



RHODES UNIVERSITY

GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

1. The following requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy are quoted for the information of the examiners:

RULES

G.62

Subject to the provisions of Rule G.49 a candidate shall not be admitted to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy until at least three years after admission to the degree of Bachelor with Honours (in any Faculty), or of Bachelor of Laws, or of Bachelor of Education, or of Bachelor of Music, or until at least two years after admission to the degree of Master.

G.63

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in any Faculty shall be registered for and attend an University for the period prescribed in Rule G.62; provided that the Senate may exempt candidates from such attendance or part thereof, and may instead require them to perform such work as it may prescribe during that period.

G.65

The Senate shall appoint a supervisor or supervisors to advise a candidate. At least one of the supervisors so appointed must be a member of staff. For the purposes of the Rule, members of associated institutes who are also members of a Faculty of the University are regarded as members of staff. Candidates may be permitted to register in an associated Research Institute without requiring a co-supervisor in a related academic department, but the research proposal must be approved by the Dean after considering a recommendation from a member of a cognate department. At least one of the supervisors for such candidates must be a member of the relevant Faculty Board.

65.1 The candidate shall work in such association with the supervisor as the Senate may direct.

G.66

Candidates shall submit a thesis on the results of their study which shows evidence of originality and independent research.

G.70

Candidates shall submit a declaration, satisfactory to the Senate, stating to what extent the thesis is their original work, and certifying that it has not been submitted for a degree at any other university. (*Note: the declaration is to be sent to the external examiners with the thesis*)

G.72

Candidates may be required by the Senate, if the examiners so recommend, to submit to a written or oral examination on the subject of their thesis and on the whole field of study which it covers.

G.73

An application to re-submit a thesis which has been rejected shall not be entertained, but the Senate may, on the advice of the examiners, invite a candidate to re-submit a thesis in a revised or extended form.

2. GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES

These guidelines are additional to the rules governing the degree of Doctor of Philosophy as laid down in the University Calendar.

A thesis for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy must show that the candidate:

- (a) is sufficiently acquainted with the appropriate methods of research;
- (b) is sufficiently acquainted with the relevant literature;
- (c) has satisfactorily presented the results of independent research for the award of the degree
- (d) has made a substantial and original contribution to knowledge in the discipline, the substance of which is worthy of publication in a scholarly journal or book. (A Doctoral thesis differs from a Master's thesis particularly in respect to this point).

In addition, such thesis must be satisfactory as to literacy style and presentation. A PhD thesis cannot be merely a collection of published papers, nor may such published papers be included as annexures or inserts.

The PhD degree is normally obtained by means of research work and the subsequent presentation of the thesis. Senior Doctorates are awarded scholars of international stature whose published works constitute a distinguished contribution of the advancement of knowledge in their field. Variations of the PhD are indicated below:

A PhD in **Psychotherapy** is a course-work programme in two parts. The first part consists of four written papers and a case study, the second of a thesis.

A PhD candidate in **Music and Musicology** is required to submit either a thesis or set of compositions and the candidate must also submit an explanatory statement referring to any important aspects of the scores including, in particular, a description of the form or forms employed and of any contrapuntal, harmonic and orchestrational devices used.

Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD): Suitably qualified Pharmacy professionals, who wish to specialize in clinical services and in the design and implementation of professional and clinical health-related systems, may be considered for registration for study towards this degree. The

programme consists of a modular distance-learning didactic component, an onsite experiential programme at an approved clinical site and a research report based upon actual case studies.

PhD candidates in Science must, in addition show that they understand the purpose of the Investigation and that they have developed, or adapted, and used the appropriate methods and techniques.

3. REPORTS

- (a) The external examiners are each required *independently* to complete a report form, and to write a report on the thesis. The report form and detailed report can be sent to Academic Administration by email academicadmin@ru.ac.za as soon as possible
- (b) The supervisor may, if they so wish or at the request of the external examiner, render a *factual report* to the external examiners, containing any facts about the preparation of the thesis which is deemed advisable to communicate to the external examiners. This should be returned by the external examiner together with the examiner's report to the Registrar.
- (c) On receipt of the examiners' reports, the Faculty Officer shall collate the forms and report to the relevant Dean, who will consult the Committee of Assessors who are required to make a recommendation. The Dean will make a recommendation directly to the Vice-Chancellor for action on behalf of Senate. If the examiners agree that a revision and re-submission is required, the Dean may so recommend without consulting Faculty.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

From the outset external examiners should be asked:

1. whether or not they are prepared to be identified to a successful candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy; and/or
2. to indicate which section(s) of the reports, if any, may be revealed to a candidate.

Please be aware that it is normally the practice for examiner's reports, and the identity of the examiner, to be made known to the candidate at the end of the examination process. If an external examiner, or the Dean, has reason for not complying with this practice, this must specifically be requested of the Vice Chancellor to act on behalf of Senate (examiners can indicate this on the report form).

5. THESIS REFERRED BACK FOR REVISION AND RE-EXAMINATION

If any examiner insists that the thesis be referred back to the candidate for correction as a condition for the award of the degree, the examiner shall be required to indicate to clearly, to the satisfaction of the Dean what has to be done by the candidate; and in the case of major revision, or correction, or extension, the examiners by be required to re-examine the thesis once this has been done.