

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Guidance for examiners

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at the University of Canberra requires the submission of a thesis, which represents the research and findings of the PhD course of study and research.

A thesis submitted for examination for a Doctor of Philosophy degree should not exceed 100,000 words.

A PhD thesis must make a distinct and significant contribution to knowledge or understanding in the area of the research and/or to the application of knowledge to the analysis of problems in the study area; and must afford evidence of originality shown by the discovery of new knowledge and/or by the exercise of independent critical thinking.

The PhD thesis should demonstrate the following:

- a. The candidate's ability to conceive, execute and prepare to publication standard a scholarly piece of research on advanced theory or practice in a field of study covered by the research;
- b. The candidate's thorough understanding of the state of knowledge in the field of inquiry and the relationship of the research to the broader aspects of the field of study; and
- c. The candidate's technical capacity in the field of research.

A PhD thesis will be assessed and examined using the following criteria:

- a. Makes a distinct and significant contribution to knowledge or understanding in the area with which it deals and/or to the application of knowledge to the analysis of problems in the study area;
- b. Affords evidence of originality shown either by the discovery of new knowledge or by the exercise of independent critical thinking;
- c. Contains a substantial amount of material suitable for publication; and
- d. Is well ordered and satisfactory in its literary presentation.

Thesis including published works

Candidates at the University of Canberra are able to include publications in their thesis. The thesis including published works does not lead to a different degree but refers to a thesis format characterised by the incorporation of one or more publications, or, presented as a series of publications (thesis by publication). A thesis can include published papers, manuscripts submitted for publication but not yet accepted; manuscripts ready for submission; or 'traditional' chapters.

A thesis including publications will be examined as a conventional thesis. Examiners of a thesis that includes one of more publications should note that recommendations for changes cannot be made to individual works that have been peer reviewed.