ability to effectively communicate original research findings to appropriate professional, academic and industry audiences, and in national and international contexts
- (f) demonstrate the candidate's understanding of, and commitment to, research ethics and integrity
- (g) form a careful, rigorous and cohesive piece of original research.

(2) Creative outputs included with the thesis must:

- (a) demonstrate a professional level of familiarity with and understanding of contemporary work in the field
- (b) demonstrate a sufficiently comprehensive investigation of the creative form and content
- (c) have applied methods and techniques in the execution of the work that are appropriate to the subject matter and are original and/or aesthetically effective
- (d) be presented in a sufficiently professional manner
- (e) demonstrate a sufficiently high standard of artistic and creative work
- (f) identify and test or explore the research objectives
- (g) demonstrate sufficiently thorough documentation of the work (including catalogue/program material where appropriate) to ensure the work provides a reference for subsequent researchers
- (h) together with the dissertation, constitute a substantive original contribution to knowledge in the subject area, and
- (i) have an appropriate and substantiated interface between the creative output and the dissertation.

Table 1: Reconciliation of examiners' recommendations for a doctoral degree examination by thesis

		Examiner 2 recommendation			
		Pass (P)	Pass with minor revision (PR)	Major revision (MR)	Fail (F)
Examiner 1 recommendation	Pass (P)	Pass (P)	Pass with minor revision (PR)	Major revision (MR)	Moderated examiner discussion
	Pass with minor revision (PR)	Pass with minor revision (PR)	Pass with minor revision (PR)	Major revision (MR)	Moderated examiner discussion
	Major revision (MR)	Major revision (MR)	Major revision (MR)	Major revision (MR)	Moderated examiner discussion
	Fail (F)	Moderated examiner discussion	Moderated examiner discussion	Moderated examiner discussion	Fail (F)

Table 2: Doctoral thesis assessment outcomes following major revision

	Examination outcome	
	Major revision (MR) (viva)	Major revision (MR) (thesis)
Assessment following major revision	The revised thesis will be: - reviewed and verified by the CoE, and - assessed in its entirety by the nominated examiner.	The revised thesis will be: - reviewed and verified by the CoE, and - assessed in its entirety by any examiner who recommended MR.
If revisions are satisfactory	If revisions are satisfactory, examiners may recommend an outcome of either: - pass (P), or - pass with minor revision (PR).	If revisions are satisfactory, examiners may recommend an outcome of either: - pass (P), or - pass with minor revision (PR).
If revisions are unsatisfactory	If revisions are unsatisfactory: - the nominated examiner may recommend a fail (F) outcome - the other examiner will assess the revised thesis and recommend an outcome - if the examiners' final recommendations differ, the PVC for graduate research will appoint an adjudicator.	If revisions are unsatisfactory, examiners may recommend a fail (F) outcome. - Where both examiners originally recommended major revision (MR), and following assessment only one examiner recommends fail (F): - the CoE will invite the examiners to confer to reach a joint recommendation - if the examiners cannot reach consensus, the PVC for graduate research will appoint an adjudicator. - Where one examiner originally recommended pass (P) or pass with minor revision (PR) prior to reconciliation (Table 1), the PVC for graduate research will appoint an adjudicator.