



Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Thesis Examination Policy

1. COMPLIANCE OBLIGATION SUPPORTED

[Admission and Enrolment \(Higher Degree by Research\) Rules](#)

2. PURPOSE

To outline the standards for Higher Degree by Research (HDR) theses submitted for examination.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

3.1. The University is to ensure that processes are in place to ensure that HDR theses:

- (a.) uphold the fundamental principles of quality and integrity in scholarly work;
- (b.) make a distinct contribution to the knowledge of a subject area;
- (c.) are coherent, integrated and original bodies of work; and
- (d.) are at the appropriate standard for the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) level of the qualification.

3.2. The HDR is granted only following an independent assessment of the quality of the research thesis. The assessment is to be undertaken by expert examiners with international standing in disciplines relevant to the thesis.

3.3. The final decision to recommend to Council the award of a HDR rests, per the [Register of Delegations](#), with the Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Excellence, subject to any appeal rights.

3.4. Conflicts of interest, particularly in relation to personal and professional relationships between students, supervisors and examiners must be identified, disclosed and managed in accordance with the University's [Conflict of Interest Procedures](#).

3.5. Theses, research data and primary materials are to be made available in accordance with the [Authorship, Peer Review and Publication of Research Outputs Policy](#) and the [Research Data and Primary Materials Policy](#).

3.6. The Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Excellence is to develop and maintain procedures to manage:

- (a.) the nomination of examiners;
- (b.) thesis requirements;
- (c.) thesis examination;
- (d.) the use of adjudicators in the examination process; and
- (e.) oral examinations.

4. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to all staff, students and HDR supervisors, examiners and adjudicators involved with HDR courses at Australian and global campuses.

5. DEFINITIONS

(Note: Commonly defined terms are located in the [Curtin Common Definitions](#). Any defined terms below are specific to this document)

Nil

6. SUPPORTING PROCEDURES

[Higher Degree by Research \(HDR\) Thesis Examination Procedures](#)

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS/LINKS

Internal

- [Authorship, Peer Review and Publication of Research Outputs Policy](#) and [Procedures](#)
- [Research Data and Primary Materials Policy](#)
- [Conflict of Interest Procedures](#)
- [Register of Delegations](#)

External

- [Higher Education Support Act 2003 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2015 \(Cth\)](#)
- [Education Services for Overseas Students 2000 Act \(Cth\)](#)

Policy Compliance Officer	Melinda Fitzgerald , Associate Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Research Office at Curtin
Policy Manager	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Approval Authority	Academic Board
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REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded	Date	Committee / Board / Executive Manager	Approval / Resolution Number	Key Changes & Notes
New	Approved	27/03/2020	Academic Board	AB 47/20	Attachment E to Item 14.4 Effective upon gazettal of Statute 12 (24/07/2020) and promulgation of the Admission and Enrolment (HDR) Rules (03/08/2020)