



## Examiner's Report for Higher Degrees by Research

- Once completed, please return to [hdrexamination@scu.edu.au](mailto:hdrexamination@scu.edu.au) with your detailed report and honorarium claim form.
- Your email submission of this form acts as your signature.

**ATTENTION MAC USERS:**

This form will be corrupted if opened in Preview.  
Please use Adobe Acrobat Reader to view and complete form.

**SECTION A: CANDIDATE DETAILS**

Name:

Student ID:

Degree:

Faculty:

Title of thesis:

**SECTION B: SUMMARY REPORT**

Examiner Name:

Please provide a summary report of the thesis according the following criteria:

- |       |  |     |    |
|-------|--|-----|----|
| (i)   | the thesis demonstrates that the candidate has an adequate understanding of the field of research  | YES | NO |
| (ii)  | the thesis demonstrates that the candidate has designed, undertaken and reported on an investigation in the specified field of research at the required AQF* level | YES | NO |
| (iii) | the candidate has presented the thesis in a manner and level appropriate to the field of research at the required AQF level  | YES | NO |
| (iv)  | the literary standard of the thesis is adequate for the required AQF level   | YES | NO |

**SECTION C: RECOMMENDATION**

On the basis of your examination of the Thesis (and any supporting papers or other material), please provide your recommendation by selecting one of the following options.

*Please note: the A to E designations are categories and are not aligned with the University's grading system:*

**A Award with no/after minor amendments**

The thesis meets the required AQF standards in terms of nature and quality of work, and should be accepted as satisfactory for the award of degree once the minor/typographical errors referenced in my report are revised or defended to the satisfaction of the Dean, Graduate Studies. These corrections would normally be completed within a period of three months.

**B Award after amendments**

The thesis meets the required AQF standards in terms of nature and quality of work. However, there are passages that need to be revised or defended to the satisfaction of the Dean, Graduate Studies prior to the thesis being accepted as satisfactory for the award of degree. These amendments would normally be completed within a period of three months.

**C Allow revision and re-examination**

The thesis does not yet meet all required AQF standards for the award of the degree and the candidate should complete a further period of research and/or writing to build upon the current work and submit for re-examination. These corrections will be considered by the Principal/Primary Academic/Coordinating Supervisor and the Director of Higher Degrees Research Training prior to submission for re-examination, and would normally be completed within six months for a full time student or 12 months for a part time student.

**D Do not award**

The thesis does not meet the required AQF standards for the award of the degree, and does not warrant a further period of research and/or writing. The candidate should not be awarded the degree, nor should they be permitted to revise and submit for re-examination.

**E Allow revision and re-submission as a Masters by Thesis (Note this option is only available for PhD and Professional Doctorate)**

The thesis does not meet the AQF standard for award of Doctor of Philosophy or Professional Doctorate. The candidate should not be awarded the degree of PhD or Professional Doctorate, but should be allowed to revise the thesis and re-submit the thesis for examination as a Masters by Thesis.

\*AQF is the Australian Qualifications Framework with the current version at [www.aqf.edu.au](http://www.aqf.edu.au). Please also see Appendix A for a summary of the AQF requirements.

**SECTION D: RE-EXAMINATION**

If your recommendation is that the Thesis is to be re-examined we would greatly appreciate you making yourself available to undertake the re-examination.

Are you potentially prepared to undertake the re-examination? YES NO

- If you have selected No, please provide a confidential reason as to why you are not prepared to undertake a re-examination of the candidate's thesis.

If you have selected "Do not award" for a PhD or Professional Doctorate thesis, would you recommend the thesis to be re-examined as a Master's Degree (Research) following revisions?

YES NO

- If YES, please include your recommendations for this in your detailed report.

**SECTION E: DETAILED REPORT**

Please attach an independent report on the quality of the thesis, indicating its strengths and weaknesses. Refer in particular to the matters you have commented on above and state concisely the grounds upon which you base your recommendation. If you are recommending major revision, please indicate clearly what further work is to be undertaken by the candidate.

**SECTION F: OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD (PHD ONLY)**

At SCU, when both PhD examiners comment on the outstanding nature of a PhD thesis, the candidate may be eligible to receive special acclamation, known as 'The Chancellor's Medal for Outstanding PhD Thesis'. The Medal is awarded when both examiners comment on the significance of the thesis and rank it in the top 5% of the total number of theses each has examined (which total number is taken into account by the Dean, Graduate Studies) and, in the opinion of the Dean, Graduate Studies, the thesis makes a distinguished contribution to the area of research.

*Please note:* If you have recommended anything other than an A, you cannot tick this box.

(i) In your opinion does the thesis make an outstanding contribution to scholarship in its discipline?

YES NO

(Note: As a guide, SCU estimates that a maximum of 5% of all theses would reach this level of attainment.)

(ii) How many Higher Degree Research theses have you examined to date?

(iii) State the reasons for your 'outstanding contribution' assessment in terms of the international significance of the work and its level of excellence. Please ensure that, if you have not included the reasons in your detailed report, you provide them below.

(iv) Are there other indicators of your professional standing relevant to your assessment of the thesis? If so, please identify:

**SECTION G: RELEASE TO THE CANDIDATE OF EXAMINER'S COMMENTS**

I am willing to have my identity made known to the candidate

YES NO

I agree to the release of my comments to the candidate.

IN WHOLE AS DESIGNATED\*

Specify areas of your report you wish to not have released to the candidate:

Signed:

Date:

## Appendix A – Excerpt from Australian Qualifications Framework

### AQF level 9 – Masters Degree

AQF level 9 criteria	
<b>Summary</b>	Graduates at this level will have specialised knowledge and skills for research, and/or professional practice and/or further learning
<b>Knowledge</b>	Graduates at this level will have advanced and integrated understanding of a complex body of knowledge in one or more disciplines or areas of practice
<b>Skills</b>	Graduates at this level will have expert, specialised cognitive and technical skills in a body of knowledge or practice to independently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories</li> <li>research and apply established theories to a body of knowledge or practice</li> <li>interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to specialist and non-specialist audiences</li> </ul>
<b>Application of knowledge and skills</b>	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, expert judgement, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner or learner

Descriptors	Master's Degree (Research)
<b>Summary</b>	The Master's Degree (Research) qualifies individuals who apply an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for research and scholarship and as a pathway for further learning
<b>Knowledge</b>	Graduates of a Master's Degree (Research) will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in one or more disciplines</li> <li>advanced knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field of work or learning</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	Graduates of a Master's Degree (Research) will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and its application</li> <li>cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice</li> <li>cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level</li> <li>cognitive and technical skills to design, use and evaluate research and research methods</li> <li>communication and technical skills to present a coherent and sustained argument and to disseminate research results to specialist and non-specialist audiences</li> <li>technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse, theorise and disseminate research that makes a contribution to knowledge</li> </ul>
<b>Application of knowledge &amp; skills</b>	Graduates of a Master's Degree (Research) will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with creativity and initiative to new situations and/or for further learning</li> <li>with high level personal autonomy and accountability</li> <li>to plan and execute a substantial piece of research</li> </ul>

## AQF level 10 – Doctoral Degree (PhD and Professional Doctorate)

AQF level 10 criteria	
<b>Summary</b>	Graduates at this level will have systematic and critical understanding of a complex field of learning and specialised research skills for the advancement of learning and/or for professional practice
<b>Knowledge</b>	Graduates at this level will have systemic and critical understanding of a substantial and complex body of knowledge at the frontier of a discipline or area of professional practice
<b>Skills</b>	<p>Graduates at this level will have expert, specialised cognitive, technical and research skills in a discipline area to independently and systematically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage in critical reflection, synthesis and evaluation</li> <li>• develop, adapt and implement research methodologies to extend and redefine existing knowledge or professional practice</li> <li>• disseminate and promote new insights to peers and the community</li> <li>• generate original knowledge and understanding to make a substantial contribution to a discipline or area of professional practice</li> </ul>
<b>Application of knowledge and skills</b>	Graduates at this level will apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, authoritative judgement, adaptability and responsibility as an expert and leading practitioner or scholar

Descriptors	Doctoral Degree
<b>Summary</b>	The Doctoral Degree qualifies individuals who apply a substantial body of knowledge to research, investigate and develop new knowledge, in one or more fields of investigation, scholarship or professional practice
<b>Knowledge</b>	<p>Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a substantial body of knowledge at the frontier of a field of work or learning, including knowledge that constitutes an original contribution</li> <li>• substantial knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field of work or learning</li> </ul>
<b>Skills</b>	<p>Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cognitive skills to demonstrate expert understanding of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on that theory and practice</li> <li>• cognitive skills and use of intellectual independence to think critically, evaluate existing knowledge and ideas, undertake systematic investigation and reflect on theory and practice to generate original knowledge</li> <li>• expert technical and creative skills applicable to the field of work or learning</li> <li>• communication skills to explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies and conclusions</li> <li>• communication skills to present cogently a complex investigation of originality or original research for external examination against international standards and to communicate results to peers and the community</li> <li>• expert skills to design, implement, analyse, theorise and communicate research that makes a significant and original contribution to knowledge and/or professional practice</li> </ul>
<b>Application of knowledge &amp; skills</b>	<p>Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• with intellectual independence</li> <li>• with initiative and creativity in new situations and/or for further learning</li> <li>• with full responsibility and accountability for personal outputs</li> <li>• to plan and execute original research</li> <li>• with the ongoing capacity to generate new knowledge, including in the context of professional practice</li> </ul>