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## **QUT Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Awards**

The QUT Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Awards established in 2006, acknowledge the need to encourage the promotion of excellence in postgraduate research in Australia.

These awards are intended to develop and support Australia's vibrant research culture by profiling:

- Outstanding contribution to knowledge, and/or
- Demonstration of excellence in postgraduate research.

It is expected that awards will be made to not more than 10% of the theses completed in the award year.

### ***Nominations***

- 1) **Each faculty may nominate to Research Degrees Committee up to three student theses completed in the award year.** The effective completion date of a doctoral degree as recorded on ResearchMaster must lie in the period of **January 1 to 31 December**, inclusive of the award year.
- 2) Normally, a baseline requirement for nomination would be that both examiners recommend the thesis for an award; where only one examiner recommends the Faculty would need to make a case in support of the nomination (no more than 500 words).
- 3) Each Faculty forms a panel nominated by the Executive Dean or nominee to consider:
  - a. Examiners' feedback, and
  - b. The theses' abstracts or whole theses if required.The Executive Dean or nominee will forward Faculty nominations to Research Degrees Committee (normally not more than 3 per Faculty);
- 4) Research Degrees Committee will annually form a working party to consider Faculty nominations and use faculty comments, term of candidature and the thesis abstract to identify those for:
  - Dean's Commendation (unlimited – ratifying Faculty advice for any research thesis)
  - Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Awards (up to 12 across the University)

### ***Materials***

- The nomination is based on the thesis submitted for examination
- The Faculty Panel will consider the thesis and examiner reports in preparing nominations.
- The nomination should indicate the value of the thesis in terms of its significance and quality.

### ***Deadline***

- A report of potentially eligible theses will be generated from ResearchMaster and made available to the Executive Dean or nominee by no later than **February 28** in order to be considered. The Faculty should make nominations to the Research Degrees Committee by the cut off date for submissions for the April meeting of the Committee, normally the second Friday in March.
- RDC will determine the awards by mid April.

### ***Award***

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- Dean's Commendations will be granted an award specified and provided by the Faculty - normally not less than a certificate and a gift voucher to the value of \$100.
  - Up to Twelve Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Awards will be made, consisting of an honorarium of \$1,000 and a certificate of citation. Funds for these awards will be provided centrally.

### **Criteria**

Criteria for selection are:

- Outstanding potential contribution to the discipline – contribution to knowledge, and/or
- Demonstration of excellence in postgraduate research practice.

### **Address**

Faculty nominations should be forwarded to the Secretary, Research Degrees Committee (RDC).

### **Communication Plan**

The Awards will be announced by the Dean of Graduate Studies following approval by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Commercialisation)

Awardees will be announced individually at the next available Graduation Ceremony and will be listed in the Graduation booklet.

Publicity for the awards will be sought through Inside QUT, other media and other appropriate events.

### **Criteria**

Criteria for selection are:

- Outstanding potential contribution to the discipline – contribution to knowledge, and
- Demonstration of quality in research practice.

### **Address:**

Faculty Nominations should be forwarded by the FRAO to the Secretary, Research Degrees Committee (RDC) by the closing date for submissions to the April meeting of RDC.