

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND
INFORMATION FOR EXAMINERS

1. HDR COURSE RULES

A link to the relevant course rules will be provided in the examiner appointment email.

2. STANDARD OF EXAMINATION

Success or failure in the UNE Higher Degree by Research program is determined by thesis examination alone. It is crucial that examiners consider the candidate's thesis solely on its merits as an independent piece of supervised research, irrespective of whether the candidate's approach to the research is the same as that which the examiner might have used in such a study.

There will be circumstances where a thesis has been submitted by publication and the guidelines for such cases are attached, where relevant.

3. EXAMINER'S REPORT

Each examiner is asked to submit a detailed report (in the template provided) together with a completed summary recommendation form. The examination report must be at least 2 A4 pages in length.

The report should specifically address the following criteria:

- 1) The degree to which the candidate shows sufficient familiarity with, and understanding of, the relevant literature.
- 2) The degree to which the thesis provides a sufficiently comprehensive investigation of the topic.
- 3) The degree to which the methods and technique adopted are appropriate to the subject matter and are they applied suitably.
- 4) The extent to which the results are set out clearly and logically and accompanied by adequate exposition and interpretation.
- 5) The extent to which the conclusions and implications are developed appropriately and linked clearly to the nature and content of the research framework and finding.
- 6) The degree to which the literary quality and general presentation of the thesis are of a suitably high standard.
- 7) The degree to which the thesis as a whole constitutes a substantive original contribution to knowledge in the subject area with which it deals.

The Graduate Research Examination Board would welcome any other comments of a general nature which may be of assistance to the Committee, the candidate and the supervisors. Examiners may wish to comment with respect to potential publishable content within the thesis. A list of errata should also be provided if possible. Please attach these in a separate document.

Copies of examiners' reports are made available to the candidate and the supervisors after they have been considered by the Graduate Research Examination Board and a decision has been made.

4. TIME FOR EXAMINATION

The Graduate Research Examination Board requires that the examination process be completed as quickly as possible. The Board requests all examiners reports be completed in six weeks.

5. OUTCOME OF EXAMINATION

Examiners are asked to recommend one of the following outcomes:

- The candidate be awarded the degree without any changes to the thesis;
- The candidate be awarded the degree subject to the candidate making minor amendments/corrections to the Library copy of the thesis to the satisfaction of the Principal Supervisor and Head of School;
- The candidate be awarded the degree subject to the candidate making major amendments/corrections to the Library copy of the thesis to the satisfaction of the Principal Supervisor and Head of School;
- The candidate be permitted to revise the thesis for re-examination by the original examiners;
- The candidate not be awarded the degree.

An examiner's recommendation must not be included within the body of the report but submitted on the Examiner Summary Recommendation Form only.

6. COPY OF THESIS

Examiners may retain the copy of their thesis upon completion of the examination process. If examiners wish to annotate the thesis for the information of the candidate they should return it to Research Services. Where an embargo has been placed on access to the thesis, the examiners will be advised of the period of restriction and will be requested to observe the embargo in keeping with University policy and Australian copyright law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR EXAMINERS OF DOCTORAL THESES

7. CHANCELLOR'S DOCTORAL RESEARCH MEDAL

Chancellor's Doctoral Research Medals are awarded for excellence in the University of New England Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education and Doctor of Industry/Professions theses or research portfolios. The Medals will be given for doctoral research that is of exceptional merit and at the forefront of the field.

Further information regarding the awarding of the Chancellor's Doctoral Research Medal can be found on the UNE website via the following link:

<http://policies.une.edu.au/view.current.php?id=00264>

**Examiner's Reports and Summary Recommendation Form are confidential documents
and must not be sent to any other person.**