

## **Additional Information for Examiners where a candidate is submitting for a PhD in Music Composition**



In the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music at the University of Melbourne, candidates for the PhD degree in Music Composition submit two documents to fulfil the requirements of the degree, a dissertation and a folio of creative work (original compositions).

In such cases the dissertation shall be approximately 40,000 words in length and shall include on the title page the statement "Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (by creative work and dissertation)."

The creative work is a collection of musical pieces that may take on a variety of forms: e.g., written musical scores; audio, film, video; interactive software systems, or other forms of digital encoding. The works may be further illustrated by video or other recorded performances for the Examiners' convenience. The creative work must be submitted in a folio with numbered pages, and any additional media included. The works must be comprehensively documented with full instructions for performance or other realisation of the works. The folio shall include a table of contents and on the title page the statement "Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (by creative work and dissertation)."

### **Relationship between dissertation and creative work**

Examiners should note that the dissertation may **either**

- Address an approved research topic independent of the creative work, **or**
- Address the creative work itself, forming with the folio a complementary, mutually reinforcing part of a single project.

In the latter case, the dissertation should not simply describe the creative work and how it was undertaken. While it will often include information on the materials and techniques 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).

### **Examination procedure**

Where a candidate submits creative work and a complementary dissertation, a Chairperson and two examiners will be appointed who will examine the whole submission.

Alternatively, where a candidate submits creative work and an independent dissertation, a Chairperson and four examiners may be appointed, two for the creative work and two for the dissertation. The candidate must satisfy examiners of both components.

## Standard of examination

In order to pass the examination and thus qualify as the basis of 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.
- **If the dissertation is complementary to the creative work** there is an appropriate and substantial interface between the creative work and the dissertation, and the dissertation makes an original contribution to knowledge; OR
- **If the dissertation is independent of the creative work** the dissertation is a careful, rigorous and sustained piece of original work, demonstrating authority in the chosen field, a thorough grasp of methodological techniques, and an ability to communicate research findings effectively in the professional arena.

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 26 July 2016*