Policy Statement

Purpose
This policy specifies the requirements for qualifications, progression, examination and award of an MPhil. It must be read in association with the policy and procedures concerning higher degree research candidatures.

Scope
This policy applies to all MPhil candidates.

Policy Provisions

1. Introduction

The degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) may be awarded to a candidate who completes a piece of research that demonstrates an original contribution in their field of study and who has satisfied the advanced coursework requirements of the degree. The successful completion of the degree provides a potential pathway to the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

2. Qualifications, Admission and Enrolment

Only students enrolled in accordance with the University's policy and procedures concerning research candidates will be eligible to proceed to the award of an MPhil. These include the Admissions Policy, Admission to Higher Degree Research Programs Procedure and Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy.

2.1. All candidates must be enrolled in a School or an approved unit within the Faculty authorised to enrol research students and under the control of the Faculty Dean or equivalent.

2.2. All candidates must undertake the research at a UNSW affiliated location such as a UNSW campus, teaching hospital, or other research facility of the University as listed on the Research website.

3. Candidature and Progression

The progress of an MPhil student must be managed in accordance with the University's Variation of Candidature Procedure and Progress Review and Confirmation of Research Candidatures Procedure.

3.1. Between 18 and 24 Units of Credit of advanced coursework must be passed at first attempt within the first year of enrolment at a level prescribed by the Higher Degree Research Committee or equivalent (hereinafter called the Committee).

3.2. Approval for extension to candidatures beyond the maximum time of two years full-time equivalent must be obtained via the Committee.

4. Thesis Content

For an award of an MPhil, the thesis must embody the results of an original investigation.

4.1. The research described must have been completed during the period of enrolment for the degree.

4.2. The thesis must be written in English.

4.3. The writing must have a satisfactory standard of expression and presentation.

4.4. The thesis must consist of an account of the candidate's own research. All research performed conjointly with other persons must be fully acknowledged and include a statement of the candidate's contribution to the conjoint research. Any editorial assistance in the preparation of the thesis must also be acknowledged.
5. Examination and Award

The MPhil degree is awarded after independent assessment of the thesis and the candidate. The candidate must satisfy the examiners in an oral examination on the subject of the thesis and on relevant matters in the field or fields to which the subject belongs.

5.1. Theses shall be submitted in accordance with the Thesis Examination Procedure.

5.2. A candidate shall present a thesis for examination embodying the results of the investigation no earlier than one and a half years full-time equivalent and no later than two years full-time equivalent from the first term of enrolment.

5.3. The candidate must not submit any work or material that has previously been submitted for a university degree or other similar award as the main content of the thesis.

5.4. The thesis must be examined by two examiners, one of whom is internal to UNSW and the other external to UNSW. Each are expected to provide a written report on the merits of the thesis and provide questions for use in an oral examination. Examiners must meet the requirements set out for selection of examiners in the Thesis Examination Procedure.

5.5. An Examination panel will carry out the oral examination as detailed in the Thesis Examination Procedure. At a minimum, the panel will consist of the examiner who is internal to UNSW and a nominated Chair.

5.6. On completion of the oral examination, the Chair of the Panel must submit to the University a written report and recommendation, endorsed by the Oral Examiner to the Dean of Graduate Research. The report will include one of the following final recommendations:

   a) **Award** – award the degree.

   b) **Minor Corrections** – award the degree after specified minor corrections to the thesis have been made to the satisfaction of the Chair of the Examination Panel and by a specified date.

   c) **Further Work** – award the degree subject to revising part or parts of the thesis to the satisfaction of the Chair of the Examination Panel and by a specified date.

   d) **Revise and re-examine** – permit the candidate to revise the thesis and resubmit it for examination on one further occasion only.

   e) **Non-Award** – the thesis does not merit the award of the degree and does not demonstrate sufficient merit to warrant resubmission.

5.7. In the case of a decision that the revised thesis should be the subject of re-examination as specified under 5.6 (d), the examiners who recommended re-examination should be appointed to re-examine the thesis. A thesis cannot be re-examined more than once and the examiner cannot recommend option 5.6 (d) for a re-examined thesis.

5.8. In the case of a recommendation not to award the degree as specified under 5.6 (e), the candidate must be given written notification of the reasons for this recommendation, and must be provided with the opportunity to make a written submission to the Higher Degree Committee.

6. Fees

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

Responsible Officer: Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research

Contact Officer: Dean of Graduate Research

Supporting Information

Legislative Compliance: This Policy supports the University’s compliance with the following legislation:
- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (Cth)
- Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015

Supporting Documents: Nil

Related Documents:
- Register of Delegations
- Admissions Policy
- Admission to Higher Degree Research Programs Procedure
- Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy
- Variation of Candidature Procedure
- Progress Review and Confirmation of Research Candidature Procedure
- Thesis Examination Procedures

Superseded Documents: Conditions for Award of Master of Philosophy Policy, version 2.1

File Number: 2012/01617

Definitions and Acronyms

MPhil: Master of Philosophy

PGC: Postgraduate Research Coordinator

Revision History

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<td>27 March 2012</td>
<td>1 April 2012</td>
<td>Transferred to Policy template, change at 4.4.3, other minor revisions</td>
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<td>20 December 2016</td>
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<td>19 October 2017</td>
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<td>5 November 2018</td>
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