JOURNAL-ARTICLE-FORMAT FOR PhD THESES AT UNE

Guidelines

At UNE the PhD course is described as one of ‘advanced study and research’ and the resulting thesis should be ‘substantially an original contribution to the subject concerned’ (UNE Handbook 2008). Exclusive of appendices, the thesis should not exceed 100,000 words for non-science subjects and for scientific subjects, the word length would normally not exceed 50,000 words.

Where the thesis contains supporting articles and/or papers which have been authored jointly, the candidate is required to indicate the extent and nature of their own and others’ contributions. The nature and extent of the candidate’s input must be precisely expressed for each paper at the end of the Statement of Originality (to the extent of identifying which figures or text are the candidate’s original work). The nature and extent of the intellectual input by others must be explained clearly and acknowledged in the Statement of Contribution by Others. Where publications of others have been used, these must be stated, and clear and appropriate acknowledgment must be made to the other authors. The name of the principal author must be clearly stated.

Two statements shall appear at the end of each chapter, the Statement of Contribution by Others, and the Statement of Originality. These must be signed by the candidate and the Principal Supervisor, who must certify that all co-authors have given their consent for having their work included in the thesis and that they accept the student’s contribution as indicated in the Statement of Originality. In addition, the thesis should present an integrated body of work.

Guidelines for structuring journal-article-format theses are as follows:

Fore-section needs to include:

1. Title page showing the title of the thesis, the full name of the candidate together with their prior degrees and other qualifications indicating the awarding institutions, and the date when submitted for the degree;
2. Declaration – a statement signed by the candidate certifying that the work has not been and is not being submitted for any other degree to this or any other university. The candidate will also certify that all help received in preparing the thesis and all sources used, are duly acknowledged;
3. Acknowledgements – these are optional;
4. A table of contents indicating clearly how the thesis is structured and how the journal articles are organised;
5. Tables, diagrams and abbreviations where appropriate; and
6. An abstract or summary of approximately 300-400 words.

The body of the thesis then follows, with pages numbered consecutively.

1. The first section of the body of the thesis should be an Introduction which should make clear the aims and focus of the study, identify its significance, and set the frame and sequence for each of the papers that follow. Its maximum length need only be 20-30 pages.
2. A number of chapters, which may be written in the format of a self-contained journal article, will follow. These need not have been submitted to any journal. Each chapter must include by the candidate a signed Statement of Originality and Statement of Contribution by Others.
3. Chapters of the thesis and self-contained articles need to be integrated and therefore need to flow cogently from one to another. It needs to be made clear how the chapters are linked and how they contribute to each other.
4. The final chapter should provide integrative Conclusions, drawing together all the work described in the journal-article-format parts of the thesis and relating this back to the issues raised in the Introduction.
5. A consolidated list of references for all chapters should be included.