

Additional Information for Examiners when a Candidate is Submitting a Dissertation and Creative Work for the PhD Degree



In a number of Faculties at The University of Melbourne candidates for the PhD degree are permitted to submit both a dissertation and creative work in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree. A thesis which includes both a dissertation and creative work will be approximately 80,000 words in length. The length of the dissertation will normally be at least 40,000 words.

For the PhD (composition), the folio will constitute 90-120 minutes of music and is weighted at 70%. The accompanying dissertation will be 20-25,000 words and weighted at 30%. A PhD (Music Performance) will usually be 20-25,000 words with the length of the folio being equivalent to the three full recitals.

Where the creative work is not presented with the dissertation the title page shall include the statement *Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (by creative work and dissertation)*. Where the creative work is presented with the dissertation the title page shall include the statement *Submitted in total fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (by creative work and dissertation)*.

The creative work may take the form of a performance, exhibition, writing (poetry, fiction, script or other written literary forms), design, film, video, multimedia or other New Media technologies and modes of presentation. The creative work must be comprehensively documented and either the documentation or the creative work itself submitted with the dissertation.

Where the creative work component includes a performance or exhibition of visual art works, the examiners will normally travel to the site of the performance or exhibition. Either two or three examiners will be appointed and the Chair of Examiners will also attend the performance or exhibition.

Each examiner will be given the candidate's dissertation within six months from the time of the viewing. Any additional documentation, e.g. video of the performance, will be supplied to the examiners with the dissertation. The Chair of Examiners will provide the examiners with an extended abstract of 1,000-3,000 words one week prior to the viewing, unless the dissertation is submitted at or around the same time as the viewing.

As far as possible, the same external examiners will examine both the creative work and the dissertation and the candidate must pass both sections for the degree to be awarded. Information specific to the examination of dissertations is provided in a separate document, "Information for Examiners of PhD Theses", which also provides information on rules governing communication between examiners and other parties and other general information. Information particular to the examination of the creative work is provided below.

Relationship between Dissertation and Creative Work

Examiners should note that the dissertation and the creative work should be considered as complementary, mutually reinforcing parts of a single project. The candidate may argue, however, that the relationship between the two parts contributes to the originality and creativity of the whole.

The dissertation should not simply describe the creative work and how it was undertaken. While it can include information on the materials and methodology used and elucidate the creative work and

place it in an artistic, intellectual and/or cultural context, the dissertation must answer to the requirement of every PhD research thesis that it makes an original contribution to knowledge (see Information for Examiners of PhD Theses).

Standard of examination of Creative Work

In order to pass the examination, and thus qualify as part of the basis for the award of the PhD degree, the creative work must have the following attributes:

- the creative work demonstrates a professional level of familiarity with and understanding of contemporary work in the field;
- the creative work demonstrates a sufficiently comprehensive investigation of the artistic form and creative content;
- the methods and techniques applied in the execution of the work are appropriate to the subject matter and are original and/or aesthetically effective;
- the creative work is presented in a sufficiently professional manner;
- the creative work demonstrates a sufficiently high standard of literary, visual, digital, musical or performance literacy and quality;
- the research question/s has/have been identified and tested through the creative work;
- the documentation of the work, (including catalogue/program material where appropriate) is sufficiently thorough and is of a standard that will ensure the work provides a reference for subsequent researchers;
- the creative work and the dissertation together constitute a substantive original contribution to knowledge in the subject area with which it deals;
- the interface between the creative work and the dissertation is appropriate and substantiated.

Examiners are advised that they may ask for creative works to be represented or re-documented if they do not meet the above criteria.

Last modified 25 July 2016