

# Higher Degrees by Research

**POLICY NO.:** RES-10.2.

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 28 February 1995; 23 June 2006

## **AMENDMENTS:**

Previously Academic Policy A-39. Transferred with amendments to form Research Policy 10.0. (Amendments approved by Academic Board, 7 November 1997).

Further amendments by Research Degrees Committee June 1999, December 2000, February 2002

Further amendments Academic Board August 1999, April 2000, February 2001, February 2002, April 2002; July 2002; June 2003, November 2003; August 2004; June 2006 (amalgamation of Policies RES 10.1 and 11.1); December 2006; February 2010; May 2010

**REFERENCE AUTHORITY:** Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Research and Innovation)

## **CROSS REFERENCES:**

[Code of Good Practice: Research Degrees Management and Supervision](#)

[Register of Current Higher Degree by Research Supervisors \(RES 18.0\)](#)

[Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#)

Coursework Degrees with a significant research component (A49.1)

- [Preamble](#)
- [Policy](#)

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## **Preamble**

Research Degrees Committee is responsible to Academic Board for the conduct of all matters pertaining to higher degrees by research.

- The University offers the following higher degrees:
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Philosophy by Portfolio of Publications
- Professional Doctorates

The University of South Australia offers two types of Professional Doctorate:

- Professional Doctorate by Research that comprises at least two-thirds research. The Research Degrees Committee has responsibility for program approval and monitoring.

- Coursework Professional Doctorates in which the research component is less than two-thirds. Academic Policy and Program Review Committee has responsibility for program approval and monitoring Coursework Professional Doctorates
- Masters by Research

Research Degrees Committee is also responsible for oversight of the [Academic Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research](#) in accordance with policies of the University. The Academic Regulations, which form part of this policy, are attached and relate to:

Doctor of Philosophy  
 Professional Doctorates by Research [Doctor of (Discipline)]  
 Masters by Research

Separate regulations govern the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Portfolio of Publications. These also form part of this policy and are attached.

Coursework Professional Doctorates are governed by Policy A49 - Postgraduate Coursework Degrees with a significant research component.

## **Policy**

- 1.** The University of South Australia shall award the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of (Discipline) and Masters by Research degrees, in accordance with the practice and terminology used in the Australian higher education system.
- 2.** The Research Degrees Committee of the Academic Board shall be responsible for administration of the Academic Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research and shall recommend to Academic Board the names of those persons to be admitted to the degree.
- 3.** The University will be responsible for providing comprehensive Research Education Support Activities for Higher Degree by Research students.
- 4.** A proposed higher degree by research program should be consistent with the mission of the University of South Australia.
- 5.** Higher Degree by Research students may be admitted to the relevant award on the following bases:

**5.1** Doctoral students must demonstrate that their research work, which may include artefacts (such as painting, performance or multi-media presentation), is comprehensive in both theory and methodology and that they have made a significant original contribution to knowledge and/or to the application of knowledge within the field of study

**5.2** Doctor of Philosophy by Portfolio of Publications students must demonstrate their thesis is an original scholarly contribution to knowledge.

**5.3** Masters degree by Research students must demonstrate that their work, which may include artefacts (such as painting, performance or multi-media presentation), is competent in both theory and methodology and that their thesis makes a contribution to knowledge and/or to the application of knowledge within the specified field of study.

**6.** Administration of a Higher Degrees by Research will be undertaken in accordance with the [Academic Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research](#) or the [Academic Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy \(by Portfolio of Publications\)](#).