

# Doctoral Degree (Research) Awards and Programs Schedule



For implementation for new and revised  
programs from 1/1/2014

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## 1.0 Introduction

As a higher education provider authorised to self-accredit, the University of Newcastle is responsible under the [Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 \(Cth\)](#) for ensuring that programs comply with the *Provider Course [Program] Accreditation Standards*. This Schedule provides the detailed principles and criteria that underpin the self-accreditation process for each Doctoral Degree (Research) award that may be delivered and conferred by the University of Newcastle.

This Schedule supports the implementation of the [Rules Governing Higher Degrees by Research \[000830\]](#). The Rules describe each type of higher degree by research qualification offered by the University and provide descriptions of authorisations for program management.

Within the Schedule the general program principles and structures have been tabulated and the approved programs that are offered under it will be listed in the Appendices - *Table A - Approved Programs covered by this Schedule*. The schedules replaced by this Schedule are listed in Appendices – *Table B –List of policies replaced by the Level 10 Doctoral Degree (Research) - Awards and Program Schedule*.

In the event of an inconsistency between subordinate policy documents and any Rule(s) or Schedule to the Rule(s), the Rule(s) made by Council prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

In the event of an inconsistency between an Academic Senate policy document and a Faculty policy, procedure or guideline, the policy document of Academic Senate prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

Extracts from [Australian Qualifications Framework \(Second Edition\)](#) have been included in this document with permission of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Council (27 February 2012).

## **2.0 Transition arrangements for implementation of this schedule**

This schedule supports the Academic Senate strategy of offering AQF-compliant programs as soon as possible. During the transition to the new schedule, the pre-2013 Awards and Programs Schedules will remain in the Policy Library with an annotation to indicate that their AQF-compliant status has not been confirmed. Between 2013 -2015 current program offerings will be reviewed and, following the approval from the Program and Course Approval Committee, transferred to *Table A* of this Schedule.

The introduction of the new schedules is expected to result in recommendations from Faculty Boards for new programs, major revisions and the transition arrangements and discontinuations of existing programs. These recommendations will be considered for approval by the Program and Course Approval Committee in accordance with the delegations held by that Committee.

Through this transition process the Assistant Deans (Teaching and Learning) will be responsible to the Program and Course Approval Committee for ensuring that continuing higher degree by research candidates will not be disadvantaged by a program revision or discontinuation and:

- a. appropriate teach-out or alternative arrangements have been made for current candidates; and
- b. consideration is given to international applicants in accordance with the Education Services for Overseas s (ESOS) legislation.

The Academic Registrar together with the Assistant Deans (Teaching and Learning) and the relevant Program Convenors will be responsible for ensuring that candidates and staff are notified of any relevant program changes. This notification may include recent graduates who may seek to upgrade their programs for AQF compliance.

Programs offering admission to candidates in 2015 will need to operate under an AQF compliant schedule no later than June 2014 to ensure AQF compliance from 2015. More information about this process is available in the [Guidelines for Faculties: Transition to AQF Compliance \[001010\]](#).

Non-AQF compliant programs will be automatically discontinued by last meeting of Academic Senate in 2014 unless they have been approved for continuation under the

[Non-AQF Compliant Programs and Courses Policy \[000985\].](#)

### 3.0 Relevant Definitions

This document is to be read in conjunction with the *Academic Senate's Policy Glossary* (in development).

### 4.0 Principles and Program Structures

#### Model: Doctoral Degree (Research)

This table describes an AQF level 10 program leading to the award of Doctoral Degree (Research) under the [Rules Governing Higher Degrees by Research \[000830\]](#) clause 8.2.

4.1	Volume of Learning	320 units completed in 4 years or equivalent.
4.2	Purpose	The degree of Doctoral Degree (Research) shall be an ungraded degree awarded for an original and significant contribution of merit achieved through a program of advanced study and research to any branch of learning of concern to the University.
4.3	Time requirements	The program shall be completed and submitted for examination in: a) not less than two years of full-time or equivalent part-time enrolment from admission to candidature, except with the permission of the Dean of Graduate Research. b) not more than four full-time years of enrolment or equivalent part-time enrolment from admission to candidature, except with the permission of the Dean of Graduate Research.
4.4	Principles and Structure	A candidate will be admitted to a program of advanced study and research approved and completed to the satisfaction of the Assistant Dean (Research Training) The research will primarily be embodied in a thesis; and other work as approved by the Assistant Dean (Research Training) may be submitted and considered in conjunction with the thesis.

4.5	Admission and Selection Criteria	<p>An applicant for admission to candidature for the degree shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) have satisfied all of the requirements for admission to the degree of Bachelor with Honours Class 1 or Honours Class II, Division 1 or any other degree approved for this purpose by the Assistant Dean (Research Training) or</li> <li>ii) have satisfied all of the requirements for admission to the degree of Bachelor in the University or any other degree approved for this purpose by the Assistant Dean (Research Training), and have achieved by subsequent work and study a standard recognised by the Assistant Dean (Research Training) as equivalent to at least Honours Class II, Division 1; or</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) in exceptional cases submit evidence of possessing such other academic or professional qualifications and/or experience as may be approved by the Assistant Dean (Research Training) on the recommendation of the relevant School; or</li> <li>iv) in the disciplines of education, medical physics, nursing, social work, social sciences and surgery have completed a minimum standard of professional experience as required by the Assistant Dean (Research Training) on the recommendation of the School; and</li> <li>v) the English language proficiency requirements as described in the English Language Policy.</li> </ul> <p>An applicant shall not be admitted to candidature unless adequate supervision and resources are available. Whether these are available shall be determined by the Assistant Dean (Research Training) after considering advice from the School.</p>	
4.6	Specialisation or major	<i>This section is intentionally blank.</i>	
4.7	Additional Requirements	May be prescribed by a School or Assistant Dean (Research Training).	
4.8	Graduate Learning Outcomes	<p>Graduate learning outcomes underpin the design of all academic programs offered by the University. Graduate learning outcomes will be developed for each program in accordance with Academic Senate policy and as prescribed by AQF including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) fundamental skills, such as literacy and numeracy appropriate to the Level 10 Doctoral Degree (Research), including English language proficiency;</li> <li>ii) people skills, such as working with others and communication skills;</li> <li>iii) thinking skills, such as learning to learn, decision making and problem solving; and</li> <li>iv) personal skills such as self-direction and acting with integrity.</li> </ul>	
	i	Knowledge	<p>Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will have a discipline specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) substantial body of knowledge at the frontier of a field of work or learning, including knowledge that constitutes an original contribution</li> <li>ii) substantial knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to the field of work or learning</li> </ul>

	ii	Skills	<p>Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will have discipline specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) cognitive skills to demonstrate expert understanding of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on that theory and practice</li> <li>ii) 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>iii) expert technical and creative skills applicable to the field of work or learning</li> <li>iv) communication skills to explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies and conclusions</li> <li>v) 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>vi) 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>
	iii	Application of Knowledge and Skills	<p>Graduates of a Doctoral Degree will demonstrate the discipline specific application of knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) with intellectual independence and skills</li> <li>ii) with initiative and creativity in new situations and/or for further learning</li> <li>iii) with full responsibility and accountability for personal outputs</li> <li>iv) to plan and execute original research; and</li> <li>v) with the ongoing capacity to generate new knowledge, including in the context of professional practice.</li> </ul>
4.9	Qualification for the Award		The candidate will be recommended for admission to the degree by the Dean of Graduate Research on the advice of the Research Training Sub-Committee.
4.10	Grading of the Award		The award will be conferred as an ordinary award.
4.11	Qualification Title		Doctor of Philosophy
4.12	Pathways - General		Our pathways for candidates have been developed in accordance with the <a href="#">AQF Qualifications Pathways Policy</a> . Approved entry pathways are described in Clause 4.5 Admission and Selection Criteria.
4.13	Pathways – Credit and		Credit is not consistent with the framework of a Higher Degree by Research and therefore cannot be granted.

	advanced standing	<p>A candidate for a Masters degree by research in the University may be permitted to transfer candidature to the degree subject to approval from the supervisor, School and Assistant Dean (Research Training).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) A research Masters degree candidate seeking to transfer to the degree will need to satisfy the requirements of the confirmation process at the Doctoral Degree (Research) level.</li> <li>ii) Except with the permission of Assistant Dean (Research Training), candidates who transfer from a Masters degree shall be deemed to have commenced candidature from the time of admission to the Masters degree.</li> </ul>
4.14	Pathways – recognition of prior learning (RPL)	<p>For Research degrees RPL is a process that assesses the individual's formal, non-formal and informal learning to determine the extent to which that individual has achieved the required learning outcomes competency outcomes or standards for entry to a qualification.</p> <p>For Research degrees candidates are assessed on research experience: i.e. demonstrated research experience that is equivalent to the standard of Honours Class II, Division 1 such as professional work experience in a research environment, published papers in refereed journals, conference papers or equivalent creative material.</p> <p>RPL will not be recognised for credit or advanced standing.</p>
4.15	Pathways – combined degree	<p>A candidate for the degree shall not be concurrently enrolled as a candidate for any other degree or award whether of this or another tertiary institution, except with the permission of the Assistant Dean (Research Training) and the Dean of Graduate Research. Candidates in a Jointly Awarded Doctoral Degree or Dual Award Doctoral Degree program will be concurrently enrolled at the partner institution and the University of Newcastle.</p>
4.16	Pathways – nested or integrated qualifications	<p>Nested or integrated qualifications are not consistent with the framework of a Masters Degree (Research).</p>
4.17	Pathways – Exit	<p>There is no exit award from a Doctor of Philosophy.</p>
4.18	Pathways - Graduate	<p>The Doctor of Philosophy is the peak award granted by Academic Senate.</p>
4.19	Professional Accreditation	<p><i>This section is intentionally blank.</i></p>

4.20	Additional Information	<p><b>Submission of Thesis for Examination</b></p> <p>The candidate shall submit one copy of the thesis in accordance with the provisions of the <a href="#">Rules Governing Higher Degrees by Research [000830]</a> and the Thesis Preparation and Submission Guidelines, and in the case of a Jointly Awarded Doctoral Degree Program, the Memorandum of Agreement.</p> <p><b>Examination of Thesis</b></p> <p>The Dean of Graduate Research shall appoint two examiners and at least one reserve, none of whom shall normally be a member of the staff of the University.</p>
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## 5.0 Notes

N/A

## 6.0 Relaxing Provision

To provide for exceptional circumstances arising in any particular case, the President of Academic Senate, on the recommendation of the relevant Deputy Vice-Chancellor or relevant Pro Vice-Chancellor may relax any provision of this Schedule.

## 7.0 Reporting

The President of the Academic Senate will report all applications of the relaxing provision of this Schedule to the Academic Senate.

## 8.0 Essential Supporting Documents

[University of Newcastle Act 1989 \(NSW\)](#)  
[Interim Constitution of the Academic Senate](#)  
[Rules Governing Higher Degrees by Research \[000830\]](#)  
[Rule Governing Awards and Programs \[000958\]](#)  
[Rules Governing Admission and Enrolment \[000966\]](#)  
[Rules Governing Graduation \[000593\]](#)  
[Guidelines for Faculties – Transition to AQF Compliance \(new and continuing programs\) \[001010\]](#)

## 9.0 Related Documents

[AQF \(Second Edition\)](#) and its addenda  
 HE Standards

[Masters Degree \(Research\) Awards and Programs Schedule \[001032\]](#)

Courses and Assessment Policy Suite

**Key Words**

program, award, honours, doctoral, research

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## Appendices

### TABLE A – AQF Compliant Programs

This table will be populated once the schedule is approved and PCAC has confirmed AQF compliance.

Program No	Program Name	Approval details	Nested programs	Exit programs	Comments
<i>Example</i>	<i>Master of Education</i>	<i>XX/XX/XX PCAC</i>	<i>BTeach</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>Approved combined degree offered BTeach/MEd for admission with 40 units advanced standing to MEd (Approved PCAC XX/XX/XX).</i>

### Table B- List of Schedules replaced by the Level 10 Doctoral Degree (Coursework) Schedule

Policy No	Schedule Name	Element/ Whole	Effective Date	Comments
000091	Doctor of Philosophy Schedule	Whole		