

Graduate School

Guidelines for expected amount of data-intensive chapters in a conventional thesis.

The following examples of thesis structures reflect the number of data intensive chapters both supervisors and examiners expect when reviewing a Master by Thesis or Doctoral Thesis for examination in STEM/HASS disciplines, and will provide a template or example of the structure of creative works based thesis:

***NB:** Students should be guided by their supervisor's expert advice which may differ from the below.*

Example of a Conventional Masters by Thesis Structure (STEM/HASS):

- Introduction
- Literature review – back ground etc.
- General Methods
- **Data intensive chapter - Study 1** – introduction, methods, results, discussion
- **Data intensive chapter - Study 2** – introduction, methods, results, discussion
- General discussion
- Conclusion

Example of a Conventional PhD Structure (STEM/HASS):

- Introduction
- Literature review – background etc.
- General Methods
- **Data intensive chapter - Study 1** – introduction, methods, results, discussion
- **Data intensive chapter - Study 2** – introduction, methods, results, discussion
- **Data intensive chapter - Study 3** – introduction, methods, results, discussion
- General discussion
- Conclusion

Creative Practice Research Theses

Creative practice research is understood as constituting an enquiry that is undertaken jointly across both artistic and traditional scholarly forms – that is, students undertaking a creative practice research degree pursue a research question across multiple forms, and the thesis will normally consist of both a creative component and a written exegesis that have a symbiotic relationship. The weighting between creative component and exegesis should be negotiated between the candidate and supervisors early in the project, and made evident in the introduction to the thesis.

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Weighting will vary according to the nature of the project, but as the two components are considered equally important in constituting the thesis as a whole, should be understood as 50/50% up to 60/40%. Thus, while these weightings will vary according to the nature of the project, the written component of a creative practice research PhD would normally be 30,000-40,000 words, and 15,000-20,000 for a Masters.

The structure of a creative practice research exegesis will also often differ according to the discipline and form of the creative works, and the approach. Creative projects may focus on practical concerns to do with process, materiality and discipline, or thematic concerns to do with the conceptual underpinning of the works, or a combination of both.

Example structure of a Creative Practice Research MA or PhD exegesis

- Introduction/Background
- Literature Review / Repertoire Review (Music) / Artefact Review (visual arts, media art, creative writing)
- Methodology
- Analysis / discussion of creative works or process in terms of conceptual or practical concerns
- Results/Reflection on Research and Creative Work
- Conclusion

Scope and scale of the creative component: Masters

Questions of scope and scale will vary across the different forms, media and disciplines in a creative project, but the following can be taken as general guide:

- Creative writing: a novella of 15,000 – 30,000 words; a collection of short stories or poems
- Music: a selection of compositions totaling 20-30 minutes; 20-30 minutes of an original film score; score and libretto for an operetta of 20-30 minutes duration
- Visual or media art; a solo exhibition of 5-10 significant pieces or a lesser number of complex interactive or multi-media works; a film of 15-20 minutes duration.

Scope and scale of the creative component: PhD

- Creative writing: a novel of 30,000-60,000 words or more; a substantial collection of short stories or poems
- Music: a selection of compositions totaling 40-60 minutes; 40-60 minutes of an original film score; score and libretto for an operetta of 40-60 minutes duration
- Visual or media art; a solo exhibition of 10-20 significant pieces or a lesser number of highly complex interactive or multi-media works; a film of 30-40 minutes duration or longer.