

# HIGHER DOCTORATE EXAMINATIONS

## Review Process

When an application for a Higher Doctorate is received, the Vice-Chancellor will nominate a senior academic staff member to appoint a Review Panel of not fewer than three persons. This Review Panel will report to the University Postgraduate Board in the following terms:

1. The Review Panel considers the submitted material to be worthy of examination for the degree, in which case they will recommend suitable examiners; or
2. The Review Panel does not consider the submitted material to be worthy of examination for the degree, in which case they will set out briefly the points on which it fails to meet the requirements for examination.

## Examination Process

If the Review Panel determines that the examination shall proceed, the applicant's work shall be forwarded to three examiners.

### Appointment of Examiners

Higher Doctorates are normally assessed by three examiners who will have international standing in the relevant area. Normally, at least one examiner must be from overseas i.e. is currently resident overseas and is/has been employed at an overseas university(s) for at least 10 years. An examiner must be active in research. An examiner must have no potential conflict of interest, for example, worked with or been involved in collaborative research with the candidate.

### Examination Criteria

A Higher Doctorate may only be awarded for a substantial collection of work which constitutes an original, substantial and distinguished contribution to scholarship, and:

- Indicates a record of special excellence in their original contributions in research or creative achievement;
- Shows the candidate to be a distinguished leader in the relevant field; and
- Provides an original and prestigious contribution to the relevant field of knowledge.

### Examination Outcome

The examiners will:

- Report independently on the quality of the work according to the examination criteria and;
- Recommend whether or not the degree should be awarded.

If the examiners are not in agreement of the examination outcome the Review Panel may:

1. Consult with the examiners to see if consensus can be reached; or
2. Follow the majority decision; or
3. Appoint a further examiner; or
4. Appoint an independent referee.

On the basis of the examiners' reports, the University Postgraduate Board (UPB) will determine whether the degree should be awarded. The Dean of the Graduate Research School will advise the applicant of the examination outcome. The degree will be conferred at an appropriate graduation ceremony.

### **Re-Applications**

An applicant who is not permitted to proceed to examination, or who is not awarded the degree, may not re-apply for a Higher Doctorate until a period of five years has lapsed since the first application and may re-apply only once.

## **Appeals**

### **Appeals Against the Outcome**

An appeal against a decision by the UPB should be made in accordance with the General Academic Regulations, as outlined in the AUT Academic Calendar