



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Grabamstown • 6140 • South Africa

GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS OF MASTER OF FINE ART DEGREES

1 REGULATIONS

G.53

The Faculty shall appoint a supervisor, or supervisors, to advise the candidate. At least one of the supervisors so appointed must be a member of staff. For the purposes of this Rule, members of associated institutions who are also members of a Faculty of the University are regarded as members of staff.

G.60

Degree may be awarded with distinction.

2. GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES

These Guidelines are additional to Rules governing the degree as laid down in the Rhodes University Calendar.

The exhibition of artwork submitted for the degree of Master of Fine Art must show that the candidate:

- (a) Has explored a coherent set of issues or ideas.
- (b) Has produced works which are in essence original even though they may be to some degree influenced by the art of others.
- (c) Has produced works which have contemporary relevance, i.e. which show alertness to some aspect of contemporary art discourse.
- (d) Has acquired sufficient technical skills to realise his or her ideas satisfactorily.
- (e) Has presented his/her work satisfactorily.

The mini-thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Fine Art must show that the candidate:

- (a) Has been able to elucidate the artwork he or she has produced by discussing theories and works by other artists which have guided his or her thinking.
- (b) Is sufficiently acquainted with the appropriate methods and techniques of research.
- (c) Is sufficiently acquainted with the relevant literature.
- (d) Has both satisfactorily understood the nature of the topic and assessed the significance of the findings.
- (e) Has used a satisfactory literary style, and that his or her study is free from grammatical and typographical errors.
- (f) Has included appropriate and complete references
- (g) Has included satisfactory illustrations of art discussed as well as his or her work.

The thesis should be between 12 000 and 15 000 words of text, excluding footnotes, illustrative material and appendixes.

3. REPORTS

The external examiner is required to write a report which focuses on both the professional art submission and the mini thesis, and should offer a single recommendation for both. The second report, written by the supervisor of the professional art practice, must have attached a short commentary (normally a page) on the mini dissertation that is written the supervisor of that component of the study Each examiner must indicate whether, in his or her view, the submission:

- (1) should be accepted in its present form
- (2) should be accepted in its present form with minor changes to the mini-thesis, usually of a stylistic, linguistic or bibliographic nature. (These must be clearly documented by the examiner, and are to be implemented at the discretion of the supervisor of the mini-dissertation.)
- (3) should not be rejected but referred back to the candidate for revision and reworking before resubmission; or
- (4) should be rejected

Examiners should assume a research process in which candidates devoted 65% of their time to the production of the exhibition and 35% to the mini-thesis.

On receipt of both examiners' reports, the Academic Administration Office will transmit the relevant documentation to the Head of Department, who will collate all the reports and return them with his/her recommendation to the Academic Administration office. In the event of a significant disagreement between the reports, the Dean will in the first instance attempt to gain consensus by giving each examiner sight of the other examiner's report. Should no consensus be reached, the Dean shall, on the recommendation of the Head of Department, appoint an arbiter who shall be given sight of the mini-thesis, documentation of the exhibition, the initial examiners' reports, any further correspondence from the examiners, and the Head of Department's collation and recommendation. Upon receipt of the arbiter's report, the Dean will make a decision on behalf of the Faculty.

4 CONFIDENTIALITY

From the outset the external examiner is asked:

- (a) Whether he/she is prepared to be identified to a successful candidate.
- (b) To indicate which section(s) of his/her report, if any, may be revealed to the candidate. Normally information permitted to be disclosed will be communicated to the candidate, but with the approval of the Dean. The Head of Department may, at his/her discretion, withhold part of the information sanctioned by the examiners.

5 AWARD OF THE DEGREE WITH DISTINCTION

a. *Specified criteria for the award of distinction*

The University reserves the award of a distinction for work of outstanding merit. Examiners are asked to look for evidence of real creative, methodological and conceptual skills. The art exhibition should be of a highly professional standard, and should demonstrate excellence in terms of its concept and realisation. The mini-thesis will also provide an outstanding elucidation of theories and ideas that have underpinned the making of the art exhibition.

b. *Processes of making the award*

If both examiners agree that the degree be awarded with distinction, the Head of Department shall normally recommend accordingly. If after consultation referred to in 3 above, one examiner should still remain opposed to the distinction, the Head of Department may, after consultation with the Dean, recommend the award of the degree with distinction. The Dean may accept such recommendation or may refer the issue to an arbiter.