



## Higher Doctorates Policy

### Policy UP 11/8 (F34960)

Approver	Academic Board
Sponsor	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Owner	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training)
Secretary	Academic Secretary
Policy Type	Academic
Policy Category	Academic Governance

## 1 Award Requirements

- 1.1 A higher doctorate is awarded in recognition of a body of work that has made a distinguished and original contribution in a particular field of research.
- 1.2 As the highest award granted by the University, an applicant's body of work is expected to be of surpassing quality.
- 1.3 An applicant must demonstrate the highest level of integrity, standing and reputation.
- 1.4 The body of work, taken as a whole, must:
  - (a) demonstrate excellence in scholarship,
  - (b) be across an extended period, and
  - (c) have advanced research in the field.
- 1.5 Further considerations include:
  - (a) Development and application of novel techniques;
  - (b) Original synthesis of contemporary scholarship; and
  - (c) Alignment of the applicant and the application with University values.
- 1.6 The body of work is expected to conform to disciplinary norms as determined by the awarding School, and, in large part, to represent the published, original work of the applicant.
- 1.7 A candidate for the award is generally a graduate of at least ten years standing who –
  - (a) has a degree of this University; or
  - (b) has carried out at least five years' work substantially within this University
- 1.8 Candidates for the Doctor of Medical Science must –
  - (a) have the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery or Doctor of Medicine;
  - (b) and at least six years' clinical training and experience.
- 1.9 Candidates for the Doctor of Dental Science must have the degree of Bachelor of Dental Science or equivalent.

## 2 Application

- 2.1 In considering an application, the Higher Doctorate Committee (the Committee) has absolute discretion to approve or decline.
- 2.2 An applicant commences an application by submission of their prima facie case for the award of the higher doctorate to a relevant school.
- 2.3 The role of the School is to pre-screen and endorse applications that merit full review by the UWA Higher Doctorates Committee (The Committee). The School may only endorse those applications that have a reasonable prospect of approval to proceed to thesis submission by the Committee.
- 2.3. The role of the Higher Doctorates Committee is to review and approve the applicant, and their application, to proceed to submission of the thesis. While applications cannot proceed without School endorsement, the final authority to approve submission rests exclusively with the Committee.

- 2.4 Applicants are expected to be of the highest reputation, integrity and standing in their field. The School is required to perform a reputational check on the applicant as they appear in the public domain. Where any real or perceived risks to institutional reputation are posed, the School must not endorse the application.
- 2.5 If the Committee approves the application, the applicant prepares a thesis which synthesises their research output for examination for the award of a higher doctorate.
- 2.6 The Graduate Research School administers the Higher Doctorates committee and process post-School endorsement.

### **3 Awards**

- 3.1 The higher doctorates which may be awarded are:
  - a. **Doctor of Commerce (DCom) (40910)**: For distinguished research in the fields of commerce or business.
  - b. **Doctor of Economics (DEc) (40920)**: For distinguished research in the field of economics.
  - c. **Doctor of Laws (LLD) (20920)**: For distinguished research in the field of law.
  - d. **Doctor of Letters (DLitt) (10910)**: For distinguished research in the fields of humanities or social sciences.
  - e. **Doctor of Fine Arts (25930)**: For distinguished original work, of national or international recognition, which has been published, performed, displayed or curated.
  - f. **Doctor of Music (DMus) (10920)**: For distinguished original work, of national or international recognition, which has been published, performed or recorded.
  - g. **Doctor of Science (DSc) (50910)**: For distinguished and novel research in a branch of science.
  - h. **Doctor of Medical Science (DMedSc) (90920)**: For distinguished research in a branch of medicine.
  - i. **Doctor of Dental Science (DDSc) (80910)**: For distinguished and novel research in the field of dentistry.

### **4 Thesis examination**

- 4.1 The thesis requires endorsement by the School before it is considered by the Committee Chair.
- 4.2. A thesis may not proceed to final Committee approval without the endorsement of the Committee Chair.
- 4.2 The Committee considers the Chair's endorsement and, if satisfied, approves the thesis to proceed to examination for the award of a higher doctorate.
- 4.3 A candidate must not, without the permission of the Committee, submit for a higher doctorate any work for which a degree has already been awarded by any university.

### **5 Appointment of examiners**

- 5.1 An approved thesis is sent for examination by three appointees, all of whom must be external to the University. At least two examiners must be external to the State of Western Australia and at least one is required to be international.

### **6 Committee Determination**

- 6.1 The Chair of the Committee receives the examiner reports and make a preliminary recommendation to the Committee.
- 6.2 The Higher Doctorates Committee makes a final determination regarding the award of a Higher Doctorate, in consideration of the examiner reports and the recommendation of the Committee Chair. If the Committee declines to award the higher doctorate, the matter concludes. Resubmissions are not accepted.