



Version	Approved by	Approval date	Effective date	Next review
2.0	President and Vice-Chancellor	17 October 2017	17 October 2017	October 2020
Policy Statement				
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 Research Division website.			
Scope	This policy applies to all higher doctorate candidates.			
Policy Provisions				

1. Introduction

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.

2. Awards

- 2.1. Higher doctorates may be granted for independent and original research that constitutes a substantial and distinguished contribution to knowledge in a field.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. Higher doctorates and details on the fields of research that have been approved are given in the *UNSW Handbook*.

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. 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 full-time 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. Application

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. The application for admission will be considered by the relevant Faculty Higher Degree Committee (the Committee).
- 4.3. The Committee may appoint an ad hoc committee, including subject matter experts, to assist in making its decision.
- 4.4. 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.

4.5. If admission is approved:

- i) the candidate shall be asked to submit electronic 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 an electronic copy 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 a list of potential reserve examiners who are deemed to be free of perceived or actual conflict of interest.

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

5. Examination

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

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

5.3. 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.

5.4. 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.

5.5. 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.

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

6. Fees

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

7. 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.

Accountabilities				
Responsible Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research			
Contact Officer	Executive Officer - Office of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research Training)			
Supporting Information				
Legislative Compliance	This Policy supports the University's compliance with the following legislation: <i>University of New South Wales Act 1989 (NSW)</i>			
Supporting Documents	Nil			
Related Documents				
Superseded Documents	Conditions for the Award of Higher Doctorates Policy, version 1.0			
File Number	2014/09001			
Definitions and Acronyms				
Published Work.	Discipline appropriate research outputs that have been publically available for criticism.			
Faculty Higher Degree Committee	The relevant Faculty Committee responsible for admission of applicants and the nomination of examiners for higher doctorates. Also referred to as "the Committee".			
Revision History				
Version	Approved by	Approval date	Effective date	Sections modified
Version 1.0 of this Policy superseded the 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).				
1.0	Authorised by the President and Vice-Chancellor	18 March 2014	17 March 2014	New Policy
2.0	President and Vice-Chancellor	17 October 2017	17 October 2017	Full review