



RESEARCH STUDENTS CENTRE GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the examination process for QUT.

These guidelines are provided to assist examiners in assessing QUT PhD theses. Examiners should also keep in mind the criteria in Section A of the Report of Examiner for Award of a Doctor of Philosophy form.

- 1 The main purpose of graduate study at QUT is to encourage independence and originality of thought in the quest for knowledge.
- 2 The degree of Doctor of Philosophy at QUT signifies that the holder has undertaken a substantial piece of original research which has been conducted and reported under proper academic supervision 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 facts.
- 3 The award of PhD demonstrates that the candidate has the ability to communicate research findings effectively in the professional area and in an international context.
- 4 The PhD is expected to show evidence of:
 - originality of the research data and/or analysis of the data
 - coherence of argument and presentation
 - competence in technical and conceptual analysis
 - contextual competence
- 5 The thesis should exhibit the same form of disciplined writing as would be accepted for publication in a journal of international standing.
- 6 In your assessment, please remember that this thesis should be judged on whether it is a competent application of a research approach which is accepted within the discipline. That is, it would be unlikely to be appropriate for the examiner to penalise the student on the basis of the general theories or paradigms, which the student takes to the topic (or the topic per se). These have been formally approved by QUT through a confirmation of candidature process and normally endorsed at a formal public seminar in the final year of the student's candidature. The PhD Regulations (16.10) allows in exceptional circumstances for submission of the thesis without faculty endorsement. On submission of your examiner's report, you may ask if the thesis was granted faculty endorsement.
- 7 Please attach a separate, written report to the examination report form in order to make specific comments or identify specific areas which require revision. Your assessment is likely to be clearer to the candidate and the Research Degrees Committee if it uses the following format rather than as a series of unconnected comments referenced only by location in the text:
 - Overall assessment
 - A list of any substantive changes required before the thesis is acceptable
 - A list of any suggestions for publication/dissemination (if applicable)