

Editing of theses

Introduction

Research students are required as part of their candidature to write and submit a thesis. Through candidature the primary source of guidance in preparation of the thesis will be the supervisory team.

Candidates

Candidates are encouraged to write early and write often. It is their responsibility to ensure that the supervisory team has opportunity to assess and provide feedback on writing skills. Beyond the supervisory team, candidates are encouraged to take advantage of the range of workshops, seminars and on line resources available at QUT to enhance candidates' writing skills.

It is reasonable for candidates to seek out mentors or friends to act as readers of their work to support the writing process. For example, fellow students may work as reading teams for each other. International Students Services also provides a service to international students reviewing, on a one to one basis, sections of theses in progress. Where there are difficulties in terms of composition and grammar candidates should seek advice from Supervisors, Faculty staff and the Research Students Centre regarding appropriate support services available.

Ultimately candidates, through their own efforts, are expected to produce well structured and clearly argued writing. This ensures that the theses produced are a reflection of candidates' own thoughts and ideas as generated during their research studies. Mastery of these skills is part of the suite of skills expected of research graduands.

Supervisory Team

The supervisory team will provide feedback on writing style and mechanical inaccuracy. They are also concerned with a range of research issues embedded within the writing. It is expected that candidates can maintain a high level of proficiency in their writing. The supervisory team would normally not be engaged in extensive general editing.

The supervisory team through on going monitor will be able to evaluate resolution of any ongoing difficulties. It is expected that they will report on these matters to the Faculty and University through annual progress reports.

School & Faculty

The School, Faculty and University will review many research students' written work through public seminars and in the case of PhD candidates through the Stage 2 and Confirmation and Annual Reporting processes. It is expected that constructive and rigorous feedback will be provided to candidates to support their skills development and ensure their successful candidature.

Paid Editorial Assistance

Where candidates have access to funding they may wish to seek paid editorial assistance during the final stages of their thesis writing. This should be very carefully considered and undertaken with reasonable expectations and timeframes. Editorial assistance of this kind may only be provided where it is:

- 1) to resolve minor grammatical and technical writing issues within the thesis, not for substantive restructuring or stylistic refinement of the thesis;
- 2) with the knowledge of the supervisor;
- 3) undertaken by a professional editor familiar with the requirements of thesis editing; and
- 4) an editor not currently researching actively in the student's discipline area.

Useful Websites

http://www.gradstudies.unimelb.edu.au/pgstudy/phd/handbk/hdbk_g.html#edittheses

<http://www.rsc.qut.edu.au/studentsstaff/training/index.jsp>