Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Statute
(360 points)

This statute is to be read in conjunction with the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Admission and Enrolment Statute, and the Doctoral Policy for PhD and other Doctorates with Theses, and relevant procedures and guidelines.

Entry Requirements

1. Before enrolment, a candidate for the PhD shall:
   (a) have completed a Bachelor’s degree with Honours or Master’s degree at a New Zealand university with an overall GPA of no less than 6 (letter grade B+); or
   (b) be currently enrolled in a Master’s thesis at the Victoria University of Wellington and meet the requirements for conversion to a PhD; or
   (c) produce evidence to the satisfaction of the Dean, Faculty of Graduate Research (FGR) of adequate training and ability to proceed with the proposed course for the degree.

2. Candidates must qualify for entry and be accepted by the Head of School and the relevant Associate Dean (PGR).

3. Where a candidate qualifies for entry under s1(b) above, the candidate will be deemed to have been provisionally registered for the PhD from the date of first enrolment for the Master’s thesis.

General requirements

4. The course of study for a PhD consists of a programme of research and the completion of a thesis carried out under supervision as set out in the Doctoral Policy.

5. The research will normally be conducted at the Victoria University of Wellington.

6. The thesis must be a body of work that demonstrates the candidate’s ability to carry out independent research, and constitutes a significant and original contribution to knowledge or understanding. This contribution may include critical, experimental, theoretical or creative components, but the end result must be a single integrated study.

7. The work for the thesis must not have been submitted for another qualification at this or any other university.

8. The thesis shall not exceed a total of 100,000 words in length (including scholarly apparatus). In exceptional circumstances the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Research (FGR) may grant permission for a longer thesis to be submitted for examination.

9. A thesis is a public document. In exceptional circumstances the Dean FGR may grant permission to withhold public access to a thesis for a limited period of time.

10. The format of the thesis is as determined by the Library Statute. A thesis that includes non-textual material must be presented in a format and scale capable of being examined and of being deposited in the Library.
Enrolment and registration

11. A candidate must be continuously enrolled until the completed thesis is lodged in the University Library, unless they withdraw from the qualification, or have their enrolment terminated by the University, or fail the qualification.

12. A candidate shall in the first instance be provisionally registered for the degree.
   (a) Full registration is gained by demonstrating satisfactory progress during the provisional period, and meeting criteria as set out in the Doctoral Policy.
   (b) Up to 60 points of coursework may be required as part of the PhD and any coursework undertaken must normally be completed within the period of provisional registration.
   (c) When full registration is confirmed, the period of provisional registration is counted as part of the minimum and maximum periods as defined in section 13 below.

13. Except with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Research, the minimum and maximum periods from the time of first enrolment (excluding any approved period(s) of suspension) until submission of a PhD thesis for examination shall be as follows:
   (a) A full-time candidate shall be enrolled for a minimum of 36 months.
   (b) A full-time candidate may be enrolled for a maximum of 48 months.
   (c) For a candidate permitted to enrol half-time for part or all of their programme, the minimum and maximum periods shall be calculated on a pro rata basis.

14. On application from a candidate, the Associate Dean (PGR) may approve a suspension of registration for a period of not less than one month. During a student’s candidature, the total period of suspension shall not usually exceed twelve months. During a suspension, the candidate will pay no tuition fees.

15. Extensions to the maximum period prior to submission of the thesis may be granted by the Dean FGR and shall not usually exceed twelve months. Consideration of extensions shall take account of the candidate’s personal circumstances and the nature of the research project and consent shall neither be unreasonably withheld nor given without good cause. All calculations will exclude any periods of approved suspension.

16. A candidate’s enrolment may be terminated if they fail to make satisfactory progress or if they do not fulfil the requirements of the examination process.

17. As set out in the Doctoral Policy, enrolment for the PhD degree may be converted to an enrolment in a Master’s degree.

Examination

18. The examination for the PhD degree will comprise an examination of the thesis and an oral defence of the thesis as set out in the Doctoral Policy.

19. The Dean FGR shall, on the basis of the examiners’ reports and the recommendation arising from the oral defence, determine whether the degree will be awarded.

20. Where the decision has been made to award the degree, it will be awarded upon the deposit of the final thesis in the University Library in accordance with the Library Statute.