Graduate Education Officers

Room G20 is in Hackett Hall to the east of Winthrop Hall. Enter the building through the wooden door that is in the middle of the western side of Hackett hall halfway between the GRS reception and Hackett Hall Café. The door has a ‘Research Initiatives’ sign outside. Enter the corridor and continue east for a short distance past the glass door on the left to G20’s wooden door.

The GEO offices are on the second floor of the Student Central building in the Guild Village. Come up two flights of stairs in the South West corner of the building opposite the Coop bookshop and Commonwealth ATM to the second floor. Go through the glass sliding doors – our offices are in corridor leading east.

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Resources

UWA Library – How to Find Theses http://www.library.uwa.edu.au/research/theses


GRS Research Skills & Academic Writing Workshops & Booklets
http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/workshops
http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/workshops/booklets

StudySmarter WriteSmart http://www.student.uwa.edu.au/learning/studysmarter/writesmart

Explorations of Style http://explorationsofstyle.com/
Doctoral Writing Special Interest Group (SIG) https://doctoralwriting.wordpress.com/home/
Writing for Research https://medium.com/@Write4Research
Thesis Whisperer http://thesiswhisperer.com/

Mhairi Cowden. The Conversation: A PhD by publication or how I got my doctorate and kept my sanity. http://theconversation.com/a-phd-by-publication-or-how-i-got-my-doctorate-and-kept-my-sanity-11012


1. What is Thesis as a Series of Papers?

When are you planning to submit your thesis?
Do you intend to format your thesis as a series of papers?
Has your supervisor completed many students with theses formatted as a series of papers?
Is Thesis as a Series of Papers normal in your discipline?

David Alexander. Thesis Whisperer. Thesis by publications: you’re joking, right?
http://thesiswhisperer.com/2014/02/12/thesis-by-publications-youre-joking-right/

- No worldwide agreement on PhD/Masters thesis format – not even agreement on name:
- Increasing pressure to publish during candidature / prior to graduation
- Wide variation in approaches to higher degree thesis submission and examination

The McCrindle Blog. Job mobility in Australia
In the life of a school leaver today: start their working life aged 18 (in a part-time role) retire at 75, 17 different employers, 5 separate careers.

Most doctoral-education programmes conform to a model defined in European universities during the Middle Ages, in which education is a process of cloning that trains students to do what their mentors do.

Careers likely to involve publication, publication important for establishing track record very early in career (postdoctoral positions becoming increasingly competitive), careers unlikely to have a very narrow focus, career skill set likely to be constantly changing, increasing opportunity to publish negative results.
Advantages to organising a thesis in this way:

- Write as you go (write less and write faster??)
- Mentoring in publication processes
- Peer review process provides feedback on research / writing quality
- Provides / improves track record of publication

Nina Notman. Chemistry World: The changing face of the PhD.
http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/2015/04/phd-thesis-journal-paper-uk

4 weeks to put together Thesis as Series of Papers, 6 months to put together traditional thesis (monograph)

Points to consider when choosing to format as thesis as a series of papers:

- Is this format common in your discipline?
- Is your project suited to this format?
- Will author order be a concern?
- What is the acceptance to publication time of the proposed journal?
- Does rejection from a journal mean the manuscript should not go in the thesis?

Lucy Goodchild van Hilten. 2015. Elsevier Connect - Why it's time to publish research ‘failures’: Publishing bias favours positive results; now there's a movement to change that
https://www.elsevier.com/connect/scientists-we-want-your-negative-results-too
2. How are Publications Incorporated into Theses at UWA

At UWA: one (small) set of rules for all PhD theses and the same criteria for PhD examination.

Gives students the freedom to include material that has been:
- Published
- Accepted for publication
- Submitted for publication
- Planned for publication (prepared as manuscript)
- Unpublished (but not unpublishable – there are exceptions to this)

....and all combinations of the above in whatever format is most appropriate for your discipline and your project.

See PhD Rules – Content and Format of Thesis

Do you see the lack of instruction from UWA about the format of a thesis, particularly thesis as a series of papers, as unhelpful?
TED talks: How too many rules at work keep you from getting things done. 
[https://www.ted.com/talks/yves_morieux_how_too_many_rules_at_work_keep_you_from_getting_things_done?language=en](https://www.ted.com/talks/yves_morieux_how_too_many_rules_at_work_keep_you_from_getting_things_done?language=en)

UWA Rules: The examination of the thesis is the examination of the work of the student. The work must have been substantially completed by the student during enrolment in the degree.

See the UWA Declaration for theses containing published work and/or work prepared for publication. Students often reformat this form and include it as text within the thesis.

Bienen, B. Three dimensional physical and numerical modelling of jack-up structures on sand. 2007.

**Paper 1:** The paper presented in Chapter 3 is first authored by the candidate and co-authored by ... and is published as Bienen, B., Byrne, B.W., Houlsby, G.T and Cassidy, M.J. (2006) Investigating six degree-of-freedom loading of shallow foundations on sand. *Géotechnique*, Vol. 56, No. 6, pp.367. The candidate planned and carried out the experimental program this paper is based on under the supervision of .... The experimental apparatus was developed by Dr ... The candidate analysed the experimental results and wrote the paper, except the sections ‘Introduction’ and ‘Equipment’ which were written by .....  

Richard Willis. Times Higher Education: Looks good on paper...  
“PhD examiners probably pay little attention to the paperwork that arrives from the academic registry or graduate school”.

If you feel your discipline and/or examiners are not familiar/comfortable with Thesis as a Series of papers consider including in your introduction text that reminds the examiner.  
For example: In accordance with the University of Western Australia’s regulations regarding Research Higher Degrees, this thesis is presented as a series of journal papers.
3. Examples of Thesis as Series of Papers

Explore the structure of the thesis using the examples provided. Discuss the range of thesis formats.

Consider how the thesis examples provided are formatted according to the questions below. How will you address these questions in your thesis?

? How long is the introduction chapter?
? How long is the discussion chapter - & what is it called?
? How many chapters are there?
? How long is the thesis?

? Is there a separate literature review chapter?
? Is the literature review incorporated into the introduction?
? Is there a separate methods chapter?

? How many publications are included in the thesis?
? What types of publications are included? Conference paper, research article....
? What is the publication status of papers? Manuscript, submitted, in press, published, (?rejected)
? Is there one paper per chapter?

? Are the papers sole author or multi-author?
? Is the student’s contribution clearly indicated in the thesis declaration?

? Have the publications been reformatted?
? Have the publications been adapted in any way – text added or deleted?
? Is there a preface to the papers, or linking text, or additional chapters that are not published?

? Is there a consistent referencing style?
? Is there a consolidated reference list
? What is included in the appendices?
How frequently is published material included in these in my discipline? (Normalised for enrolments) (100 UWA thesis classified in 2012)

How many theses contain multi-author publications? (100 UWA thesis classified in 2012)


Attachment to the traditional thesis is deepest outside of the sciences.
How frequently are theses formatted as a series of papers? (100 UWA thesis classified in 2012)

How many publications are included within theses? (100 UWA thesis classified in 2012)

1.6 undivided papers per thesis – study of 2 Scandinavian universities.

I’m working with another doctoral student on the same paper – can we both include this paper in both our theses?

- Detail your contribution to the publication(s) in ‘Thesis with Publications Declaration’.
- If you have worked with another student on a same paper – write the declaration together.
- If you are not high in the author list, would this paper be better in an appendix?
3. How Do I Meet Examiner’s Expectations

In addition to high quality research, examiners are looking for a coherent & well-structured thesis, an understanding of the field, clear and reasoned research choices, and expression of the collective importance of the research.

Graduate Research School Examiners’ Recommendation Form. Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY - THESIS

Writing Centre Chapel Hill: Audience writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/audience/ The audience for your publications may vary from the audience for your thesis – the examiners

If formatting as Thesis with Publication, remember to:

- Show you have a thorough understanding of the literature
- Justify your choice of project and your methods (if required)
- Make your thesis coherent – how do your papers fit together?
- Write a strong conclusion – what do your papers say collectively?

Mhairi Cowden. The Conversation: A PhD by publication or how I got my doctorate and kept my sanity. http://theconversation.com/a-phd-by-publication-or-how-i-got-my-doctorate-and-kept-my-sanity-11012

“The thesis must still read as a cohesive whole and therefore despite the articles being stand-alone pieces, they must also relate to each other”.

The aim is that when they are read together they become more than just the sum of their parts.

Consider if your thesis is:

- Disjointed – add text to link papers to generate coherent document
- Incomplete – add text to compensate for inadequacies in background, methods, data shown, discussion
- Repetitive – delete or consolidate text to reduce redundancy in introduction and/or methods

Will submitting a Thesis with Publication guarantee a pass? (100 UWA thesis classified in 2012)

![Chart showing thesis outcomes]

Thesis Examination at UWA – online lecture
http://www.postgraduate.uwa.edu.au/students/resources/workshops

Copyright and theses submitted to UWA Thesis Repository
Copyright and Higher Degree Theses

**Theses Provided as Examples**


Content and format of a thesis.

40.(1)(a) A thesis may be presented in the form of a typescript, a published book or a paper or series of papers which have been published in refereed journals.

(b) A typescript may be structured in any of a range of ways, including, but not limited to: a monograph; a paper or series of papers suitable for publication in scholarly journals; or a combination of published and unpublished work.

(c) Work that has been published may be presented in the format in which it was published or with the formatting adjusted for consistency with the rest of the typescript.

(2) If any of the items submitted in terms of (1) have been jointly authored—

(a) the work done by the student must be clearly indicated and certified as such by the co-authors; and

(b) the co-authors must certify that they agree to the inclusion in the thesis of work of which they are joint authors.

(3) Work of which the student is sole or joint author may be submitted as an appendix in support of the thesis, but, in the case of joint authorship, the work done by the student must be clearly indicated.

(4) If a series of papers is presented, there must be a full explanatory introduction and a review article at the end to link the separate papers and to place them in the context of the established body of knowledge.

(5) If detailed data and descriptions of methods are not otherwise given, they must be included as appendices.
DECLARATION FOR THESSES CONTAINING PUBLISHED WORK AND/OR WORK PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION

The examination of the thesis is an examination of the work of the student. The work must have been substantially conducted by the student during enrolment in the degree.

Where the thesis includes work to which others have contributed, the thesis must include a statement that makes the student’s contribution clear to the examiners. This may be in the form of a description of the precise contribution of the student to the work presented for examination and/or a statement of the percentage of the work that was done by the student.

In addition, in the case of co-authored publications included in the thesis, each author must give their signed permission for the work to be included. If signatures from all the authors cannot be obtained, the statement detailing the student’s contribution to the work must be signed by the coordinating supervisor.

Please sign one of the statements below.

1. This thesis **does not contain** work that I have published, nor work under review for publication.

   Student Signature

2. This thesis contains **only sole-authored** work, some of which has been published and/or prepared for publication under sole authorship. The bibliographical details of the work and where it appears in the thesis are outlined below.

   Student Signature

3. This thesis contains published work and/or work prepared for publication, **some of which has been co-authored**. The bibliographical details of the work and where it appears in the thesis are outlined below. The student must attach to this declaration a statement for each publication that clarifies the contribution of the student to the work. This may be in the form of a description of the precise contributions of the student to the published work and/or a statement of percent contribution by the student. This statement must be signed by all authors. **If signatures from all the authors cannot be obtained, the statement detailing the student’s contribution to the published work must be signed by the coordinating supervisor.**

   Student Signature

   **Coordinating Supervisor Signature**
“The (PhD) thesis shall be a substantial and original contribution to scholarship, for example through the discovery of new knowledge, the formulation of theories or the innovative re-interpretation of known data and established ideas”

| STUDENT: | REF: |
| EXAMINER: | |

**RECOMMENDATION FOR CLASSIFICATION**

- Please mark one box only and refer Page 2 for the required Merit Criteria Scores –

**PASS**

- [ ] The thesis be **PASSED** with no requirement for correction or amendments and the student be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

- [ ] The thesis be **PASSED, SUBJECT TO MINOR REVISION** as indicated in my report to the satisfaction of the Board.

- [ ] The thesis be **PASSED, SUBJECT TO SUBSTANTIVE* AMENDMENTS** along the lines indicated in my report.

  *The student will normally be instructed to submit a detailed report to the Board of the Graduate Research School outlining the amendments to the thesis. The Board will consider the report and the revisions in determining the final classification, without further reference to the examiners.

**OR**

**RE-SUBMIT**

- [ ] The thesis be **RE-SUBMITTED** for examination after completing the required extra work and revision indicated in my report. (A thesis which must be re-submitted requires alterations of such scale, complexity and/or conceptual significance that their adequacy should be appraised again by an external expert/s).

  - Please indicate if you would be prepared to re-examine this thesis -

- [ ] I am prepared to re-examine this thesis.  [ ] I am **NOT** prepared to re-examine this thesis.

**OR**

**AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER**

- [ ] The thesis **NOT** be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy but be **PASSED** for the appropriate degree of MASTER. (The (Masters) degree must be a substantial work generally based on independent research which shows a sound knowledge of the subject of the research, evidence of the exercise of some independence of thought and ability of expression in clear and concise language).

**OR**

**FAIL**

- [ ] The thesis be **FAILED** and the student **NOT** be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy **OR** the degree of master and **NOT** be permitted to resubmit the thesis in a revised form.
Please complete the following Merit Criteria Scores for this thesis with respect to the six criteria for award of a Doctor of Philosophy from The University of Western Australia. Please indicate your scores next to each criterion. (Refer Merit Criteria Scores Key)

## SCORE CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY - THESIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>CRITERION</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td>Of the highest merit, at the forefront of international PhDs in the field. Fewer than 5% of students worldwide would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Strongly competitive at international levels. Fewer than 20% of students would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>An interesting, sound and compelling thesis. Approximately 30% of students would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>A sound thesis, but lacks a compelling element in some respect. Approximately 30% of students would fall in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>The thesis has potential, but requires major revisions. Approximately 20% of students would score in this band.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Flawed</td>
<td>The thesis does not meet the required standard for this criterion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## SCORE CRITERION FOR ADDITIONAL EXAMINABLE COMPONENT/S FOR AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY –(IF APPLICABLE)

Additional examinable components demonstrates technical accomplishment and imaginative resource and/or advanced technical and interpretative accomplishment (as appropriate).

Please attach your report (minimum length – 1 page).

☐ I confirm that there is no actual or perceived conflict of interest arising from my examination of this thesis.

Signature: ___________________________ Date: _____________________