



Version	Approved by	Approval date	Effective date	Next review
3.0	President and Vice-Chancellor	27 November 2019	1 January 2020	January 2023
<b>Policy Statement</b>				
<b>Purpose</b>	This policy specifies the requirements for qualifications, progression, examination and award of a Master of Philosophy. It must be read in association with the policy and procedures concerning higher degree research candidatures.			
<b>Scope</b>	This policy applies to all Master of Philosophy (MPhil) candidates.			
<b>Policy Provisions</b>				

## 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

Candidates must be enrolled in accordance with the University's policy and procedures concerning higher degree research. These include the *Admissions Policy*, *Admission to Higher Degree Research Programs Procedure* and *Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy and Procedure*.

- 2.1. All candidates must be enrolled in a School or an approved unit within the Faculty authorised to enrol research candidates.
- 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.

## 3. Candidature and Progression

The progress of an MPhil candidate must be managed in accordance with the University's *Variation of Candidature Procedure*, and *Research 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 Committee or equivalent.
- 3.2. Approval for extension to candidatures beyond the maximum time of two years full-time equivalent must be obtained via the Higher Degree Committee or equivalent.

## 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 on the subject of the thesis and on relevant matters in the field/s to which the subject belongs.

- 5.1. Candidates who commenced prior to 1 January 2020 must refer to the *Thesis Examination Procedure* for the conditions of examination.
- 5.2. Candidates who commenced from 1 January 2020 must have an oral examination, the requirements of which are outlined in Sections 5.3 – 5.10 and the *Oral Examination Procedure*.
- 5.3. Theses shall be submitted in accordance with the *Thesis Examination Procedure*.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. 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.
- 5.6. The examination is coordinated by an Examination Panel, chaired by a senior academic. The thesis must be examined by two examiners. Each examiner provides a written report on the merits of the thesis and a list of questions for use in an oral examination.
- 5.7. An oral examination will be held once written reports have been received and will be conducted by the Examination Panel.
- 5.8. On completion of the oral examination, the Chair of the Examination Panel (the Chair) must submit to the Dean of Graduate Research a written report and recommendation. The report will include one of the following 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 and the Dean of Graduate Research, 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 and the Dean of Graduate Research, 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, by a specified date.
  - e) **Non-Award** - the thesis does not merit the award of the degree and does not demonstrate sufficient merit to warrant resubmission.
- 5.9. In the case of a decision that the revised thesis should be the subject of re-examination as specified under 5.8 (d), the examiners who recommended re-examination should be appointed to re-examine the thesis. Examiners cannot recommend option 5.8 (d) for a re-examined thesis.
- 5.10. In the case of a recommendation not to award the degree as specified under 5.8 (e), the candidate has the right to appeal to the UNSW Student Integrity Unit. This appeal may only be lodged on grounds of procedural fairness.

## 6. Fees

A candidate must pay such fees as determined by the Vice-Chancellor and specified in the [relevant fees policy](#).

Accountabilities				
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research			
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Dean of Graduate Research			
Supporting Information				
<b>Legislative Compliance</b>	This Policy supports the University's compliance with the following legislation: <i>Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Cth)</i> Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015 Australian Qualifications Framework 2011			
<b>Supporting Documents</b>	<a href="#">Higher Degree Research Supervision Procedure</a> <a href="#">Admission to Higher Degree Research Programs Procedure</a> <a href="#">Variation of Candidature Procedure</a> <a href="#">Research Progress Review and Confirmation of Research Candidatures Procedure</a> <a href="#">Thesis Examination Procedure</a> <a href="#">Oral Examination Procedure</a> <a href="#">Student Fee Procedure</a>			
<b>Related Documents</b>	<a href="#">Register of Delegations</a> <a href="#">Admissions Policy</a> <a href="#">Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy</a> <a href="#">Student Fee Policy</a>			
<b>Superseded Documents</b>	Conditions for Award of Master of Philosophy Policy, v2.1			
<b>File Number</b>	2012/01617			
Definitions and Acronyms				
<b>MPhil</b>	Master of Philosophy			
<b>HDR</b>	Higher Degree Research			
Revision History				
Version	Approved by	Approval date	Effective date	Sections modified
This Policy replaced the <i>Conditions for Award of Degrees: Master of Philosophy (MPhil)</i> , published in the Handbook with no version control.				
1.0	Vice-Chancellor	27 March 2012	1 April 2012	Transferred to Policy template, change at 4.4.3, other minor revisions
1.1	Administrative update by the Director of Governance	20 December 2016	20 December 2016	Administrative update
2.0	President and Vice-Chancellor	19 October 2017	19 October 2017	Full review
2.1	President and Vice-Chancellor	5 November 2018	1 January 2019	Minor amendment to accommodate 3+ academic calendar
3.0	President and Vice-Chancellor	27 November 2019	1 January 2020	Full review as a result of MPhil Academic Program Review in 2018