# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)
# COURSE REGULATIONS

This document sets out the Course Regulations governing the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

## Index

| Approvals: | The PhD course regulations were approved by Research Degrees Committee and University Academic Board. |
|---|---|
| Updated: | Last reviewed, updated and approved:  May 2016 |

# 1. Introduction

The main purpose of higher degree research study is to encourage independence and originality of thought in the quest for knowledge. The Doctor of Philosophy degree is awarded in recognition of a candidate's original and substantial contribution to knowledge. The candidate's research must reveal high critical ability and synthesis, and may be in the form of new knowledge, or of significant and original adaptation, application and interpretation of existing knowledge.

| COURSE DEFINITION | |
|---|---|
| QUT Course code | IF49 |
| Award title | Doctor of Philosophy |
| Abbreviated title | PhD |
| Duration: | |
| Standard | 36-48 months full time; 72-96 months part time |
| Minimum | 24 months full time; 48 months part time |
| Maximum | 48 months full time; 96 months part time |
| Entry | Entry open all year |
| Course type | Doctorate (postgraduate) |
| Student type | Domestic / International |
| Faculties | All |

QUT's PhD Course Regulations are aligned with and meet all relevant external regulatory requirements including the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 10 Qualification Specifications. The identified Graduate Attribute Set for AQF Level 10 is detailed in Appendix 1 and includes Research field, Cognitive skills, Communication and Independent and collaborative behaviours. These relate to five learning outcomes which include that PhD graduates will demonstrate:
- a substantial body of knowledge at the frontier of the field and make an original contribution in the context of ethical practice
- appropriate and purposeful research principles and methods for the field including any technical and creative skills for enhancing the work
- Cognitive skills including critical analysis, argument and problems solving to design and implement a theoretical/practice proposition and apply intellectual independence to evaluate existing knowledge and to generate original knowledge
- Appropriate and coherent communication skills to represent cogently a complex investigation of original research against international standards and communicate results to peers and the community
- Intellectual independence and initiative, responsibility and accountability for planning and executing original research and for planning a research career, and demonstrate collaborative behaviours that generate intellectual activity.

NOTE: These regulations are complementary to QUT's Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) which in turn require compliance with Commonwealth and State statutes and laws and the Education Services for Overseas Students Act (2000) regarding compliance with International Student Visa requirements.

# 2. Definitions

**"Candidate"** means any person admitted to the planned course of research leading to the degree of PhD. A "**potential candidate**" is any person who is applying for admission.

**"Candidature"** means the period of study towards the higher degree research being the period from the date of commencement until all coursework has been successfully passed and the thesis is lodged for examination, after which time the candidate holds the status of 'Under Examination' or until the candidature is terminated or the candidate withdraws.

**"Confirmed candidature"** means successful completion of the PhD Confirmation of Candidature milestone.

**"Examination"** means the formal testing of the candidate's thesis while under examination to critically evaluate whether the conditions for the award of the Higher Degree Research have been met.

*"Examiners"* means the academically qualified specialists appointed to undertake examination of the candidate's thesis.

*"External candidate"* means a candidate who will undertake the majority of their research and study away from QUT research facilities or campuses.

*"Final Seminar"* means the final milestone where the thesis is evaluated by an internal panel who confirm it is acceptable for examination.

*"Internal candidate"* means a candidate who will complete their study whilst physically attending a campus or research facility of QUT.

*"Masters by Research"* means a Master's degree, which has a research component comprising two thirds or more of the total course of study.

*"Milestone"* means a mandatory candidature event that is an internal review of a candidate's progress.

*"Professional Doctorate (Research)"* means a doctoral degree at QUT, which has a formal coursework component and has a research component comprising two thirds or more of the total course of study.

*"Recognised institution"* means any tertiary education institution accepted by the Research Degrees Committee for the purposes of these Course regulations.

*"Research"* comprises information gathering and knowledge creation, analysis, critical investigation and communication in a manner acceptable in the field of endeavour. Knowledge creation would encompass creative and professional practice and reflection on this practice.

*"Research Degrees Committee"* is a QUT Council committee established in accordance with Council Procedure 1 - Committees.

*"Thesis"* means a document or collection of materials submitted by the candidate for examination in support of candidature for a degree qualification, presenting the candidate's research and findings. In the award course the thesis component is deemed equivalent to the research component.

Also refer to *Glossary of Terms* on QUT's website (http://www.qut.edu.au/about/glossary).

# 3. Entry requirements

## 3.1  Domestic and International entry criteria

**3.1.1**  To gain admission into a research course leading to the award of PhD a potential candidate shall normally hold from a recognised institution:
- a relevant first class or second class division A honours degree or equivalent; or
- an appropriate Masters degree (by research or coursework); or
- a Professional Doctorate (by research or coursework).

**3.1.2**  Coursework Masters and Professional Doctorates graduates will:
(a) have completed a significant research component, normally no less than 25%;
(b) demonstrate a grade point average of at least 5.0 on a 7 point scale in such a course; and
(c) may be required to demonstrate additional research experience and potential for approval by the faculty and the Research Degrees Committee.

## 3.2  English language requirements
QUT requires that all students demonstrate a specified level of English proficiency (refer to MOPP E/4.1.2) which will be assessed at all stages of candidature including at Stage 1 application, Stage 2 proposal, Confirmation, Final Seminar and as part of the written thesis examination process.

### 3.3 QUT's capacity to support research

The university will assess, and must confirm its capacity to support the applicant's field of research and research project prior to Stage 2 being completed.

### 3.4 Admission date

Potential candidates will be provided with a Research Degrees Committee approved date of admission. Where a student fails to commence on or prior to the date of admission, the university has the right to withdraw the offer or approve deferral.

### 3.5 Application process

**3.5.1** An application for admission shall be made on the prescribed form and shall involve a two-stage process.

**3.5.2** The Research Degrees Committee may set conditions regarding the offer of admission which must be met prior to enrolment into the course.

**3.5.3** An applicant who is not admitted to candidature may re-apply for admission at a later date after addressing issues raised.

*Stage 1*
**3.5.4** Stage 1 of the application process must be consistent with Admission form instructions as prescribed by the Research Degrees Committee.

**3.5.5** The application must be approved by the faculty.

*Stage 2*
**3.5.6** Stage 2 proposal involves endorsement and final approval by the Research Degrees Committee of the candidate's full proposal (refer to rule 5.3.1). This then completes the approval process.

### 3.6 Advanced standing

**3.6.1** Research Degrees Committee will assess all previous studies and in consultation with the faculty, has discretion to award Advanced Standing and/or prior load where deemed appropriate.

**3.6.2** Normally a maximum of twelve months prior load from a Masters by Research or Professional Doctorate (Research) may be granted to the PhD course.

### 3.7 Joint PhD

**3.7.1** There is provision, as detailed in the Joint PhD Guidelines, for candidates to undertake a joint PhD with another recognised international University.

**3.7.2** All relevant QUT rules, policies and guidelines apply to candidates enrolled in a Joint PhD.

**3.7.3** A candidate undertaking a Joint PhD will be required to work within the appropriate QUT faculty for at least twelve months full-time.

### 3.8 Readmission

Normally a candidate whose enrolment ends without graduation may apply for readmission following the standard admission process, no less than 12 months after the last date of enrolment.

### 3.9 Transferring research candidature to QUT

A research candidate enrolled at another institution wishing to transfer their enrolment to a QUT PhD will be required to apply for admission following the normal process. In assessing prior load, consideration of mandatory milestone requirements for candidature will be determined as part of the process. Normally, in the absence of evidence of successful completion and/or progress through

equivalent processes, all admitted PhD candidates would be required to undergo mandatory milestone requirements.

# 4. Attendance requirements

## 4.1 Attendance mode and type

**4.1.1** An admitted PhD candidate may enrol either as a full-time or part-time internal candidate or a full-time or part-time external candidate, though restrictions apply to international students and some scholarship holders.

**4.1.2** Changes to mode of study or location must be approved by the Research Degrees Committee.

**4.1.3** External candidates must normally spend a minimum of three months at QUT during the course of their candidature and must normally be present for the Confirmation of Candidature and for the Final Seminar presentation of the thesis.

**4.1.4** A candidate applying for external study must provide written evidence to the Research Degrees Committee that:
- The arrangement for the research at the external location (normally a recognised research establishment or place of professional employment) meets the normal requirements of the course;
- The candidate has the opportunity to participate in scholarly activities;
- Academic standards in the conduct of the research can be assured;
- A suitable program of contacts between the candidate and the supervisory team can be maintained and the methods by which this will be achieved are explained;
- A suitable external supervisor will be responsible for regular supervision and is available at the external establishment or an explanation as to why this is unnecessary;
- A letter of support from the external establishment stating that the resources required for study are available and accessible to the candidate and will continue to be available for the duration of candidature.

**4.1.5** In exceptional circumstances, a case for exemption from the above requirements will be considered by Research Degrees Committee.

## 4.2 Campuses

**4.2.1** Internal candidates can be located at any QUT campus or research facility dependent upon available resources and in negotiation with their supervisory team, faculty and/or school.

**4.2.2** The Research Degrees Committee may approve a PhD candidate to conduct their research as an external candidate either in Australia or overseas, or to approve a change of enrolment from internal to external status or vice versa.

# 5. Enrolment and Progression

## 5.1 Faculty affiliation
Normally, PhD candidates will be affiliated with a faculty which is appropriate to the planned research course. The faculty and Research Degrees Committee approve faculty affiliation.

## 5.2 Research Course requirements

**5.2.1** The planned research will incorporate activities enabling the development of research graduate capabilities (refer to MOPP C/4.03).

**5.2.2** The planned course of research will normally include:

- completion of the compulsory unit Advanced Information Research Skills (IFN001) within the first 12 months of candidature;
- not more than 33% of candidature timeframe devoted to assessed coursework as determined by the faculty;
- participation in university scholarly activities such as mandatory research training courses; research seminars, teaching or publication (refer to MOPP D/5.3);
- regular and frequent interaction with the supervisory team;
- a program of supervised research and investigation; and
- evidence that the course will enable the candidate to acquire competence in relevant methods of research and scholarship related to the subject of the proposed investigation and to demonstrate sustained independent research effort.

**5.2.3** A candidate is normally expected to pursue the approved course of research and investigation throughout the period of candidature.

**5.2.4** Where an approved course of research and investigation forms part of the work of a research team or a larger research project, the supervisory team must indicate clearly the individual contribution expected to be made by the candidate, their individual research activities and responsibilities and the extent to which the work is to be carried out in collaboration with others. An intellectual property agreement may also need to be completed on the prescribed form.

**5.2.5** Where an approved course of research and investigation is carried out jointly in QUT and in an industrial, commercial, professional or research establishment, an outline of the work to be undertaken at each site in relation to the whole project must be provided as part of the Stage 2 application. An intellectual property agreement must also be completed on the prescribed form.

**5.2.6** The Research Degrees Committee must be satisfied that candidates can access faculty or faculty approved resources consistent with the infrastructure provisions guidelines for higher degree research students.

**5.2.7** Appropriate Health and Safety, Ethical compliance, Intellectual Property, Data Management and Authorship and other arrangements consistent with QUT's Code of Conduct for Research (MOPP D/2.6) must be determined in consultation with relevant research staff of QUT and noted in milestone reports.

***Period of Candidature***
**5.2.8** The expected/standard period of candidature from the date of commencement is thirty-six to forty-eight months for full-time candidates or seventy-two to ninety-six months for part-time candidates.

**5.2.9** The minimum period of candidature from the date of commencement is twenty-four months for full-time candidates or forty-eight months for part-time candidates. In special cases, the Research Degrees Committee may approve a shorter period.

**5.2.10** The maximum period of candidature from the date of commencement is forty-eight months for full-time candidates or ninety-six months for part-time candidates. In exceptional cases an extension may be granted by the Research Degrees Committee (refer to MOPP E/4.4).

## 5.3 Milestones
Candidature milestones have been established to measure the capacity of candidates to conduct the research at the required level and complete candidature in a timely way.

### 5.3.1 Stage 2

***Timing***
**5.3.1.1** The Stage 2 application must be completed consistent with approved Guidelines and submitted to the Research Degrees Committee within the timeframe specified.

**5.3.1.2** In exceptional cases, and upon application, an extension to the milestone due date may be granted by the Research Degrees Committee.

*Approval*
**5.3.1.3** The Stage 2 application must be recommended by the faculty to the Research Degrees Committee for final approval.

**5.3.1.4** Formal admission to candidature is conditional upon successful completion of Stage 2 and must address requirements as approved by the Research Degrees Committee.

**5.3.1.5** Following receipt of the faculty's recommendation, the Research Degrees Committee shall determine that:
- the Stage 2 and appointed supervisory team be approved and the applicant admitted; or
- the applicant be admitted and the faculty address concerns. In exceptional cases, the Research Degrees Committee may approve an extension so that faculty concerns can be addressed; or
- the applicant be transferred to Masters by Research candidature; or
- the applicant not be admitted and their enrolment terminated.

**5.3.1.6** Failure to submit a Stage 2 document for consideration within four months of commencement (full time equivalent) will result in the applicant not being admitted and their enrolment will be terminated.

**5.3.1.7** Students who are not admitted to candidature following Research Degrees Committee's assessment of the Stage 2 cannot re-apply for admission to a Higher Degree Research course in any QUT faculty within a 12 month period.

## 5.3.2    Confirmation of Candidature

*Timing*
**5.3.2.1** Within twelve months of admission for full-time candidates, and twenty-four months for part-time candidates, the candidate shall present (in consultation with their supervisors) a plan of the research project for the remainder of the candidature and a report on the work done to this point consistent with the Confirmation of Candidature guidelines.

**5.3.2.2** A candidate who is not able to complete Confirmation of Candidature within the timeframe above (see 5.3.2.1) must apply for an extension at least one month in advance of that deadline through the faculty to the Research Degrees Committee. Normally, a maximum extension of three months full time will be granted.

*Approval*
**5.3.2.3** The faculty committee shall review the candidate's progress and planned research project and submit their recommendations to the Research Degrees Committee for approval. Successful completion of this milestone will lead to Confirmation of Candidature. This shall include:
- an appraisal of the research capacity of the candidate;
- an appraisal of the candidate's progress and suitability for continuation in the PhD course;
- the documents prepared by the candidate pursuant to Guidelines;
- a statement that the research project is of the standard required for a PhD course;
- statements of whether the studies continue to be within the aims and objectives and physical and human resources of the faculty; and
- a report on the candidate's seminar.

**5.3.2.4** In considering the application for Confirmation of Candidature, the Research Degrees Committee:
- will, if the conditions are met, confirm the candidature; or
- may require changes to the planned research project; or
- may, if the recommendation of the faculty committee is not to confirm the candidature immediately, place the candidate under review; or

- may recommend the applicant be admitted to Masters by Research candidature with the option of later applying to upgrade to PhD candidature, or
- may terminate the candidature following Show Cause (refer to MOPP D/5.3.7(vi).

**5.3.2.5** Following failure to submit the Confirmation document and on the advice of the faculty, the Research Degrees Committee may place the candidate under review or ask the candidate to show cause why the candidature should not be terminated.

### 5.3.3    Annual Progress Reports

The Principal Supervisor and candidate are required to report annually to the Research Degrees Committee on the candidate's progress and research plans consistent with established Guidelines. (Refer to MOPP D/5.3)

### 5.3.4    Final Seminar

**5.3.4.1** The Final Seminar milestone is designed to evaluate the readiness of the PhD thesis for examination, normally through public presentation of work in progress to an expert panel, candidate's peers, and others interested in their research field.

*Timing*
**5.3.4.2** In order to determine whether the thesis is acceptable for external examination by the Examiners, the candidate shall be required to undertake a Final Seminar based on the work described in the thesis to their faculty. (Refer to Final Seminar guidelines.)

*Approval*
**5.3.4.3** At Final Seminar, the Principal Supervisor should normally submit to the Research Degrees Committee, the nomination forms for the Examiners.

**5.3.4.4** The Final Seminar panel will prepare a written report and make a recommendation to the faculty.

## 5.4   Conditions of Candidature

Applications for extensions of candidature, scholarships or leave of absence due to delays or problems with the planned research course will not normally be considered by the Research Degrees Committee unless the delays or problems have been documented in previous reports or have recently occurred.

### 5.4.1    Leave of Absence

**5.4.1.1** A candidate who wishes to take leave of absence for a specified period is expected to apply in advance of the period of leave (consistent with Leave of Absence guidelines). Candidates are normally entitled to receive up to 12 months full time equivalent leave during candidature. The application must include the reasons for the leave of absence, the written endorsement of the Principal Supervisor and the start and end dates of the period of leave. If the Research Degrees Committee approves the period of leave of absence, the duration of the specified period will be added to the minimum and maximum submission dates of the candidature.

**5.4.1.2** Candidates are not normally permitted to take leave of absence prior to submission of Stage 2.

### 5.4.2    Transfer of Candidature

**5.4.2.1** Candidature cannot be transferred between faculties without the endorsement of all relevant faculties and Research Degrees Committee approval.

**5.4.2.2** Normally, a candidate who has completed 12 months full-time equivalent of candidature in a QUT Masters by Research or a QUT Professional Doctorate (Research) may apply to the Research Degrees Committee for articulation to the PhD where the following conditions have been met:
  (a)   the candidate has demonstrated the capacity to undertake research at the PhD level; and

(b)   the candidate is undertaking a research project that is clearly capable of being extended and converted to PhD level; and

(c)   the candidate has completed the Confirmation of Candidature process including the Confirmation Seminar.

**5.4.2.3** Applications to articulate from a Professional Doctorate or Masters by Research into the PhD shall be made via the PhD Confirmation of Candidature process. The process shall comply with the Confirmation of Candidature guidelines.

**5.4.2.4** If a candidate is unable to complete the approved course of study the candidate may apply for transfer to an appropriate Masters or Professional Doctorate by Research.

# 6. Examinations

*Timing*

6.1   A candidate must lodge their thesis for external examination no later than the maximum candidature date consistent with Requirements for Presentation of the Thesis guidelines.

6.2   A candidate who does not expect to lodge their thesis by the maximum candidature date must apply for an extension for consideration by the Research Degrees Committee prior to the expiry of their maximum candidature date.

6.3   Three copies of the thesis and an electronic copy, in the prescribed format must normally be lodged for examination no later than the maximum candidature date.

*Appointment of Examiners*

6.4   Doctor of Philosophy theses must undergo an independent examination process by at least two external expert examiners of international standing.

6.5   Examiners shall comprise two external examiners who will examine the thesis. A third external examiner will be called upon if the first two examiners are in disagreement or unavailable.

6.6   Examiners must have demonstrable research experience in the area under investigation, hold a doctoral qualification or equivalent and be widely recognised in the relevant field. At least one of the examiners should be from an internationally recognised university or equivalent research institution and normally have had substantial experience examining candidates at the doctoral level.

6.7   Faculty recommendation and Research Degrees Committee approval of thesis examiners will be subject to scrutiny to ensure there is no potential conflicts of interest (refer to MOPP B/8.7).

*Approval*

6.8   Each examiner will be expected to provide a written report on the candidate's thesis and to recommend a course of action as described in the relevant guidelines.

*Outcomes of the Examination Process*

6.9   The Research Degrees Committee approves guidelines which specify the management of activities and actions in relation to when examiners are in agreement or not and when a thesis needs to be submitted for re-examination.

# 7. Supervision

7.1   Supervision of candidates shall be conducted according to the Good Practice guidelines for Higher Degree Research Studies and Supervision and other relevant policy and guidelines.

7.2   A Principal Supervisor and at least one Associate Supervisor from QUT academic staff shall be appointed. Normally they will be accredited supervisors and hold doctoral level qualifications.

7.3    The Principal Supervisor has responsibility for supervising the candidate on a frequent basis.

7.4    More than one Associate Supervisor may be appointed and additional external supervisors who may be from an appropriate industrial, professional, commercial or research establishments.

7.5    For a candidate studying externally, an external supervisor from the external institution linked to the project will normally be appointed.

## 8. Thesis Guidelines

8.1    The thesis must be presented in accordance with Requirements for Presenting Theses Guidelines and the main body of the text must not exceed 100,000 words.

8.2    Where a candidate's research forms part of the work of a research team or larger research project, acknowledgement in the thesis must indicate clearly the candidate's individual contribution and the extent to which co-workers contributed to the candidate's project.

8.3    Where a candidate or the sponsoring establishment wishes the thesis to remain confidential for a period of time after the completion of the work, written application for approval stating the reasons must be made to the Research Degrees Committee when the final thesis is submitted. The period normally shall not exceed two years from the date on which the Head of School or nominee recommends acceptance of the thesis to the Research Degrees Committee.

8.4    A candidate may not present in the thesis any work for which another degree or diploma has been awarded by QUT or any other academic institution or was a product of work undertaken prior to the start of candidature.  A candidate shall not be precluded from incorporating extracts from such work in the thesis provided that the sum of any such extracts does not constitute more than 10% of the thesis and provided also that the source of each such extract is stated explicitly.

8.5    Prior approval must be obtained from the Research Degrees Committee for any study leading to the presentation of a thesis other than in writing. Full details of the alternative course of study should be provided formally at Stage 2.

8.6    A candidate's name will not normally be placed on the list for graduation until a final electronic copy of the approved thesis is received in the Research Students Centre.

8.7    A candidate who passes but is required to make revisions to the thesis after external examination must lodge the final electronic copy of the thesis no later than six months after the date of receipt of examiners' reports or the candidate shall be withdrawn unless an extension has been approved by the Research Degrees Committee.

8.8    A candidate who is required to submit a thesis for re-examination is required to do so within 12 months after the date of receipt of the initial examiner reports or the candidate shall be withdrawn unless an extension has been approved by the Research Degrees Committee.

8.9    QUT higher degree research theses are normally required to be made publicly available to researchers and the general public through the QUT Library, the QUT ePrint Repository in accordance with QUT's Manual of Policies and Procedures Section F/1.10.

### Published Papers
8.10   A PhD may be awarded on the basis of the submission of published papers, normally indicated in the Stage 2 submission. Guidelines have been approved by the Research Degrees Committee which governs the number, format and presentation requirements of PhD theses by Published Papers.

### Creative Works
8.11   A PhD may be awarded on the basis of the submission by Creative Works, normally indicated in the Stage 2 submission. In the case of a thesis submitted in the area of artistic practice, presentation may

be in one of two forms: a theoretical thesis or artwork and exegesis. Guidelines have been approved by the Research Degrees Committee which governs the format and presentation requirements of PhD theses by Creative Works.

# 9.  Review of Outcome

9.1    A candidate whose thesis has been failed or whose thesis has been recommended for the award of the degree of masters may lodge a request to review the outcome of the examination process.

9.2    The grounds for review may be on matters of process only, ie. procedural irregularities in the conduct of the examination or documented evidence of examiner bias as evidenced by comments in the examiner reports.

9.3    A review must be lodged within sixty (60) days of the date of written advice from the Research Students Centre on the outcome of the examination. This review must include the specific grounds on which the application is based.

9.4    A review must be submitted, in writing, to the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Commercialisation). The Dean of Research and Research Training will determine whether a potential conflict of interest exists in relation to their consideration of the review.

9.5    In cases where a conflict of interest exists, the Dean of Research and Research Training will appoint a member of academic staff, with expertise in higher degree research candidate supervision, to consider the review.

9.6    The Dean of Research and Research Training, or appointee will decide whether a case exists and may seek the advice of the faculty or school as appropriate.

9.7    If a review is upheld, the Dean of Research and Research Training, or appointee cannot recommend that the degree be awarded but shall recommend that the thesis be re-examined. This re-examination shall be carried out in accordance with Section 6 taking account of the issues raised in the successful appeal.

9.8    The Dean of Research and Research Training, or appointee will make a determination on the review as soon as practicable and will advise appellants, in writing, of the result of the review.

# 10.  Award details

10.1   The PhD will be awarded subject to:
- satisfactory completion of the candidate's approved course of study; and
- the candidate stating original authorship of the thesis; and
- the candidate has satisfactorily completed the examination process; and
- provision of copies of the thesis as per established guidelines.

10.2   The award title is Doctor of Philosophy.

10.3   Following approval of the award by the University Academic Board (or delegate), the candidate may use the title of "Doctor".

# 11.  Course Outcomes

11.1   The degree of **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at QUT** signifies that the holder has undertaken a substantial piece of original research which has been conducted and reported under proper academic supervision and in a research environment for a prescribed period. The PhD's contribution to knowledge rests on the originality of the approach and/or interpretation of findings and, in some cases,

the discovery of new knowledge. The award of a PhD demonstrates that the candidate has the ability to communicate research findings effectively in the professional arena and in an international context.

11.2    QUT expects that each PhD graduate will display certain graduate capabilities (MOPP C/4.3).

11.3    Learning Outcomes from the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) course at QUT conform to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and include:
- cognitive skills to demonstrate expert understanding of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on that theory and practice;
- cognitive skills and use of intellectual independence to think critically, evaluate existing knowledge and ideas, undertake systemic investigation and reflect on theory and practice to generate original knowledge;
- expert technical and creative skills applicable to the field/discipline of work or learning;
- communication skills to explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies and conclusions;
- communication skills to present cogently a complex investigation of originality or original research for external examination against international standards and to communicate results to peers and the community;
- expert skills to design, implement, analyse, theorise and communicate research that makes a significant and original contribution to knowledge and/or professional practice.

### *Early Exit Options*
11.4    At any point throughout their candidature a candidate may submit a request for transfer to a Masters by Research on the prescribed form.

11.5    A candidate who is enrolled in a PhD under a Joint PhD agreement may at any point throughout candidature, transfer into a Masters by Research course at QUT with advanced standing.

11.6    At any appropriate point throughout candidature, the Research Degrees Committee may approve the exit option of awarding a Graduate Certificate in Research Studies (See Appendix 2 for the Graduate Attributes and Learning Outcomes for AQF Level 8 Compliance).

### *Transition*
11.7    At any point throughout their candidature, a candidate may submit a request for transfer to a Professional Doctorate by Research on the prescribed form.
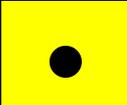
## RELATED SITES

Research Degrees Committee -  https://ask.qut.edu.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/5001/~/what%2Fwho-is-the-research-degrees-committee%3F

MOPP D/5.3 Higher degree research candidates - http://www.mopp.qut.edu.au/D/D_05_03.jsp

Good Practice guidelines for Higher Degree Research Studies and Supervision - https://cms.qut.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/515583/good-practice-guidelines-hdr.pdf
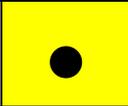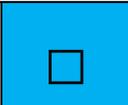
# APPENDIX 1 - Curriculum Map QUT Doctoral course
**AQF Level 10** (@ July 2012)

## Research field (Knowledge Domain)

| a frontier knowledge | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1-1 | substantial knowledge at the research field's frontier |
| | 1-2 | research principles and methods |
| | 1-3 | ethics applicable to the field and to research generally |
| **GA1** ● | 1-4 | generation of an original contribution to the knowledge field |

## Cognitive skills

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2-1 | critical analysis |
| | 2-2 | evaluation of the work of others |
| | 2-3 | reflection on one's own work |
| **GA2** □ | 2-4 | the generation of new knowledge |
| | 2-5 | argument to defend the research position relative to the research of others |
| | 2-6 | problem solving |
| | 2-7 | utilise technological applications and software appropriate to the research |
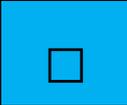
## Communication

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 3-1 | written and oral expertise to explain, argue and critique theoretical propositions, methods and conclusions |
| | 3-2 | appropriate selection of a thesis genre for representing a cogent complex investigation |
| | 3-3 | cultural and intercultural awareness for relating to a wide range of audiences |
| **GA3** ◇ | 3-4 | academic literacies and numeracies |
| | 3-5 | vary written accounts of the research for a range of purposes and audiences (thesis; journal publication; seminar; monograph) |

## Independent and collaborative behaviours

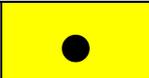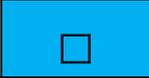| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | 4-1 | intellectual independence |
| | 4-2 | initiative to propose ideas for progressing the research |
| | 4-3 | accountability |
| **GA4** ∞ | 4-4 | plan and execute original research |
| | 4-5 | collaborative behaviours relative to supervision and peer seminars |
| | 4-6 | research career planning |
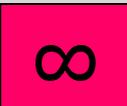
# APPENDIX 2 - Curriculum Map QUT Graduate Certificate of Research Studies

AQF Level 8 (@ July 2012)

**Graduate Attributes**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Research knowledge and cognitive skills** | |
| | | 1-1 | advanced theoretical knowledge |
| | | 1-2 | critical analysis skills |
| | | 1-3 | find solutions to complex problems |
| **GA1** | ● | 1-4 | plan research with clear paradigm alignment |
| | | 1-5 | ethical knowledge and behaviours |
| | | | |
| | | **Communication knowledge and skills** | |
| | | 2-1 | written and oral capacity to transmit knowledge and ideas to others |
| | | 2-2 | generate culturally and socially aware communications with peers and others |
| | | 2-3 | academic literacies and numeracies |
| **GA2** | ☐ | | |
| | | | |
| | | **Independent and collaborative behaviours** | |
| | | 3-1 | reflective practice |
| | | 3-2 | collaborative behaviours to generate and transform research information |
| | | 3-3 | autonomy to judge and adapt information for a specific purpose |
| **GA3** | ◇ | | |

**Course Learning Outcomes**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **CLO1** | ● | Students will demonstrate a specialist research studies knowledge that may be applied to an existing discipline or professional area and the cognitive skills to review, analyse, synthesise and debate a range of theories and research methods |
| **CLO2** | ☐ | Students will demonstrate coherent written and oral communications skills to show understanding of theoretical concepts and to transfer complex knowledge to a variety of audiences |
| **CLO3** | ◇ | Students will demonstrate responsible, high level independent and collaborative judgements regarding research studies and with accountability for personal outputs to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate research's broad functions. |