



Version	Approved by	Approval date	Effective date
1.1	Director of Governance	15 August 2023	15 August 2023
Policy Statement			
Purpose	This policy specifies the requirements for qualifications, progression, examination and award of a Master by Research. It must be read in association with the policy and procedures concerning research candidatures.		
Scope	This policy applies to all Master by Research candidates.		
Policy Provisions			

1. Introduction

The degree of Master by Research (MRes) may be awarded to a candidate who completes a piece of research that demonstrates an original contribution to knowledge in their field of study.

2. Qualifications, Admissions 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](#), [Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy](#) and [Higher Degree Research Supervision Procedure](#).

- 2.1. All candidates must be enrolled in a School or an approved unit within the Faculty authorised to enrol research candidates under the control of the Faculty Dean or equivalent.
- 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 as listed on the Research website.

3. Candidature and Progression

The progress of a Master by Research 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. Inclusion of any coursework within the Master by Research must be approved by the Faculty Higher Degree Committee (the Committee) and must comply with the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) related to research degree definitions.
- 3.2. Approval for extension to candidatures beyond the maximum time for two years full-time equivalent must be obtained via the Committee.

4. Thesis Content

For an award of Master by Research, 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 jointly 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

Theses shall be submitted and examined in accordance with the [Thesis Examination Procedure](#).

- 5.1. Candidates who commenced from 1 January 2023 must have an oral examination. Candidates who commenced in previous years may opt in for an oral examination.
- 5.2. 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.
- 5.3. Where the research has a substantial studio/production/exhibition or other creative component, the length of the written thesis may be proportionally reduced from the appropriate length of the thesis in the discipline.
- 5.4. 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.
- 5.5. The thesis must be examined by two external examiners. Examiners are expected to be fair, independent and expert. Examiners must not have a conflict of interest and not have been an employee of the University within the past five years.
- 5.6. Each examiner must submit to the University a concise written report on the thesis and must recommend one of the following:
 - a) **Award** – the thesis merits the award of the degree
 - b) **Minor Corrections** – the thesis merits the award of the degree subject to minor corrections as listed being made to the satisfaction of the Dean of Graduate Research.
 - c) **Further Work** - the thesis requires further work on matters detailed in the report to the satisfaction of the Dean of Graduate Research.
 - d) **Revise and Re-examine** - the thesis in its present form does not merit the award of the degree and further work as described in the report is required. The revised thesis should be subject to re-examination.
 - e) **Non-Award** - the thesis does not merit the award of the degree and does not demonstrate sufficient merit to warrant resubmission.
- 5.7. For examinations where recommendations of 5.5 (a) and (b) only are received, written reports will be released to the Postgraduate Research Coordinator (PGC), or Head of School where the PGC is the supervisor, who must consider them and advise the Dean of Graduate Research which of the recommendations specified in 5.5 should be implemented.
- 5.8. For all examinations including recommendations 5.5 (c), (d) or (e), the Committee must consider the examiners' recommendations and written reports and advise the Dean of Graduate Research which of the recommendations specified in 5.5 should be implemented.
- 5.9. In the case of a decision that the revised thesis should be the subject of re-examination as specified under 5.5 (d), the examiners who recommended re-examination must be appointed to re-examine the thesis. The examiner may not recommend option (d) for a re-examined thesis.
- 5.10. In the case of a recommendation not to award the degree as specified under 5.5 (e), the candidate must be given written notification of the reasons for this recommendation. The candidate has a right to appeal the decision on the basis of procedural fairness. The appeal process is outlined in the [Student Complaint Procedure](#).

6. Fees

A candidate must pay such fees as determined by the Vice-Chancellor.

Accountabilities				
Responsible Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Enterprise			
Contact Officer	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training and Entrepreneurship) and Dean of Graduate Research			
Supporting Information				
Legislative Compliance	This Policy supports the University's compliance with the following legislation: Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (Cth) Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015 (Cth) Australian Qualifications Framework (Cth)			
Supporting Documents	Nil			
Related Documents	Register of Delegations Admissions Policy Admission to Higher Degree Research Programs Procedure Higher Degree Research Supervision Policy Higher Degree Research Supervision Procedure Research Progress Review and Confirmation of Research Candidatures Procedure Student Complaint Procedure Thesis Examination Procedure Variation of Candidature Procedure			
Superseded Documents	Conditions for Award of Master by Research Policy v1.0			
File Number	2021/020884			
Definitions and Acronyms				
No terms have been defined.				
Revision History				
This Policy replaced each program's <i>Conditions of Award of Master by Research</i> , published in handbooks 2018 and earlier with no version control.				
Version	Approved by	Approval date	Effective date	Sections modified
1.0	President and Vice-Chancellor	21 June 2021	20 June 2021	N/A
1.1	Director of Governance	15 August 2023	15 August 2023	Administrative update to section 5.1 regarding oral examination.