Doctor of Philosophy

Course Rules

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
1. There shall be a degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

Rules
2.1 The Vice-Chancellor, with authority devolved to her/him by Council, and after receipt of advice from the Board of Research Education and Development, shall from time to time prescribe Rules defining the academic standing required for candidature, eligibility for enrolment, the course of study and research for the degree, the condition of candidature and the assessment for the degree.

2.2 Such Rules shall become effective from the date of prescription by the Vice-Chancellor or such other date as the Vice-Chancellor may determine.

Guidelines
3. The Board of Research Education and Development may from time to time approve guidelines on any matters included in these Rules and may authorise the Academic Director Research Education Policy or the Manager, Administrative Services, to act in accordance with such guidelines without reference to the Board in each case.

Academic Standing
4.1 The academic standing required for acceptance as a candidate for the degree shall be an Honours degree of Bachelor of at least a IIA Standard or a degree of Master of The University of Adelaide or the equivalent thereof. Applications from students with other qualifications will require the approval of the Board of Research Education and Development.

(Where a Master's degree is presented as a qualification for admission to a PhD course, the Master's degree must contain a research component deemed appropriate by the Board of Research Education and Development. A Master's degree which contains only coursework will not be accepted for this purpose.)

4.2 A person who holds a degree of another university may be accepted as a candidate provided that the course of study undertaken and the academic standard reached are equivalent to those required of a candidate who is a graduate of The University of Adelaide.

4.3 The Board may accept as a candidate a graduate who does not qualify under Rules 4.1 or 4.2 but (a) has completed to the satisfaction of the Board at least one year of full-time postgraduate study or research and (b) has passed a qualifying examination of Honours standard prescribed by the appropriate faculty and approved by the Board.

Credit for work previously completed
5.1 The Board may grant credit in the course for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for research undertaken in another course in the University or in another university or tertiary institution.

5.2 In consideration for acceptance under Rule 5.1, The Board must be satisfied that (a) the person is of such academic standing as would be required of other candidates for the degree and (b) the person's progress so far has been satisfactory.

Eligibility for enrolment as a candidate for PhD by publication
6.1 The Board may accept as a candidate for the degree a person who is seeking enrolment as a candidate for PhD by publication provided it is satisfied that the person
a) is of such academic standing as would be required of other candidates for the degree,
b) has written certification from the relevant Executive Dean that the person has completed a substantial body of published research
c) is a graduate of five years standing,
d) does not already hold a degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and
e) is an employee of the University, or is a clinical, affiliate or adjunct title holder, or is an employee of an organisation approved for the purpose of conferment of these titles.

6.2 The Board may also accept as a candidate a former employee (as defined under 6.1(e)) who has left the employ of the University or affiliated organisation for not more than two years from the date of departure provided it is satisfied that Rules 6(a) to (e) have been met.

Enrolment
7. A person shall not be enrolled as a candidate for the degree unless:

(a) the applicant's proposed field of study and research is acceptable to the school/department responsible for the supervision of the candidate's work,
(b) in the case of a person granted credit under Rule 5.1, at least one year of full-time study and research, or its equivalent, will still be necessary to complete the work for the degree.

Duration of candidature and mode of study
8. A candidate may proceed to the degree by full-time study or, if the head of the school/department concerned is satisfied that the candidate has adequate time to pursue supervised research under the control of the University, by half-time study. Except in circumstances approved by the Board, the work for the degree shall be completed and the thesis submitted:

(a) in the case of a full-time candidate, not less than two years and not more than four years from the date of commencement of candidature;
(b) in the case of a half-time candidate, not less than four years and not more than eight years from the date of commencement of candidature.
(c) in the case of a candidate granted credit under Rule 5.1 the candidature shall normally expire,
   (i) in the case of a full-time candidate, not less than two years and not more than four years from the date the candidate commenced work in the other course, or
   (ii) in the case of a half-time candidate, not less than four years and not more than eight years from the date the candidate commenced work in the other course.
(d) in the case of a person accepted under Rule 6, a minimum of six months and a maximum of twelve months from the date of commencement of candidature.

The approval of the Board is required for any different expiry date.

Work for the degree
9.1 A candidate shall pursue an approved course of study and research under the control of the University and under the general guidance of one or more supervisors appointed by the University. At least one supervisor shall be a member of the academic staff of the school/department of the University in which the candidate is enrolled.

9.2 In the case of a candidate accepted under Rule 6:

(i) the University shall appoint a supervisor who shall be a member of the academic staff of the school/department of the University in which the candidate is enrolled;
(ii) the candidate shall prepare a thesis which comprises a portfolio of publications which have been subject to peer review. Such publications must not have been accepted for any other university
award. The thesis shall also contain a contextual statement including a literature review, linkages between publications and a conclusion showing the overall significance of the work;

(iii) if multi-authored publications are included, the candidate shall submit a signed written statement setting out the candidate's contribution to each of the publications included in the thesis;

(iv) the candidate shall present the context and importance of the research at a school/departmental seminar;

(v) the head of school/department shall certify that the thesis is worthy of examination.

**Required program of activities at the commencement of candidature:**

10.1 Each candidate (including those on remote candidature) shall complete a structured program of activities within the first twelve months from commencement of candidature.

10.2 Continuation of the candidate's enrolment is conditional upon the completion of the activities to the satisfaction of the school/department concerned.

10.3 Such activities will be determined by the school/department in which the candidate is enrolled. They will include the completion and the presentation of a research proposal, and other courses or skills training deemed necessary by the school/department concerned.

10.4 At the completion of the structured program, each candidate shall submit to the Board a research proposal in such form as the Board may prescribe.

10.5 A candidate who has completed the first year of a Master's course by research and who is qualified and permitted by the Board to transfer to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy will be deemed to have completed this structured program of activities.

10.6 A candidate accepted under Rule 6 is also deemed to have completed this structured program of activities.

**Remote candidature**

11.1 Enrolment as a remote candidate may be permitted on the conditions that the school/department concerned can ensure, and the Board of Research Education and Development is satisfied, that appropriate external supervision, with appropriate affiliation, and facilities are available.

11.2 A remote candidate may be required to complete a period of residence in The University of Adelaide as determined by the Board of Research Education and Development in consultation with the school/department concerned.

11.3 In accordance with Rule 8, a remote candidate may proceed to the degree either by full-time or half-time study.

11.4 On the recommendation of the school/department, the Board at any time may permit an enrolled student to enrol as a remote candidate subject to the conditions specified in 11.1, 11.2 and 11.3 above.

11.5 A remote candidate may be permitted to convert to the normal Ph.D. program and shall be subject to the conditions normally applied.

11.6 Notwithstanding Rules 11.1 to 11.4 above, remote candidates are also required to abide by the other Rules and guidelines for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

**Review of Academic Progress**

12.1 The Board may review the progress of a candidate at any time during the course of candidature and, if the candidate's progress is unsatisfactory, may terminate the candidature.
12.2 A formal review of a candidate's progress shall be conducted by the school/department at least once a year in accordance with guidelines determined by the Board of Research Education and Development and outlined in the *Code of Practice for Maintaining and Monitoring Academic Quality and Standards in Higher Degrees*. A written report of the review (on the prescribed Annual Review of Progress form) must be forwarded to the Manager, Administrative Services, by no later than the end of October each year. A candidate's re-enrolment in the following year is conditional upon him/her having attained satisfactory progress in the year of review.

12.3 In the case of a candidate accepted under Rule 6, the candidate's submission of the thesis for examination is conditional upon the candidate attaining satisfactory progress in the year of review.

**Absence from the university**

13. Except for remote candidates and candidates accepted under Rule 6, the Board, on the recommendation of the school/department concerned, may permit a candidate to pursue away from the University work connected with the research for the degree. Such a permission may only be granted when the candidate has completed or deemed to have completed the Structured Program.

**Intermission of candidature**

14. A candidate whose work is interrupted for a period of time may be granted an intermission of candidature by the Board. If such an application is approved the minimum and maximum periods specified in Rule 8 will be adjusted accordingly by adding the length of the intermission.

**Extension of candidature**

15. A candidate may be granted by the Board one extension of candidature only of twelve months beyond the maximum period specified in Rule 8. If the thesis has not been submitted by the end of the extended period the candidature will lapse.

**Completion of thesis outside the university**

16. Except for candidates admitted under Rule 6, a candidate who has completed the equivalent of two years of full-time work under the control of the University, who has completed the experimental work (where appropriate) and whose progress is sufficiently well advanced to permit the satisfactory completion of the thesis outside the University, may be granted permission by the Board to complete the writing-up of the thesis outside the University. If such a permission is granted the candidate will be allowed either twelve months or until the end of any extension of candidature which has been granted under Rule 15, whichever is the lesser, to submit the thesis. If the thesis has not been submitted by the end of the writing-up period the candidature will lapse.

**Lapsed candidature**

17.1 A candidature which has lapsed will be resumed if the completed thesis, which has not departed from the field of study which was being pursued before the candidature lapsed, is subsequently submitted within two years from the date when the candidature lapsed to the Manager, Administrative Services. The thesis will only be accepted if the school/department certifies that it is satisfactory to that school/department. Any submission after the two year period shall be considered on a case by case basis by the Board of Research Education and Development in consultation with the relevant school/department.

17.2 Approval of the Board is required for the resumption of a lapsed candidature under any other conditions.

17.3 In special circumstances the Board may approve the resumption of a lapsed candidature for one period of up to six months (whether full- or half-time) prior to the submission of the completed thesis.

**Intention to submit thesis**
18. A candidate shall notify the Manager, Administrative Services, in writing, approximately three months before he or she expects to submit the thesis required under Rule 19. A summary of the thesis, together with the proposed thesis title, shall be submitted at the same time.

**Submission of thesis**
19.1 On completion of the approved course of study and research a candidate shall submit a thesis embodying the results of that study and research, and may submit also, in support of the thesis, other relevant material.

19.2 In the case of a candidate accepted under Rule 6, the candidate shall, at the end of the one year candidature, submit a thesis in accordance with the conditions in Rule 9.2.

19.3 The thesis and any other material submitted shall be assessed by examiners external to the University.

19.4 No thesis, material or publications presented for any other degree within this or any other institution shall be so submitted

19.5 The Board shall prescribe the form in which the thesis shall be submitted and the number of copies to be submitted.

**Appointment of examiners**
20.1 Candidates shall have the right to submit objections to the appointment of potential examiners. Any such objections should be submitted to the Manager, Administrative Services, at the same time as the notification of intention to submit required under Rule 18. Such objections do not serve as a veto.

20.2 The Board shall appoint two examiners who are external to the University, taking account of any objections raised under Rule 20.1 and the recommendations of the head of the relevant school/department.

20.3 The examiners shall be requested to report in such form as the Board will determine and to recommend one of the alternatives listed in Rule 22.

20.4 After consideration of the reports of the examiners, the Board may appoint a third external examiner and/or an external arbitrator.

**The thesis**
21.1 The thesis submitted shall:

(a) display original and critical thought;
(b) be a significant contribution to knowledge;
(c) relate the topic of research to the broader framework of the discipline within which it falls; and
(d) be clearly, accurately and cogently written and be suitably illustrated and documented.

**Examination Results**
22. After consideration of the reports of the examiners and such other information as it thinks fit, the Board shall determine that:

(a) the candidate be awarded the degree; or
(b) the candidate be awarded the degree but that minor amendments be made to the thesis; or
(c) the candidate be awarded the degree subject to,
   (i) specified amendments being made to the thesis, or
   (ii) satisfactory performance in an oral or written examination; or
(d) the candidate be not awarded the degree but be permitted to re-submit the thesis in a revised form; or
(e) the candidate be awarded the appropriate degree of Master; or
(f) the candidate be awarded the appropriate degree of Master upon making suitable amendments to the thesis; or

(g) the candidate be not awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or the degree of Master; or

(h) for candidates accepted under Rule 6 any amendments under 22(b), (c) or (d) shall be confined to contextural statements referred to in Rule 9.2(ii).

Deposit of thesis in the library
23. Such number of copies of a thesis and any other material on which the degree is awarded shall be deposited in the Barr Smith Library or elsewhere in the University as determined by the Board. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, the copies shall be available for loan and photocopy.

Loan or photocopy of thesis
24. A candidate who does not wish to allow the thesis to be lent or photo-copied when it is deposited in the Library under Rule 23 shall make a written application to the Manager, Administrative Services, at the same time as he or she notifies his or her intention to submit under Rule 18. The withholding of such permission and the period of time involved shall be determined by the Board.

General
25. When, in the opinion of the Board of Research Education and Development, special circumstances exist, the Board, on the recommendation of the relevant school/department in each case, may vary any of the provisions in Rules 1-24 above.