

APPENDIX 1:

THESIS EXAMINATION FORMAT GUIDELINES

An HDR thesis embodies the results of original research conducted by the candidate.

A thesis can be presented in a number of formats. Examples of different thesis formats are presented in these guidelines. Please note that these are examples and are not an exhaustive list of acceptable formats. Note, too, that there is no fixed number of chapters or number of publications for a thesis, the different formats provided here are just examples. Supervisors can advise as to what is acceptable within a given discipline.

Regardless of format **the thesis must be an integrated and coherent body of work**. It must have a substantive and cohesive theme and there must be an introduction and discussion/conclusion chapter(s).

Only work completed during supervised candidature for the qualification for which the thesis is submitted can be included in the thesis. That is, only work completed after enrolment in the specific degree program for which the thesis is being submitted. Candidates can cite their own earlier work in the submitted thesis, in the same manner as any other past research is reference.

All HDR candidates are **encouraged to publish** their research during candidature, as appropriate. Published work and/or work submitted for publication, may be included in the thesis that is submitted for examination. Inclusion of published or works submitted for publication works can take a number of forms – see examples 3-7 below.

A collection of disparate publications, no matter what their quality, is *not* appropriate as a thesis submitted for the award of a HDR degree – the publications must have a coherent theme, which is articulated in the introduction and discussion chapters of the submitted thesis.

Note that inclusion of peer-reviewed publications in a thesis does not guarantee that the thesis will be deemed suitable for the award of a qualification. The examination of a thesis differs from the peer-review of articles or other scholarly works. The award of the degree is based on the body of work and its contribution to the field rather than on individual components.

For further information regarding thesis formatting, including details of the required declarations, see the [UON Graduate Research Thesis Examination Guidelines](#). A list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) has been compiled to assist candidates with queries on the appropriate formatting of their thesis.

EXAMPLES OF THESIS FORMATS

Please note that these are examples of thesis formats but do not cover all possible options. Please discuss your intended thesis format with your supervisors to ensure it is in an appropriate format.

Example 1 – Traditional thesis

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction
- **Chapter 2:** Literature review
- **Chapter 3:** Methods
- **Chapter 4:** Results
- **Chapter 5:** Discussion
- **Chapter 6:** Conclusion
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers

Example 2 – Traditional thesis

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction/Literature review
- **Chapter 3:** Study 1 (introduction; method; results; discussion)
- **Chapter 4:** Study 2 (introduction; method; results; discussion)
- **Chapter 5:** Study 3 (introduction; method; results; discussion)
- **Chapter 6:** General discussion
- **Chapter 7:** Conclusion and Future Work
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers

Example 3 – Traditional thesis, including non-published papers (may be submitted)

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction/Literature review
- **Chapter 3:** Methods
- **Chapter 4:** Paper 1 & general discussion
- **Chapter 5:** Paper 2
- **Chapter 6:** Regular thesis chapter – results
- **Chapter 7:** Regular thesis chapter/general discussion
- **Chapter 8:** Conclusion
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers

Example 4 – Traditional thesis, including published and non-published papers

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction/Literature review
- **Chapter 2:** Methods
- **Chapter 3:** Paper 1 (PDF)
- **Chapter 4:** Regular thesis chapter
- **Chapter 5:** Paper 2 (PDF)
- **Chapter 6:** Regular thesis chapter, final preliminary study
- **Chapter 7:** General discussion
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers

Example 5 – Traditional thesis, including published and non-published papers

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction/Literature review
- **Chapter 2:** Methods
- **Chapter 3:** Paper 1 (PDF)
- **Chapter 4:** Regular thesis chapter
- **Chapter 5:** Regular thesis chapter
- **Chapter 6:** Regular thesis chapter
- **Chapter 7:** Regular thesis chapter
- **Chapter 8:** General discussion
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers

Example 6 – Thesis, with modified publications

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction/Literature review
- **Chapter 2:** Study 1 – based on paper 1 (PDF in appendix) but with introduction and discussion reduced and included in Chapters 1 and 7
- **Chapter 3:** Study 2 – based on paper 2 (PDF in appendix) but with introduction and discussion reduced and included in Chapters 1 and 7
- **Chapter 4:** Study 3 – based on paper 3 (PDF in appendix) but with introduction and discussion reduced and included in Chapters 1 and 7
- **Chapter 5:** Study 4 – based on paper 4 (PDF in appendix) but with introduction and discussion reduced and included in Chapters 1 and 7
- **Chapter 6:** Study 5 – based on paper 5 (PDF in appendix) but with introduction and discussion reduced and included in Chapters 1 and 7
- **Chapter 7:** General discussion
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers

Example 7 – Thesis “by publication”

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction/Literature review
- **Chapter 2:** Paper 1 (PDF)
- **Chapter 3:** Paper 2 (PDF)
- **Chapter 4:** Paper 3 (PDF)
- **Chapter 5:** Paper 4 (PDF)
- **Chapter 6:** Paper 5 (PDF)
- **Chapter 7:** General discussion
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers

Example 8 – Thesis including creative work

The work submitted for examination contains two components – the creative work and the exegesis. The two components are examined by the same examiners as an integrated whole.

The Creative Work

The creative work may be in the form of the exhibition, performance, literary work, film, CD or other approved format.

The creative work should be of doctoral standard and make an original contribution to knowledge in the relevant domain.

The Exegesis

The role of the exegesis is to present the research framework: the key questions, the theories, the disciplinary and wider contexts of the project. These things may not necessarily be evident to the examiners in the creative work itself. The exegesis serves to flesh these out, and to make them explicit. In the exegesis, the candidate critically examines their creative product in the light of contemporary theory and practice.

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction/Literature review
- **Chapter 2:** Discussion of the relationship of the form, content and material in the creative work to the purpose and function of the work. The relationship between ideas and practical considerations should be included.
- **Chapter 3:** Context of the creative work, including physical, artistic, historical, social and theoretical contexts.
- **Chapter 4:** Detailed discussion of the creative work in detail, closely analysing each aspect of the work in relation to the ideas and theories expressed in earlier chapters.
- **Chapter 5:** Discussion and Conclusion
- **Appendices** - May include CD, DVD or other material, also reviews & methods papers