Higher Degrees by Research Submission, Examination and Classification Procedure

Section 1 - Summary

(1) This Procedure outlines the submission and examination of Higher Degree by Research (HDR) theses, including examiner nomination, thesis amendment and the classification and conferral process.

Section 2 - Scope

(2) This Procedure applies to domestic and international candidates and University staff administering this Procedure.

(3) From 1st January 2027:

a. commencing students will be required to undertake an oral examination as part of the overall examination process;
b. candidates enrolled before 1st January 2027 will have the option to undertake an oral examination as part of the overall examination process.

Section 3 - Policy/Regulation

(4) Higher Degrees by Research Policy

Section 4 - Procedures

Part A - Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

Roles	Responsibilities
Graduate Research School (GRS)	Place the candidate under examination when the Release of Thesis has been signed by the Research Institutes. Send the electronic copy of the thesis to examiners and follow up on examiner reports, as required. Upon receipt of the examiners' reports, release the reports to the candidate, supervisors and Chair of Examiners. Receive and forward the Recommendation on Classification documentation to the appropriate academics for an outcome.
Principal Supervisor	Submit Nomination of Examiners for the candidate's thesis.

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Roles	Responsibilities
Chair of Examiners (Associate Director, Research Training or nominee)	Endorse Nomination of Examiners. Approve Release of Thesis. Make recommendation for Classification of Thesis to Dean, Graduate Research. Approve the timing of the full submission of the Thesis by Creative Project for examination.
Chair of Oral Examinations	Prepare Oral Examination Panel Report based on written reports of the examiners. Recommend outcome of Examination after Oral Examination Panel. Make recommendation for Classification of Thesis to Chair of Examiners.
Dean, Graduate Research	Approve Nomination of Examiners. Approve Thesis for Classification. Make Recommendation for conferral of degree.

Part B - General

(5) HDR candidates will have their thesis examined by at least two external examiners to Victoria University.

(6) The examination process varies by degree type.

(7) The relevant Institute Associate Director (Research Training), or their nominee, acts as Chair of Examiners for HDR theses and has academic responsibility for the examination process.

(8) The GRS manages the administrative conduct of the examination and classification process.

(9) Where the Principal Supervisor or Associate Supervisor is also the Institute Associate Director (Research Training) (or nominee), they are unable to act as Chair of Examiners and another senior academic must act as the Chair of Examiners or Chair of Oral Examination Panel for that candidate's thesis. GRS must be advised of the appointment at the time the thesis is submitted for examination.

Part C - PhD (Integrated) – Year 1 Thesis Requirements and Examination

(10) During the first year of study (EFT) in the PhD (Integrated) degree, students will be required to submit a Year 1 Thesis.

(11) A PhD (Integrated) Year 1 Thesis is to normally be between 12,000 and 15,000 words and relate to a research project conceptualised as a sub-project of the planned PhD. Candidates will use the feedback received from the examiner(s) in the preparation of their candidature proposal and if approved, their overall PhD thesis.

(12) The Year 1 thesis is to be assessed at the level of AQF 9.

(13) PhD (Integrated) Candidates must submit their Year 1 Thesis by the due dates for the research period in which they are due to submit their Year 1 Thesis for examination.

(14) At the commencement of the student’s Year 1 Program, the Academic Coordinator HDR Coursework will contact the Principal Supervisor to nominate an appropriate person, who is not involved in the supervisory team, who will examine the Year 1 Thesis. The nominated person will be outside the student’s nominated supervision, preferably from within Victoria University.

(15) If the nominated person is external to Victoria University for the Year 1 Thesis examination, they are required to:

a. adhere to the Guidelines when assessing the Year 1 Thesis
b. return the examiner report within the stipulated timeframe
c. not receive an honorarium payment for the examination
d. not be eligible to examine the final doctoral thesis

(16) All Year 1 Theses will be moderated within the GRS Academic Programs.

(17) In cases where a candidate achieves a 70% average across the Coursework units but a grade of 45%–69% in the thesis, the candidate will be offered the opportunity to revise and resubmit the Year 1 Thesis. A resubmitted thesis will be granted the following maximum grade: 50% in the case of a student initially achieving 45%-49%, or 70% in the case of a student initially achieving 50%-69%. This will not involve a complete rewriting of the thesis, but the candidate will be required to address the Examiner's numbered key concerns using track changes and outlining the responses and changes in the summary sheet. The revised thesis will be assessed by the original examiner and confirmed by Academic Programs with the final result being the higher of the two grades attained for the Year 1 Thesis.

(18) A PhD (Integrated) candidate who achieves a pass of 50% or above in all units including the Year 1 Thesis, but does not fulfil the hurdle requirement (70% average across the coursework units and 70% in the Year 1 Thesis) will be contacted by the Academic Coordinator to discuss their progress and advised of their options - Refer to HDR Procedure 3 Pre-Candidature and Candidature, clause (48).

Part D - PhD and Research Masters: Nomination of Examiners

Requirements and Eligibility

(19) The requirements for each degree type are:

Degree	Traditional, Creative Project (no live component) and with Publications	Thesis by Creative Project (with a live performance and exhibition)
Doctoral degrees	Two appropriately qualified experts of international standing in their discipline/field.	Three appropriately qualified experts of international standing in their discipline (two plus a reserve).
Master Research Degrees	Two appropriately qualified experts of international standing in their discipline/field.	Three appropriately qualified experts of international standing in their discipline (two plus a reserve).

(20) Potential examiners should:

a. be appropriately qualified experts of international standing in their discipline/field;
b. be external to Victoria University (VU);
c. normally be associated with a university or research institution;
d. have demonstrated current research expertise relevant to the thesis;
e. be free of conflict of interest in relation to the other examiner, the candidate, supervisors and University in accordance with the official University Guidelines on Conflict of Interest in Thesis Examination at the time of nomination and throughout the examination process;
f. be available to participate in an oral examination panel (where applicable), normally via video conferencing;
g. where an oral examination is to be in person, the examiners will need to be local and not required to travel. The examination will be held in a suitable room on one of the VU campuses. In exceptional circumstances, usually for candidates from Moondani Balluk, an examiner may be given a travel allowance to attend the examination

in person. In this instance, the budget for this travel will be negotiated between the relevantInstitute/Centre, Moondani Balluk and the GRS.

Conflict of Interest and Candidate Involvement

(21) Where the procedure (see clause 59) calls for a replacement examiner/s or third examiner, the Principal Supervisor will be contacted to provide an appropriate additional examiner.

(22) Supervisors will invite candidates to provide a list of their suggestions for suitable and/or unsuitable examiners and Chair of the Oral Examination Panel. The Principal Supervisor, however, is responsible for all aspects of the nomination process including contacting potential examiner/s and Chair of the Panel, ensuring the documentation required for the nomination is complete and submitting it for approval, which may or may not include the candidate's suggestions. In the event that a candidate makes contact with a potential examiner/s during the nomination process, their nomination will be null and void.

(23) The Principal Supervisor will nominate a Chair of Oral Examination Panel at the time the Nomination of Examiners. The Chair of Oral Examination Panel will be sourced from a list of senior VU academics who have undergone Chair of Oral Examination Panel training. An additional pool of Chair of Oral Examination Panels will be formed by Moondani Balluk and will be nominated to chair panels for candidates working in Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander studies.

(24) The Principal Supervisor is responsible for negotiating a mutually agreed time for the Oral Examination Panel. Normally this will be between 8am-5pm (Melbourne, Australia time).

(25) Prior to the nomination being submitted to GRS, the Principal Supervisor must inform the candidate of their proposed nominations, including the nomination for the Chair of Oral Examination Panel, to ensure that any conflicts of interests are managed effectively.

(26) The Principal Supervisor should discuss any potential conflicts of interests with the Chair of Examiners. Final approval of examiners and Chair of Oral Examination Panel is ultimately determined by the Dean, Graduate Research.

Examiner Availability and Confidentiality

(27) The Principal Supervisor should establish that the nominated examiners will:

a. be available to assess the thesis at the anticipated time of submission, and are available to provide a report within a six-week time frame; and,
b. be available to attend the oral examination (where applicable) ten weeks after they receive the thesis;
c. be able to re-examine the thesis if a 'deferred' recommendation is submitted; and,
d. agree to examine the thesis on a confidential basis. If the examination of a thesis is subject to further confidentiality obligations, the examiners will be asked to sign and return a "One Way Confidentiality Deed Poll" after they have been approved as an examiner.

(28) If at the time of nomination, an examiner is not able to provide their report within a six-week period or attend the oral examination panel at ten weeks, and the Principal Supervisor wishes to proceed with the nomination, the Principal Supervisor must inform the candidate as to when they expect the report to be received. In addition, receive the candidate's written agreement with the arrangement. This should be provided with the nomination of examiners form.

Submission of Nominations of Examiners

(29) In nominating examiners to the Chair of Examiners, the Principal Supervisor must submit the following documentation:

a. provide a copy of the draft thesis abstract;

b. provide a CV for each nominated examiner and information about each nominated examiner that demonstrates their research and research training expertise in relation to the specific project, as well as their international standing in the field (usually no more than two pages per examiner);
c. identify and declare any major or minor potential conflicts of interest in accordance with the University Guidelines on Conflict of Interest in Thesis Examination;
d. confirm that the candidate is aware of the identity of the examiners (as per the Nomination of Examiners application);
e. confirm the examiners have agreed to the scheduled time for the oral examination panel;
f. confirm that the candidate will not contact the examiners during the examination process and thereafter until their thesis has been classified by the University. In the event contact is made with an examiner/s during the examination process, the examiner/s will be null and void (as per the Nomination of Examiners application);
g. confirm the supervisor will not contact the examiners during the examination process. In the event contact is made with an examiner/s during the examination process, the Dean, Graduate Research School (or nominee) to determine if the examination will be null and void;
h. Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Registration form - Thesis Examiner;
i. in the event that a replacement examiner is required after the thesis has initially been released for examination, a Nomination of a Replacement Examiner form will need to be submitted.

Culturally Safe Examination Practices for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Candidates

(30) When the candidate is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or the research project has an Indigenous focus, this must be indicated on the Nomination of Examiners application with the candidate's permission. Following the approval of the Nomination of Examiners by the Dean, Graduate Research School, the GRS will notify the Executive Director, Moondani Balluk or nominee of the approved examiners in order to facilitate culturally safe examination practices.

(31) When the candidate is Aboriginal or Torres Straits Islander or the research project has an Indigenous focus, and an in-person oral examination panel is requested by the Principal Supervisor and candidate, the GRS will notify the Executive Director, Moondani Balluk or nominee to organize a culturally appropriate space for the presentation to be held.

(32) An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander candidate and Principal Supervisor may request the presence of a community member or Elder at the Oral Examination presentation. This must be approved by the Chair of Examiners and the Executive Director, Moondani Balluk or nominee who will brief the community member/Elder of their role during the panel. A community member/Elder must not participate in the discussion or communicate with any panel members during the panel. The community member/Elder will have an opportunity to add to the discussion at the discretion of the Chair at the end of the panel discussion.

Assessment and Approval of Examiners

(33) The Chair of Examiners is required to rigorously assess the suitability of the nominated examiners as per the requirements as specified in clause (20) and may reasonably expect that a Principal Supervisor secure alternative examiner(s) if the nominated examiners are deemed unsuitable.

(34) The Principal Supervisor is responsible for submitting the Nomination of Examiners to the GRS at least two months prior to the anticipated thesis submission date. If examiners have not been nominated prior to the submission of the thesis for examination, GRS will contact the Principal Supervisor to ascertain when examiners will be appointed and inform the candidate that there is a delay to the nomination.

(35) When a Principal Supervisor has failed to nominate examiners two weeks after thesis submission, the Chair of Examiners will be responsible for assisting to identify potential examiners and ensuring that the completed Nomination of Examiners application is submitted to GRS no later than one month following thesis submission. Refer

to Higher Degree by Research Supervision - Supervisor Registration and Professional Development Procedure.

(36) As examiners are normally required to be affiliated with a university or research institution, generally only those email addresses associated with a university or research institution will be used for the delivery of the thesis to an approved examiner.

Part E - Endorsement and Approval of Examiners

(37) The Chair of Examiners will review the suitability of examiners based on clause (19) and Chair of Oral Examination panel and if appropriate, endorse the Principal Supervisor's recommendation of examiners. The nomination will be forwarded to GRS for further review by the Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee). Examiners and Chair of Oral Examination panels will only be considered as appointed when the Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee) has provided final approval.

(38) Only in exceptional and well documented circumstances will the Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee) approve two examiners currently employed by the same institution or with a prior close collaboration (examples: previous research projects, papers or initiatives).

(39) If a Conflict of Interest arises during or after the examination, the Dean may annul one or both examiners' reports in which case replacement examiner(s) will be appointed as per clause (58).

(40) Once examiners are approved and the candidate has met all submission requirements as outlined in Part F, the thesis can be forwarded to the approved examiners.

Part F - Submission of Theses for Examination

(41) Candidates are responsible for presenting their thesis in the format required for their discipline, this may include appropriate academic writing, presentation of formulae and referencing for higher degrees by research and to make the following declarations in relation to research compliance:

a. ethical approval (if applicable). In addition, Human Research Ethical Approval Numbers must be cited in the body of the thesis;
b. integrity and authenticity (candidates can check the originality of their thesis using authenticity verification software reports;
c. co-authorship (particularly but not solely in the case of Thesis with Publications);
d. statement of level of editing (if applicable); and
e. any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the thesis must be ethical, responsible and in keeping with the principles of academic and research integrity including honesty, transparency, fairness and accountability. Candidates will acknowledge the use of AI in their thesis - refer to the Research Integrity Policy and the Academic Integrity Guidelines.

(42) Principal Supervisors are responsible for assessing the thesis is of an examinable standard and specifically that the thesis:

a. has an appropriate format required for their discipline for a higher degree by research; and
b. is research compliant as per clause (41).

(43) The following general requirements must be met for a thesis to be accepted by GRS for examination:

a. the candidate must be currently enrolled;
b. all required coursework and candidature milestones must be satisfactorily completed;

c. the thesis title must be identical to the title registered with the University. Where there has been a change of title from that which was approved at candidature, candidates must confirm the change and the reasons for it on the Release of Thesis form;
d. the thesis must be accompanied by a completed and signed Release of Thesis form in which the Chair of Examiners endorses the Principal Supervisor's recommendation that the thesis is of examinable standard. Once the Release of Thesis is signed by the Chair of Examiners, the candidate is officially placed under examination and the examination process has commenced;
e. the signed candidate declaration, using the approved Student Declaration template must be included in the thesis; and
f. one PDF electronic copy of the thesis (the University is committed to Sustainability and as such, will not print hard copies of the thesis. The candidate will be responsible to provide GRS with a temporary bound copy of their thesis if requested by an examiner. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure the submitted hardcopy is the same version as the submitted electronic copy).

(44) Once a candidate is officially placed under examination, they will remain a candidate of the University until their thesis has been classified.

(45) International candidates who have submitted their thesis for examination are responsible for ensuring that their visa status is current and correct if they wish to remain in the country.

(46) Scholarship stipend payments will cease once the Release of Thesis is signed by the Chair of Examiners (if the stipend is payable within the approved period).

(47) If there is disagreement as to whether the thesis is of an examinable standard, the matter should be discussed amongst the candidate, supervisor(s), the Chair of Examiners and the Institute Associate Director (Research Training) (or nominee). If resolution cannot be found, the matter should be referred to the Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee).

(48) In exceptional circumstances, if a candidate insists on submitting the thesis (or re-examined thesis) against the advice of their supervisors and Chair of Examiners, the candidate will be asked to sign a declaration that releases the University from any responsibility should the nominated examiners adversely appraise the thesis. This declaration will be kept on the candidate’s file within GRS. In this situation and where the thesis is being submitted for initial examination, the relevant Institute Associate Director (Research Training) (or nominee) will be responsible for nominating examiners. If the supervisor decides to withdraw their supervision at the point of thesis submission, the Institute Associate Director (Research Training) (or nominee) will also ensure supervisors are formally in place for when the examiners’ recommendations are received.

Requirements for Submission of a Thesis by Creative Project and Analytical Written Component

(49) A thesis by creative project is presented as three interrelated components:

a. Thesis abstract
b. Creative component
c. Exegesis/analytical written component

Candidates enrolled in a Thesis by Creative Project will be provided a copy of the Examination Guidelines HDR Research Degrees - Thesis by Creative Project (creative writing, multimedia, performance, visual arts)- for HDR candidates and supervisors by the GRS.

(50) Where the creative project does not include a live performance or exhibition, the three required components for

submission as per Clause (49) must be submitted simultaneously.

(51) Where the creative project involves a live performance or exhibition, GRS should be notified at least six months in advance of the timing of the initial presentation. The timing, in relation to the full submission of the Thesis by Creative Project for examination, will be planned and formal approval sought from the Institute Associate Director (Research Training) (or nominee), prior to the appointment of examiners and notification to the GRS.

(52) The formal submission of the Analytical Written Component may occur prior to, simultaneous with, or after the live performance or exhibition, but must occur no later than four calendar months following the conclusion of the live performance or exhibition. The scheduling of the live performance or exhibition must take this into account.

(53) All examiners will be provided with the Thesis Abstract no less than 10 University business days prior to their scheduled attendance at the live performance or exhibition. In addition, if the candidate has opted for the Analytical Written Component to be read prior to the viewing of the performance or exhibition, then this must also be provided no less than 10 University business days prior to the scheduled live performance or exhibition.

(54) If the candidate is unable to formally submit the written component of the work within four calendar months (regardless of EFT) of the live performance or exhibition then an Application for Extension form must be completed prior to the due date.

(55) Failure to formally submit the written component by the due date, or apply for an extension by the due date, will result in the commencement of Unsatisfactory Progress proceedings against the candidate.

Part G - Examination or Re-examination

(56) GRS will email the approved examiners:

a. University's examination guidelines as well as any additional guidelines in relation to the University's expectations of the standards and outcomes for that specific research degree;
b. the electronic copy of the thesis;
c. examiner's report template;
d. honorarium documents; and,
e. invitation to attend the video conference or in-person Oral Examination panel at the agreed time and date (where applicable).

normally within five University business days following receipt of the thesis and/or approval of examiners. Examiners will be requested to confirm receipt of the thesis.

(57) Examiners are provided six weeks from the date the thesis was dispatched to them to return their examination report. Examiners will receive a reminder from GRS after five weeks and contacted again once the six-week period has lapsed. In the event that an examiner's report has not been returned after 10 weeks, a replacement examiner is normally appointed (clause 29h).

(58) If a Conflict of Interest arises during the examination and/or classification processes, as per clause (39), the Dean, Graduate Research will be responsible for the appropriate management of the Conflict of Interest. This may include the appointment of a replacement examiner(s).

(59) If, at any time, an examiner is no longer able to assess a thesis, a replacement examiner will be appointed. Supervisors will be required to discuss the nomination with the candidate as per clauses (22) and (23).

(60) Once the thesis is submitted for examination, at no time during the examination process should candidates or their supervisors contact the examiners (refer to clause (29)).

Requirements for Oral Examination

(61) The oral examination will be scheduled for ten weeks after the thesis has been dispatched to the examiners. The candidate and chair of oral examination will attend in-person for the oral examination. Variations to this arrangement may include:

a. If the candidate is unable to attend in-person, they will need to seek approval from the Chair of Examiners via Research Examinations - Graduate Research School no less than 2 weeks prior to the scheduled presentation.
b. In the event of unforeseen circumstances that will prevent the candidate from presenting at the scheduled meeting time, the Dean, Graduate Research School (or nominee) may approve postponement of the oral examination. Written evidence of circumstances preventing the candidate from attending the Oral Examination Panel must be submitted to the Dean, Graduate Research School, along with support from supervisor.
c. Variation in the arrangements for the final oral examination,including an exemption of the oral examination (candidate must refer to Part H - Examiner Recommendations and Overall Classification and Part I - Thesis Classification to complete the examination and classification process) will be considered on a case by case basis by the Dean, Graduate Research School (or nominee) in exceptional circumstances upon the submission of a written application by the candidate and normally supported by the Principal Supervisor. Supporting documentation such as an approved VU Access plan or equivalent must be submitted with the written application at the time of Nomination of Examiners.

(62) The oral examination panel will consist of the:

a. Chair of Oral Examination
b. Both examiners

(63) In the event an examiner cannot attend the presentation due to unforeseen circumstances, the oral examination will be postponed and rescheduled within 2 weeks of the postponement. If this is not possible, a replacement examiner may be appointed (refer to clause 21).

(64) Candidates may opt to invite their Supervisors to attend the panel however supervisors must not participate in any discussion and must have their cameras and microphones on mute if the panel is held via video conferencing. If the panel is held in-person, the supervisors must sit away from the candidate and agree not to participate. The principal supervisor if present may have an opportunity to add to the discussion at the discretion of the Chair at the end of the panel discussion.

(65) The written report from examiners will consist of:

a. Part 1: the main points to be discussed at the oral examination panel. The discussion will not be limited to these points;
b. Part 2: an interim report on the thesis;
c. Part 3: indicative recommendation of the classification.

(66) The GRS will distribute the three parts of the examiners' reports to the Chair of Examiners upon receipt of both examiner reports.

(67) The Chair of Examiners will read the reports and determine the course of action and notify the GRS:

a. If both examiner reports are either Pass/Pass then the oral examination will proceed;
b. If results are divergent - Pass/Deferred – then the oral examination will proceed;
c. If results are Deferred/Deferred, the candidate will be required to re-enrol and will have an opportunity to

revise their thesis in response to examiner reports and submit for Re-examination. The examination process is thus considered Pending: Re-examination. Refer to clauses (87)-(97). Refer to clauses (61)-(73) pertaining to an oral examination.

d. If results are divergent Pass/Fail or Deferred/Fail then the examination will proceed to the third examiner (applies to initial examination and re-examination). The Examiner who failed the thesis will not be invited to attend the oral examination.
e. If both results are Fail/Fail, the examination is deemed completed.

(68) When the Oral Examination proceeds then the GRS will distribute:

a. the three parts of the examiners' reports to the Chair of Oral Examination and both examiners two weeks prior to the scheduled panel; and,
b. Part 1 of the examiners' reports will be distributed to the candidate and supervisors two weeks prior to the scheduled panel.

(69) The oral examination panel will be chaired by the Chair of Oral Examination (see Chair of Oral Examination Responsibilities Document).

(70) At the conclusion of the oral examination, the Chair of Oral Examination will:

a. Inform the candidate of the recommendation for classification.
b. Prepare a report approved by the examiners which summarises the examiners' assessment of the thesis and oral examination, outlines all required amendments and includes a recommendation of classification to the Dean, Graduate Research School. This report will be read in conjunction with Part 2 of the Examiners Reports.
c. Submit the oral examination report to the GRS within five University business days from the date of presentation.

(71) Following the oral examination panel:

a. An overall thesis classification outcome of Passed is obtained (ie: two Pass recommendations), the examination process will be deemed to be completed once the candidate has addressed any amendments (as required); or
b. An overall thesis classification outcome of Failed is obtained (ie: two Fail recommendations), the examination process will be deemed to be completed.
c. If an overall thesis classification outcome cannot be obtained because of two Deferred recommendations, then the examination is considered Pending: Re-examination and the candidate will be required to re-enrol and will have an opportunity to revise their thesis in response to examiner reports and submit for Re-examination (refer to clauses (87)-(97)). The candidate will not be required to undertake a second oral examination; or
d. If the Chair of Oral Examination panel is unable to obtain approval from all examiners to report a single recommendation of classification then the Chair must submit to the Chair of Examiners and the Dean, Graduate Research School a report containing:
    i. The examiners' assessments of the thesis and the oral examination report; and,
    ii. A statement summarizing why the examiners were not able to agree on a single recommendation.

(72) In this instance, the Dean, Graduate Research School may recommend sending the thesis to a third examiner - refer to clauses (66)-(67). The candidate will not be required to undertake a second oral examination.

Examination of Theses that include a Live Performance or Exhibition

(73) Examiners of Live Performances or Exhibitions will be advised of the format of the examinable work at the time of

their engagement by the University, including when they will be required to attend a live performance or exhibition.

(74) One Reserve Examiner is appointed in the event that one of the two original examiners is for some reason unable to attend the exhibition or performance, or to complete other aspects of the examination process.

(75) All examiners including the Reserve Examiner are expected to attend the exhibition or performance of the candidate's creative work as a component of the thesis.

(76) The third examiner will be designated the Reserve Examiner. The Reserve Examiner is required to produce an examination report but the report will be for feedback only unless:

a. a primary examiner is unable to attend a performance and GRS has been unable to contact another examiner; or
b. a primary examiner has been able to attend the performance but unable to write a report on the performance project; or
c. a primary examiner is late in providing a report on the performance project; or,
d. a primary examiner is unable to attend the Oral examination panel (if required).

(77) The candidate will only receive the examination reports from the first two examiners unless:

a. one of the original examiners has been replaced; or
b. there is a divergent result between the first two examiners;

in which case they will receive all available examination reports.

(78) The examiners will write independent reports on the creative project, including a short description of the Creative Component and its execution, and provide their report and recommendation within six weeks of receiving the formal submission.

(79) At no time shall the examiners communicate with each other, the supervisor or the candidate about the live performance or exhibition until their the thesis has been classified.

(80) At the time of sending the exegesis for examination, examiners will notified that they may be expected to attend an oral examination scheduled for ten weeks after the thesis has been dispatched. Examiners will be invited to the Oral examination. Upon their acceptance of this, then the Reserve examiner will be notified that they are not needed for the Oral examination.

Part H - Examiner Recommendations and Overall Classification

Examiner Recommendations

(81) Examiners are required to make one of the following recommendations on the thesis/major work in an initial round of examination:

a. PASSED without further correction; or
b. PASSED, subject to minor corrections as outlined in the examiner's report;
c. PASSED, subject to substantial amendments as outlined in the examiner's report;
d. DEFERRED, with the candidate permitted to revise the thesis for re-examination;
e. FAILED;

(82) In the event that a thesis requires Re-examination, examiners may only make of the following recommendations on the thesis/major work in a re-examination of the thesis:

a. PASSED (after re-examination);
b. FAILED (after re-examination).

Overall Examination Outcomes, including Pending Outcome: Re-examination

(83) If, after an initial round of examination and receiving two examiners' reports and:

a. an overall Thesis Classification Outcome is obtained (i.e. two Pass or two Fail Recommendations), the examination process will be deemed to be completed; or
b. an overall Thesis Classification Outcome cannot be obtained one Pass and Fail, or one Pass and one Deferred, or one Fail or one Deferred, a third examiner will be appointed (refer to Table 1a); or
c. an overall Thesis Classification outcome cannot be obtained because of two Deferred Recommendations (i.e. Pending Outcome), the candidate must re-enrol and revise their thesis prior to re-examination (refer to clause (87-97) and Tables 1b-c).

(84) If, after an initial round of examination and receiving three examiners' reports (as per Clause 65b):

a. an overall Thesis Classification Outcome is obtained (i.e. a majority of Pass or Fail Examiner Recommendations), the examination process will be deemed to be completed;
b. an overall Thesis Classification Outcome cannot be obtained (i.e. without a majority of Pass or Fail Examiner Recommendations), the candidate must re-enrol and will have an opportunity to revise their thesis in response to the examiners' reports received and submit it for Re-examination. The examination process is considered Pending: Re-Examination. Refer to Table 1d.

Table 1a: Initial Examination: Pass/Deferred/Fail resulting in a Pending: Re-Examination

	Initial Examination	Re-examination	
Examiner A or B	**Passed***	Passed (Initial examination)	Passed (Initial examination)
Examiner A or B	**Deferred**	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)
Third Examiner	**Failed**	Failed (Initial examination)	Failed (Initial examination)
Overall Thesis Classification Outcome	**Pending: Re-examination**	Passed	Failed

*Passed: based on Passed recommendations: without further correction/minor corrections/substantial amendments

Table 1b: Initial Examination: Pass/Deferred/Deferred resulting in a Pending: Re-Examination

	Initial Examination	Re-examination			
Examiner A or B	**Passed***	Passed (Initial examination)	Passed (Initial examination)	Passed (Initial examination)	Passed (Initial examination)
Examiner A or B	**Deferred**	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)
Third Examiner	**Deferred**	Failed (Re-examination)	Passed (Re-examination)	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)

Overall Thesis Classification Outcome	**Pending: Re-examination**	Passed	Passed	Passed	Failed

*Passed: based on Passed recommendations: without further correction/minor corrections/substantial amendments

Table 1c: Initial Examination: Deferred and Deferred resulting in a Pending: Re-Examination

	Initial Examination	Re-examination (Note that a Third Examiner may be required)			
Examiner A or B	**Deferred**	Passed (Re- examination)	Failed (Re- examination)	Failed (Re- examination)	Passed (Re- examination)
Examiner A or B	**Deferred**	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)
Third Examiner	**Not Applicable**	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)
Overall Thesis Classification Outcome	**Pending: Re-examination**	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed

Table 1d: Re-Examination: Passed/Failed and Deferred resulting in a Pending: Re-Examination

	Initial Examination				Re-examination	
Examiner A or B	**Passed**	**Passed (Initial examination)**	**Passed (Initial examination)**	**Passed (Initial examination)**	Passed (Initial examination)	Passed (Initial examination)
Examiner A or B	**Failed**	**Failed (Initial examination)**	**Failed (Initial examination)**	**Failed (Initial examination)**	Failed (Initial examination)	Failed (Initial examination)
Third Examiner	**Not Applicable**	**Passed (Initial examination)**	**Failed (Initial examination)**	**Deferred (Initial examination)**	Passed (Re-examination)	Failed (Re-examination)
Overall Thesis Classification Outcome		**Passed**	**Failed**	**Pending Re-examination**	Passed	Failed

(85) When a thesis is re-examined and an Overall Thesis Classification outcome can be obtained (i.e. with a majority of a Pass or Fail Examiner Recommendations) the Re-examination of a thesis has concluded and the examination process will be deemed to be completed.

Requirements for Re-examination

(86) If the Chair of Examiners recommends that the thesis be deferred based on either initial round of examination where no outcome can be obtained, or after a deferred result from an Oral Examination Panel (see clause 84c), the candidate will be required to re-enrol by the date stipulated by GRS after which they normally have a maximum of up to 9 months (EFT) to undertake a revise their thesis and submit it for re-examination. The candidate should reference Higher Degrees by Research Pre-Candidature and Candidature Procedure to determine if tuition fees will be incurred.

(87) Where an examiner(s) who originally examined the thesis is unable to re-examine the revised thesis, a replacement examiner will be appointed and will be advised at the time of appointment that they are examining a revised thesis. The examiner will make a recommendation either Passed (after re-examination) or Failed (after re-examination).

(88) After discussing the reports with their Supervisors, the candidate and their Principal Supervisor are required to meet with the Chair of Examiners within two weeks after re-enrolment to agree on the approach to be adopted for undertaking a major re-write of the thesis.

(89) If there are extenuating circumstance that lead to a candidate requiring more than up to 9 months (EFT) to make changes to the thesis prior to submitting it for re-examination, the candidate must submit the Application for Extension form to GRS no later than two weeks prior to their original deadline. The candidate may be granted up to 3 additional months (EFT) by the Institute Associate Director (Research Training) (or nominee).

(90) If a candidate fails to re-enrol as required, and they wish to submit for their thesis for Re-examination they will be required to apply for Reinstatement of Candidature. The University reserves the right to reject an application for Reinstatement of Candidature.

(91) Failure to resubmit the thesis for re-examination within the agreed timelines will result in Unsatisfactory Progress proceedings being invoked as per Higher Degrees by Research Progress Procedure.

(92) Candidates submitting their thesis for Re-examination must submit the following documentation:

a. Revised thesis;
b. Track change of the revised thesis;
c. Summary of Responses to Examiners template (outlining the substantive changes made to their thesis);
d. Release of Thesis form;
e. Integrity and authenticity (candidates can check the originality of their thesis using authenticity verification software reports).

(93) The GRS will forward to the examiner(s) who recommended deferred or their replacement examiner the following documentation:

a. Revised thesis;
b. Summary of Responses to Examiners;
c. Original Examiner Reports (examiner reports will be de-identified as required);
d. Examiner Report template for completion;
e. Honorarium documents.

(94) At the time of re-examination, the candidate must ensure that the revised thesis demonstrates they have met the criteria as stated in Higher Degrees by Research Thesis Requirements Procedure - Part C Broad Thesis Requirements by HDR Degree.

(95) The examiner(s) who deferred the thesis in the initial round of examination, or their replacement examiner(s), will only be able to make the recommendations as listed in Clause (82a-b). The examiner(s) will be advised that comments may be included with their recommendation however these are only to be minor such as in relation to grammatical errors or presentation of the thesis.

(96) Oral examination requirements following re-examination:

a. If re-examination follows an Initial Examination result of deferred: at the conclusion of the re-examination and

an overall thesis classification outcome is obtained:

i. majority of examiners recommended an overall Pass, proceed to oral examination; or,

ii. majority of examiners recommended an overall Fail, examination is deemed completed and oral examination not required.

b. If re-examination follows Oral Examination panel: candidate is not required to undertake an oral examination. At the conclusion of the re-examination an overall thesis classification outcome is obtained.

Overall Thesis Classification Recommendations and Advice to Candidate

(97) After completion of the examination process, the Examiners' Thesis Recommendations are used to determine the Overall Thesis Classification Recommendation with the majority recommendations determining the overall classification outcome. See Table 2.

Table 2: Overall Recommendations for Thesis Classifications

Recommendations for Thesis Classification	Overall Thesis Classification
Based on at least a majority of recommendations of Passed in an initial or second round of examination.	Passed
Based on at least a majority of recommendations of Failed in an initial round or second round of examination.	Failed

(98) Once all examiner reports have been received by the GRS, the GRS will send the examiners' reports to the Candidate, copied to the Supervisors and Chair of Examiners, advising them of the Overall Thesis Classification Recommendation (i.e., Passed Classification or Failed Classification). If after an initial or second round of examination, the majority of examiners recommend that the thesis be failed, this will be conveyed to the supervisory team, Chair of Examiners and Institute Associate Director (Research Training) in the first instance. The Principal Supervisor will be responsible to convey the recommendation to the candidate and notify the GRS when this has been actioned. The GRS will send notification to the candidate of the Overall Thesis Classification Recommendation and will advise of their access to Student Advocacy.

(99) Overall Failed Thesis Recommendations will be conveyed to the Research and Research Training Committee after any Appeal Processes (See Part J) have been concluded.

(100) The University will pay examiners on receipt of their examination report an honorarium rate, set in accordance by Universities Australia.

Requirements for Thesis Classification

(101) Candidates whose Overall Thesis Classification Recommendation is Passed are required to discuss the reports with their Principal Supervisor or with their Principal Supervisor and Chair of Examiners (see Table 3) prior to preparing their Response to Examiners to the satisfaction of their Supervisors. Candidates must refer to Table 3 below to comply with response timelines to submit their amendments and/or classification and respond to all Examiner comments using the Response to Examiner Template.

(102) Candidates whose thesis was re-examined are only required to respond to examiners who were part of the re-examination process.

(103) If the candidate requires additional time to revise their thesis and respond to examiners beyond what is outlines in Table 3, the candidate must complete Application for Extension form within two weeks of receiving their examiners'

reports. Normally no more than four additional weeks will be granted and only in exceptional/extenuating circumstances.

(104) Where a candidate fails to submit their revised thesis or their classification documentation within the timeframe that applies to them, and have not applied for an extension, the Institute will commence Unsatisfactory Progress proceedings (as per Higher Degrees by Research Progress Procedure).

Table 3: Summary of Response Timelines to Submit for Classification

	Requirement to re-enrol	Oral Examination	Timelines: Classification Submission	Approval on Response Approach	Academic(s) Recommending Classification	Academic Approving Classification
Passed: based on a combination of passed recommendations of: without further correction and/or minor corrections	No	Yes	Six weeks	Principal Supervisor	Chair of Oral Examination and Chair of Examiners	Dean, Graduate Research
Passed: based on a combination of passed recommendations of: without further correction, minor corrections, and/or substantial amendments	No	Yes	Three months	Principal Supervisor	Chair of Oral Examination and Chair of Examiners	Dean, Graduate Research
Passed: Based on Passed recommendations of: without further correction and/or minor corrections	No	No	Six weeks	Principal Supervisor	Chair of Examiners	Dean, Graduate Research
Passed: Based on Passed recommendations of: without further corrections/ minor corrections and/or substantial amendments	No	No	Three months	Principal Supervisor and Chair of Examiners	Academic Review Panel	Dean, Graduate Research
Passed: After Re-examination	No	Yes	Four weeks	Principal Supervisor	Chair of Oral Examination And Chair of Examiners	Dean, Graduate Research
Passed: After Re-examination	No	No	Four weeks	Principal Supervisor	Chair of Examiners	Dean, Graduate Research
Failed: After Re-examination	N/A	Yes	N/A	N/A	Chair of Oral Examination And Chair of Examiners	Dean, Graduate Research

	Requirement to re-enrol	Oral Examination	Timelines: Classification Submission	Approval on Response Approach	Academic(s) Recommending Classification	Academic Approving Classification
Failed: After Re-examination	N/A	No	N/A	N/A	Academic Review Panel	Dean, Graduate Research

Part I - Thesis Classification

(105) For all higher degrees by research degrees, the classification will be 'Passed' or 'Failed' and the result recorded on the transcript will be S (ungraded pass) or U (ungraded fail).

(106) In the case where the thesis has been classified as 'Failed':

a. this result will be recorded following the three-week period allocated to candidates to appeal the overall outcome (Part J – Appeals);
b. the thesis cannot be revised and resubmitted for any other research degree at VU.

Classification Documentation

(107) The candidate is required to submit the following documentation for classification of theses:

a. Recommendation on Classification;
b. Supporting letter/memo from the Principal Supervisor;
c. Summary of Responses to Examiners Reports;
d. Thesis citation in electronic format template (only for Theses with an Overall Passed Recommendation);
e. Track change version of amended Thesis;
f. Clean copy version of amended Thesis.

(108) GRS will forward the completed classification documents, including Examiner Reports, for overall passed theses as per Table 4.

Classification Process

(109) After reviewing theses with an Overall Thesis Passed Recommendations:

a. based on a combination of passed recommendations without further correction and/or minor corrections; or
b. passed after re-examination,

and being satisfied with the thesis and related documentation, the Chair of Examiners will make a recommendation to the Dean Graduate Research (or nominee) that the thesis be classified as Passed. The Dean, Graduate Research will review the Recommendation for Classification and be responsible for the approval of the thesis classification.

(110) For candidates who did not undertake an oral examination, and examiners have recommended pass with major corrections/or minor/major amendments, after reviewing theses with an Overall Thesis Passed Recommendations and being satisfied with all documentation, on behalf of an Academic Review Panel (ARP), the Chair ARP will recommend to the Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee) that the classification be approved. The Dean, Graduate Research will review the Recommendation for Classification and be responsible for the approval of the thesis classification.

(111) Chairs of Examiners or ARP or the Dean, Graduate Research may request further information and/or

amendments to be made prior or making their recommendation or approval. Any amendments requested and the revised thesis and documentation must be submitted within one month (EFT) of the notification from the Chair of Examiners or ARP or the Dean, Graduate Research, otherwise Unsatisfactory Progress Proceedings will be invoked.

(112) Once the Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee) has approved the classification of the thesis, GRS will notify the candidate in writing of the requirement to submit by the date stipulated the following:

a. an electronic (PDF) copy of the final version of the thesis;
b. completed VUIR Submission and Permission form. This is a prerequisite in order to be eligible to graduate;
c. If restricting access to the thesis, a Restricted Access to a Thesis form should be lodged with the completed VURR. Failure to provide the completed Restricted Access to a Thesis form will result in the thesis being available in the Library repository 24 months from conferral of the award.

(113) Once the candidate's thesis has been classified, all candidate entitlements, including any allocated study space will cease as per the Space Allocation Guidelines.

(114) After reviewing theses with an Overall Thesis Failed Recommendation and being satisfied with all documentation, on behalf of the Academic Review Panel (ARP), the Chair will recommend to the Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee) that the Overall Failed Thesis Classification be approved.

Table 4: Summary Classification Pathway for Theses

	Oral Examination	Academic(s) Recommending Classification	Academic Approving Classification
Passed: based on a combination of passed recommendations without further corrections and/or minor corrections and/or substantial amendments.	Yes	Chair of Oral Examination and Chair of Examiners	Dean, Graduate Research
Passed: based on a combination of passed recommendations without further corrections and/or minor corrections	No	Chair of Examiners	
Passed: Based on Passed recommendations including without further correction, minor corrections and/or substantial amendments.	No	Academic Review Panel	
Passed: After Re-examination.	Yes	Chair of Oral Examination and Chair of Examiners	
Passed: After Re-examination.	No	Chair of Examiners	
Failed: After Initial Examination or Re-examination	Yes	Chair of Oral Examination and Chair of Examiners	
Failed: After Initial Examination or Re-examination	No	Academic Review Panel, Subject to the conclusion of any Appeal Process	

Academic Review Panels

(115) An Academic Review Panel is applicable for candidates who did not undertake an oral examination - refer to Table 3; Summary of Response Timelines to Submit for Classification and Table 4: Summary Classification Pathways for Theses.

(116) An Academic Review Panel (ARP) will normally comprise two members nominated by the Dean, Graduate

Research:

a. a senior academic (Level D or E) from the candidate's Research Institute who is an experienced Principal supervisor, normally Level 3, and who has not had any association with the thesis. The senior academic will act as the Chair of the ARP;
b. an Institute Associate Director (Research Training) from the Research Institute within which the candidate is not associated.

(117) Where any candidate has been the subject of Unsatisfactory Progress Proceedings and their thesis is subsequently submitted to an ARP for classification, an individual who participated in the Unsatisfactory Progress Proceedings cannot serve as a member of that Panel. Any other conflicts of interest must be declared to the Chair of the ARP prior to review of the candidate's documentation.

Restricted Access to a Thesis

(118) Where there are commercial intellectual property issues, or the circumstances of the research project warrant the imposition of a measure of secrecy, the candidate may discuss with the supervisory team restricting partial or full access to the thesis. Candidates should consider whether restricting access would impede their ability to publish their research or to make their work and achievements known to potential employers. A thesis can be restricted for up to two years. In exceptional circumstances, a further extension to restrict access may be granted.

(119) The completed Restricted Access to a Thesis form is submitted with the electronic copy to the GRS as per clause (113). The Dean, Graduate Research approves applications for restricted access to a thesis. If approved, the GRS notifies the candidate, supervisory team and the library.

(120) Once the restricted period has lapsed, the thesis will become available to the public unless the candidate reapplies for a further extension.

Part J - Appeals

Appeal on Overall Thesis Classification Recommendations

(121) In the event of an appeal of an Overall Thesis Classification Outcome, the process as outlined in Part J of this Procedure must be followed.

(122) An appeal must be on one or more of the following grounds:

a. procedural irregularities in the examination process;
b. evidence of prejudice or bias in the examination process.

Lodgement of Notice of Appeal

(123) A candidate who wishes to appeal the Overall Thesis Classification Outcome must lodge a notice of appeal with the Manager, Candidature within 15 University business days of the original decision.

(124) The notice of appeal must clearly state the ground(s) for appeal, summarising the basis for each ground(s) and include any relevant material on which the candidate wishes to rely.

(125) The Manager, Candidature will refer the matter to the Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee.

Chair of HDR Examination Appeal Panel (HDR EAP)

(126) The Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee, or nominee, is the Chair of the HDR Examination

Appeal Panel (HDR EAP). The Chair will be administratively supported by the Manager, Candidature (or nominee).

Functions of the HDR EAP Chair

(127) The Chair of HDR EAP will consider the notice of appeal and any relevant supporting documents and take any of the following actions:

a. if they consider that the appeal lacks merit, the Chair may dismiss the appeal without referring the matter to a HDR EAP for hearing;
b. if they consider that a clear error or procedural deficiency has occurred, the Chair may remit the matter back to the original decision maker/s for reconsideration, with guidance on how to remedy the error or procedural deficiency; or
c. refer the appeal to HDR EAP for hearing in accordance with this Procedure.

(128) Having regard for the need for fairness to both the University and the HDR candidate and pending the final determination of the matter, the Chair may also make one or both of the following interim directions:

a. to suspend the implementation of the decision that is the subject of the appeal; or,
b. to make any other direction that may be reasonable in all the circumstances.

Appeal Panel Composition

(129) An Appeal Panel will be elected by the Chair, Research and Research Training Committee or nominee and must consist of five persons (including the Chair) as follows:

a. Panel Chair: Chair of the Research and Research Training Committee, or nominee;
b. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Impact, or nominee
c. An Institute Associate Director (Research Training) from the Research Institute other than that in which the candidate is associated, or nominee;
d. A senior researcher from the Research Institute in which the candidate is associated;
e. Academic Board's Graduate Research Student representative, or nominee.

(130) The appeal will be treated as an academic matter for the purposes of the composition of the HDR EAP.

(131) Wherever practical, the membership of the HDR EAP will remain the same throughout the hearing of the matter notwithstanding any adjournment.

(132) The HDR EAP must not include anyone who has, or who may reasonably be perceived to have, a bias or conflict of interest in the matter.

(133) The candidate will be notified of the composition of the HDR EAP and this can only be challenged if evidence is provided to the Chair, prior to the hearing, detailing perceived prejudice or bias against the candidate.

Appeal Hearing

(134) Unless agreed otherwise, a candidate making an appeal will receive at least 10 working days' notice of the hearing of the appeal.

(135) In determining an appeal, the HDR EAP:

a. will make a majority rule decision;
b. will act impartially and fairly in all circumstances;

c. may follow any procedure it considers appropriate;
d. will not be bound by legal rules of evidence, technicalities or legal forms, and may inform itself in relation to any matter in any manner it thinks fits;
e. will give the candidate the opportunity to present material and submissions (either in person or in writing) in support of the appeal and to respond to any other material relating to the appeal;
f. will consider any material presented or made available to it; and
g. will allow the candidate to have a support person and/or to be assisted with the preparation and presentation of their case by a student advocate, provided that the support person or student advocate is not –
    i. an Australian legal practitioner, unless with leave of the Chair; or
    ii. involved or alleged to be involved in the matter being determined.

Decision

(136) Following the hearing, the HDR EAP must:

a. allow the appeal in whole or in part; or
b. dismiss the appeal.

(137) If the appeal is dismissed, the HDR EAP must confirm the original decision.

(138) If the appeal is upheld, the HDR EAP will:

a. set aside the failed classification; and
b. may either –
    i. annul the examination in its entirety and direct a re-examination of the current thesis;
    ii. substitute the overall classification with an overall pass classification, which may be subject to no, minor or substantial amendments as set out by the HDR EAP.

(139) Following the decision of the HDR EAP, the Chair of the HDR EAP must provide written notification of the decision within five University business days, to:

a. the candidate; and
b. the Manager, Candidature; and
c. the Dean, Graduate Research who will inform the Research and Research Training Committee of a Failed Thesis if the appeal is dismissed.

(140) The decision of the HDR EAP will be final and there is no further avenue for appeal within Victoria University. If the candidate wishes to seek an external review of the University decision, refer to the Student Appeals Procedure, Part E – External Appeal.

Part K - Conferral of Award

(141) The Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee) provides a list of candidates who have been classified as having satisfied all the requirements for the award to University Council, which authorises the conferral of the awards, for HDR degrees.

(142) The Dean, Graduate Research (or nominee) provides the Research and Research Training Committee, for transmission to the Academic Board, with an annual report on the examination and classification process and the quality of the outcomes achieved.

(143) On confirmation of receipt of the electronic copy of the thesis by GRS and conferral by the University, a Notice of Completion, academic transcript and an Australian Higher Education Graduation Statement (AHEGS) are generated by Assessment and Resulting team and forwarded to the graduand.

(144) Following conferral, doctoral candidates may use the title "Dr".

(145) The graduand will be invited to participate in the next round of graduation ceremonies where the testamur will be presented. Candidates who graduate in absentia can organise for their testamur to be collected from campus or mailed for a fee.

(146) Candidates only need to apply to graduate if they are enrolled in a course and wish to exit this course with a lower (alternate) award. In this instance, candidates will need to contact gradresearch@vu.edu.au.

Part L - Conflict of Roles

(147) No individual may be involved in dual or multiple roles. Where the potential for a conflict of roles exists the following alternate delegations will normally apply:

a. For Institute Associate Director (Research Training) who is also the Principal Supervisor - The Dean, Graduate Research (or their nominee; normally a senior academic).
b. For the Dean, Graduate Research who is also the Principal Supervisor – Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Impact or nominee.

Section 5 - HESF/ASQA/ESOS Alignment

(148) HESF: Standard 4.2 Research Training; 7.2 Information for Prospective and Current Students; 1.4 Learning Outcomes and Assessment.

(149) ESOS Act: Part 3 Division 2; Part 5 Division 2.

Section 6 - Definitions

(150) HDR Oral examination - A formal assessment where a higher degree by research candidate defends their completed thesis to a panel of examiners.

(151) International Standing – Defined as publications or grants of international standing, international collaboration or international research experience.

(152) Thesis Classification – The classification of a thesis is the process whereby a result is assigned to a HDR degree/thesis based on the majority result from the examiners reports.

Status and Details

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Accountable Officer	Andrew Hill Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research & Impact dvc.research@vu.edu.au
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