

Research Higher Degree Appeals Procedures

- (1) These procedures provide the framework for Research Higher Degree students to appeal specific decisions regarding their research award.
- (2) Definitions used in these procedures are:
 - a. A research higher degree is a program at an accredited Level 9 (Research Masters) qualification, where at least two-thirds of the program is learning for research, research training and independent study; or is an accredited Level 10 (Research Doctorate) where a minimum of two years of the program of learning, and typically two-thirds of the qualification is research.
 - b. A Research Masters means either a Master of Philosophy program or a Master of Research (HDR component only) program.
 - c. The Dean is the Dean of a University School.
 - d. The Director is the Director of a University Research Institute (Institute) or partner provider.
 - e. The HDR Director is the Higher Degree Research Director as determined by a Dean or by a Director.
 - f. The School or Research Institute (Institute) Research and Higher Degrees Committee is the relevant School Research and Higher Degrees Committee, or the equivalent committee for a University Institute or partner provider as determined by the Director in consultation with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research and Innovation).
- (3) Research Higher Degree candidates can appeal against a decision:
 - a. Not to award a research higher degree;
 - b. On termination of candidature;
 - c. On the awarding of Research Training Program Scholarship stipend or University Postgraduate Research Scholarship/allowance;
 - d. On the implementation of Research Award conditions.
- (4) Research Higher Degree candidates cannot appeal the academic assessment of merit of their thesis or any other component of their work. The assessment of Higher Degree Research work involves a multi staged process with the participation of supervisors, HDR Directors, School/Institute Research Committees and Academic Senate's Research Studies Committee. The multi-stage assessment process applies to the second year of the Master of Research (HDR component only). Appeals in the first year follow related policies (such as the *Review of Grade Policy*).
- (5) The only grounds for an application to appeal against a decision not to award a postgraduate research degree or not to allow resubmission of a thesis for re-examination, or against a decision to terminate a student's candidature, are aligned with the University's Academic Appeals Procedures as follows:
 - a. Procedural irregularities;
 - b. Significant evidence of circumstances substantially affecting the student's performance of which the Research Studies Committee was not aware.

(6) The student must make the application to appeal in writing as per the Academic Appeal Procedures. The application must be received within one month of the decision that is the subject of the appeal. The student must set out fully the evidence pertaining to the grounds for the application to appeal and provide documentary evidence in support of the application.

(7) The Chair, Academic Senate and one School or Institute HDR Director or nominee, other than from the student appellant's School or Institute, will determine whether the nature of the appeal is in line with the grounds detailed in Clause 3 of these Procedures, and is accepted.

(8) If the application is accepted, then the appeal will be heard in accordance with the Academic Appeals Procedures.

(9) If the appeal is upheld, the convened Academic Appeals and Integrity Committee will propose relevant actions to the HDR Director with a report on the completion of items to be provided electronically to the committee members.

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[Previously Research Higher Degree Appeals Policy – Refer AS18:05/07]