

<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Vice-President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)		
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training)		
<b>Superseded Documents</b>	Conditions for Award Handbook Entries: Doctor of Science (DSc) Doctor of Letters (DLitt) Doctor of Laws (LLD) Doctor of Music (DMus) Doctor of Engineering (DEng) Doctor of Economics (DEc) Doctor of Business (DBus)		
<b>Review</b>	March 2017		
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<b>Associated Documents</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Authorisation</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
1.0	Authorised by the President and Vice-Chancellor	18 March 2014	17 March 2014

## 1. Preamble

Higher Doctorates are the highest academic award conferred by the University. They are awarded on the basis of published work and recognise the graduate as a distinguished authority in an area of research.

### 1.1 Purpose

This policy specifies the requirements for admission, examination and award of a higher doctorate. It must be read in association with the information in the UNSW Handbook and on the Graduate Research School website.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to all higher doctorate candidates.

## 3. Definitions

**Published Work.** Discipline appropriate research outputs that have been publically available for criticism.

**Faculty Higher Degree Committee.** The relevant Faculty Committee responsible for the admission and nomination of examiners for higher doctorates. Also referred to as "the Committee".

## 4. Policy Statement

### 4.1 Awards

- 4.1.1 Higher doctorates may be granted for independent and original research that constitutes a substantial and distinguished contribution to knowledge in a field.
- 4.1.2 The degree shall be awarded on the basis of a body of work of which the whole or a substantial part has been published or accepted for publication.
- 4.1.3 Higher doctorates and details on the fields of research that have been approved are given in the *UNSW Handbook*.

## 4.2 Eligibility

4.2.1 A candidate for the degree shall be either:

- (i) a graduate of the University of New South Wales of at least ten years standing; or
- (ii) a graduate of another university of at least ten years standing who has been a fulltime member of the academic staff of the University of New South Wales and has been engaged in advanced study and research in the University for a period of not less than four years.

## 4.3 Application

4.3.1 A candidate for the degree shall forward to the Dean of Graduate Research an application form using the application process published on the GRS website.

4.3.2 The application for admission will be considered by the relevant Faculty Higher Degree Committee.

4.3.3 Admission shall be approved if it is determined that the case is *prima facie* worthy of examination on the basis that the candidate is a distinguished authority in a discipline.

4.3.4 If admission is approved:

- (i) the candidate shall be asked to submit three copies of the published work for examination, including a declaration indicating which sections of the work have been submitted previously for a degree or other award in any university; and
- (ii) the candidate shall also be asked to submit three copies of a short discourse describing the research activities embodied in the submission. The discourse shall make clear the extent of originality and the candidate's part in any collaborative work.
- (iii) the Committee will appoint an examination committee to nominate two examiners and one reserve examiner who are deemed to be free of perceived or actual conflict of interest.

4.3.5 If admission is not approved the applicant will be informed in writing.

## 4.4 Examination

4.4.1 The Committee is responsible for approval of the examiners recommended by the examination committee.

4.4.2 The discourse and publications will be sent to the two approved external examiners.

4.4.3 Each examiner must submit to the University a concise written report on the submitted work and must address whether the:

- (i) work establishes the candidate as a distinguished authority in the area of research, commanding worldwide attention, and
- (ii) candidate has made a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge and understanding in the field.

**4.4.4** The Committee shall, after consideration of the examiners' reports, recommend to the Higher Degree Research Committee whether or not the candidate be awarded the degree.

**4.4.5** The Higher Degree Research Committee shall, after consideration of the Committee's recommendation and the examiners' reports, recommend to the Academic Board whether or not the candidate be awarded the degree.

**4.4.6** In the case of a determination not to award the degree, the candidate must be given written notification of the reasons for this determination.

#### **4.5 Fees**

A candidate must pay such fees as determined by the Vice-Chancellor and specified in the relevant fees policy.

### **5. Legal & Policy Framework**

The legislative framework for this policy includes the *University of New South Wales Act 1989* (NSW).

### **6. Implementation**

#### **6.1 Roles & Responsibilities**

Implementation of this policy will be the responsibility of the Dean of Graduate Research.

#### **6.2 Support & Advice**

For general Policy information and assistance contact:

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### **7. Review**

This policy is due for review three years from its date of effect.

### **8. Acknowledgements**

In development of this revised policy, benchmarking was conducted on relevant Policy on Higher Doctorates available from The University of Western Australia, University of Queensland and the University of Sydney.

## Appendix A: History

Version	Authorised by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections modified
1.0	President and Vice-Chancellor	18 March 2014	17 March 2014	New Policy

Archived Document