

## **Additional Information for Examiners when a Candidate is Submitting a Dissertation and Creative Work for an MPhil or Masters by Research Degree**



In a number of Faculties at The University of Melbourne candidates for a Master of Philosophy or Masters by Research 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 normally be equivalent to 40,000 words. The length of the written component will be at least 25% of the integrated thesis, approximately 10,000 words.

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 Master of Philosophy or Masters by Research (by creative work and dissertation)*. Where the creative work is presented together with the dissertation the title page shall include the statement *Submitted in total fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Master of Philosophy or Masters by Research (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 500-1,500 words one week prior to the viewing, unless the dissertation is submitted 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 MPhil & Masters by Research Candidates", 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 MPhil and Masters by Research thesis that it makes an independent contribution to existing scholarship in the area of research (see Information for Examiners of MPhil & Masters by Research Candidates).

### **Standard of examination of Creative Work**

In order to pass the examination, and thus qualify as part of the basis for the award of an MPhil or Masters by Research 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.

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