

THESIS BY MONOGRAPH GUIDELINES

QUT offers three presentation options for higher degree research theses:

- Thesis by monograph (traditional)
- Thesis by published papers
- Thesis by creative works

Policy requirements around the above are provided in QUT's Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) (Section D/5.3) and the PhD Course Regulations. The "Requirements for Presentation of Thesis" details the format required for thesis lodgement and submission. The purpose of this document is to provide higher degree research candidates and their supervisors with some characteristics of the Thesis by monograph format.

A thesis by monograph is a scholarly piece of writing on a specific, single subject or an aspect of a specific subject. The term monograph is derived from the Greek "*mono*" (single) and "*grapho*" (to write).

All theses have a common goal – to demonstrate to examiners that the thesis work makes an appropriate original contribution to knowledge within the candidate's chosen field of study and to provide evidence of the quality of the candidate's understanding and research work. The alternatives to the traditional Thesis by Monograph acknowledge the relevance of the thesis for enhancement of skills in writing published papers and developing creative works.

General Guide

Early in the candidature, candidates should discuss with their supervisory team the most appropriate model for presenting their thesis. It is recommended that candidates review examples of the different thesis models and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each with their supervisory team prior to making a decision. However, it is preferable that all candidates decide on their thesis format within the first three months of candidature (ie. by Stage 2 for PhD candidates).

All theses must:

- Be less than 100,000 words
- In English (unless granted permission by QUT's Research Degrees Committee)
- An individual contribution (if part of a research team, individual contribution must be indicated)
- Original work. Work for which another degree or diploma has been awarded cannot be presented. However, extracts of such work can be included if they do not constitute more than 10% of the thesis
- An original contribution to knowledge or an original application of existing knowledge
- Able to demonstrate a familiarity with the relevant literature and have reviewed it critically
- Able to demonstrate a thorough understanding of theoretical content of the work undertaken
- Presented logically and concisely.

Format

Candidates and supervisors should refer to the “Requirements for Presenting Theses” document which comprehensively describes formatting requirements including order of contents, statement of original authorship, form of footnotes, diagrams and figures, citations, acknowledgements and editing, and supplementary material. The document also contains information on mandatory plagiarism checking, copyright, embargoes and exemptions, dealing with physical items unsuitable for digitisation, lodgement for examination, and submission of final thesis requirements.

Specific requirements

The subject matter of the thesis by monograph must be closely related and form a cohesive narrative.

The scope of the work must be sufficient for the award of a research higher degree. This is guided by the advice of the supervisory team and reviewed by relevant Faculty and University staff and Committees.

In a thesis by monograph, be aware individual chapters can be framed to meet the nature of the study. For example a thesis may include chapters headed “Review of literature”, “Methods”, “Results”, etc. or chapters headed “Case study 1”, “Case study 2”, etc. If prepared in a format for future submission to a journal, ensure that the status of the work, as unpublished, is clear.

The Methodology or Methods chapter(s) discusses the methodological issues underpinning the research project and the specific methods undertaken for the various parts of the research project. If original methodological work is done (eg. development of specific questionnaires(s) or particular measurement protocols), description of this work may require its own chapter, particularly if extensive validation activities need to be documented.

The results chapter(s) or sections may take the form of one or more chapters detailing the results of analyses undertaken as part of the research and should include relevant tables and figures for best presentation of the data.

Examination

The examiners will be provided with specific information explaining how the thesis should be marked. Examiners will be advised the thesis type is thesis by monograph, however it is important to ensure that the format reflects the status of the work (ie. if in the format of a journal but yet to be submitted for review this should be indicated).

Copyright issues

Please see the following links for information relating to copyright, intellectual property, data management and authorship of publications:

- QUT Copyright guide: <http://www.tils.qut.edu.au/copyrightguide/>
- Code of Conduct for Research: http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_02_06.jsp
- Authorship: <http://www.orei.qut.edu.au/integrity/authorship.jsp>

- Statement of Contribution from Co-Authors:
https://cms.qut.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/36033/statement-of-contribution.pdf
- Data management: <http://www.library.qut.edu.au/services/research/data/>
- Intellectual property: http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_03_01.jsp

Comparison of thesis models

To assist in decision making, the table below demonstrates the commonality and differences between the three theses models.

COMMON TO ALL MODELS		
Title page Abstract and key words Table of contents Statement of original authorship Acknowledgements Introduction Literature review		
THESIS BY PUBLISHED PAPERS	THESIS BY MONOGRAPH	THESIS BY CREATIVE WORKS
Optional methods chapter/s Published papers and submitted manuscripts General discussion	Methods Results Discussion	The creative work The exegesis to explain: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The significance of the work ii. The research process iii. The impact of the research process on the creative work and practitioner
Appendices References		