

# THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH – DOCTOR OF CLINICAL DENTISTRY RESEARCH PROVISIONS 2022

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## 1 Purpose and application

- (1) These provisions prescribe the requirements for:
  - (a) successful completion of the research units of study; and
  - (b) submission and examination of the research treatise;  
referred to in the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry course resolutions.
- (2) These provisions apply to students enrolled in all streams of the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry.

### 1A Definitions

- (1) In these local provisions:

<b>lead supervisor</b>	means the person appointed by the Sydney Dental School to fulfil the functions prescribed in these provisions.
<b>Program Director</b>	means the program director for the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry.
<b>Research Advisory Group</b>	means the Sydney Dental School Doctor of Clinical Dentistry Research Advisory Group.
<b>School</b>	means the Sydney Dental School.
<b>student</b>	means a student enrolled in the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry.
<b>treatise</b>	means a body of academic research work, undertaken during a student's Doctor of Clinical Dentistry candidature, that meets the requirements prescribed in clauses 2(2) and 2(3).

## 2 Responsibilities of Students

- (1) In order to meet the requirements of the research component of the Doctor of Clinical Dentistry, students must:
  - (a) successfully complete:
    - (i) Research Methods in Dentistry; and
    - (ii) Dental Research Studies 1-5;
  - (b) present at research seminars as required;

- (c) give a satisfactory oral presentation; and
  - (d) submit an electronic copy of their research treatise to the School within three years from the commencement of candidature, unless the Program Director, acting on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Group, approves an extended period due to exceptional circumstances.
- (2) The treatise must comprise:
- (a) an abstract;
  - (b) a literature review;
  - (c) a research project report, presented in the form of one or more scientific research paper manuscripts; and
  - (d) a discussion or conclusion about the research or the future direction of the research.
- (3) The treatise must:
- (a) embody the results of the student's research during their Doctor of Clinical Dentistry candidature;
  - (b) be an original contribution to the research subject;
  - (c) afford evidence of originality by the exercise of independent critical ability;
  - (d) contain one or more critical hypotheses that investigate the subject of the treatise in the relevant body of knowledge; and
  - (e) form a cohesive and unified whole.
- (4) Students must provide evidence to identify satisfactorily the sections of work for which the candidate is responsible, such as a signed, written statement from the lead supervisor attesting to the contribution of the student.
- (5) Students may not present work which has been presented for another degree in this or another university, but will not be precluded from incorporating such work in the paper provided that in presenting the paper the student indicates the part of the work which has been so incorporated.
- (6) Students must submit an electronic copy of the treatise for examination through Turnitin.

### **3 Presentation of Treatise**

- (1) The treatise may contain appendices to provide a place for the inclusion of supplementary material that is related to the research but not directly relevant to the argument of the treatise. Appendices may include:
- (a) data sets;
  - (b) examples of surveys or instruments used to gather research data;
  - (c) handbooks and manuals;
  - (d) publications arising from the research but not directly relevant to the arguments included in the treatise;
  - (e) archival and primary texts; or
  - (f) other material as deemed necessary by the student and supervisor(s).

- (2) The total upper word limit for the treatise is 50,000 words, excluding appendices.

#### **4 Responsibilities of the School**

- (1) The School will appoint the lead supervisor and any other research supervisors.
- (2) The Program Director will approve the research topic for the treatise, on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Group.
- (3) The lead supervisor will:
- (a) ensure that appropriate resources and support are made available by the School to assist the student's research progress;
  - (b) attend to all administrative requirements associated with the student's candidature;
  - (c) ensure that the supervisory team provides timely, honest and effective commentary on the student's research progress to the Research Advisory Group;
  - (d) represent the supervisory team when responding to queries about the student's candidature from the School or Faculty; and
  - (e) coordinate supervisory responsibilities in the examination process.
- (4) The School will apply similarity detecting software and make other appropriate checks to all treatises submitted for examination. The School may decline to send a treatise to examination if there is a finding of inappropriate academic practice, academic dishonesty or research misconduct. All allegations of inappropriate academic practice, academic dishonesty or research misconduct will be handled in accordance with the University's:
- (a) *Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2015*;
  - (b) *Academic Honesty Procedures 2016*;
  - (c) *Research Code of Conduct 2019*; and
  - (d) *University of Sydney (Student Discipline) Rule 2016*.

#### **4A Appointment of Examiners**

- (1) The lead supervisor will:
- (a) consult potential examiners to confirm that they are willing and able to conduct the examination within the required timeframe; and
  - (b) recommend to the School the appointment of two examiners of the treatise.
- (2) Except in exceptional circumstances and with the specific approval of the Program Director acting on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Group, at least one examiner will be external to the School, not being a member of staff or a clinical academic title holder of the School.

- (3) Examiners will have the following qualifications appropriate to the discipline, as determined by the Program Director, acting on the advice of the Research Advisory Group:
  - (a) a qualification equivalent to the level being examined; or
  - (b) equivalent professional or research experience.
- (4) The School will take all reasonable steps to ensure that examiners are:
  - (a) free from actual or perceived bias for or against the student or the supervisor(s); and
  - (b) free from actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interests.
- (5) The School will not appoint a person as examiner:
  - (a) if they have supervised the student's research at any time; or
  - (b) within ten years of their graduation from a research degree if their research supervisor was also the student's lead supervisor, except with the specific approval of the Program Director on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Group, and in exceptional circumstances.

## **5 Examination of the Treatise**

- (1) The treatise must be accompanied by a statement from the lead supervisor stating whether, in the lead supervisor's opinion, the treatise is sufficiently well presented to be examined.
- (2) If a treatise is submitted for examination without the lead supervisor's statement, the Program Director will, with the advice of the Research Advisory Group, decide whether it should be accepted for examination.
- (3) Within six weeks of the receipt of the treatise, each examiner must:
  - (a) complete the examination; and
  - (b) submit a report to the Research Advisory Group.
- (4) The outcome of the examination must be one of the following:
  - (a) Award without qualification: the degree can be awarded without any further action by the student.
  - (b) Award with corrections: the degree can be awarded once all required corrections to the treatise have been addressed by the student to the satisfaction of the Unit of Study Coordinator for Dental Research Studies, on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Group.
  - (c) Non-award - revision and re-examination: the degree is not awarded, and the option is provided for the student to revise and resubmit the treatise for a new examination.
  - (d) Non-award - option to award another degree: the treatise is not considered satisfactory for the award of the degree for which it was submitted, but another degree for which the student is eligible may be awarded instead.

## NOTES

### Faculty of Medicine and Health - Doctor of Clinical Dentistry Research Provisions 2019

Date adopted: 5 December 2018

Date commenced: 28 February 2019

Date amended: 6 May 2022

Approved by: Prof Robyn Ward, Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health

Signature:

Review date:

Rescinded documents: None

Related documents:

[Coursework Policy 2014](#)

[Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2015](#)

[Academic Honesty Procedures 2016](#)

## AMENDMENT HISTORY

Provision	Amendment	Commencing
Various	Replace 'Sydney Dental School' with 'School' as defined in clause 1A.	10 January 2022
1A	Clause added.	10 January 2022
2(1)(c)	Amendment to requirements for research presentations.	10 January 2022
2(1)(d)	Amendment to requirements for treatise submission.	10 January 2022
2(2)(c)	Amendment to required content of treatise.	10 January 2022
2(2)(d)	Clause added.	10 January 2022
2(3)(a)	Addition to ensure that research is completed during candidature.	10 January 2022
2(4)	Replace 'all authors' with 'lead supervisor'.	10 January 2022



2(5)	Reverse order with clause 2(6).	10 January 2022
2(6)	Amendment to require electronic submission of treatise for examination.	10 January 2022
3(1)(f)	Change 'supervisor' to 'supervisor(s)'.	10 January 2022
4(1)	New clause to replace approval of research topic and supervisor by School Research Committee.	10 January 2022
4(2)	Clause added.	10 January 2022
4(3)	Clause added.	10 January 2022
4(4)	Addition re handling of 'inappropriate academic practice, academic dishonesty or research misconduct'.	10 January 2022
4A	Clause added.	10 January 2022
4A(1)	Replace 'head of discipline' with 'lead supervisor'.	10 January 2022
4A1(a)	Addition re requirement to consult potential examiners.	10 January 2022
4A(2)	Addition of power for Program Director to approve exception.	10 January 2022
4A(3)	Replace 'Sydney Dental School Research Committee' with 'Program Director, acting on the advice of the Research Advisory Group'.	10 January 2022
4A(4)(a)	Change 'supervisor' to 'supervisor(s)'.	10 January 2022
4A(5)(b)	Replace 'three years' with 'ten years'. Replace 'supervisor' with 'lead supervisor'. Replace 'Sydney Dental School Research Committee' with 'Program Director, on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Group'.	10 January 2022
5(1)	Replace 'supervisor' with 'lead supervisor'.	10 January 2022
5(2)	Replace 'supervisor' with 'lead supervisor'. Replace 'Sydney Dental School Research Committee' with 'Program Director, with the advice of the Research Advisory Group'.	10 January 2022
5(3)	Replace 'eight weeks' with 'six weeks'.	10 January 2022
5(3)(b)	Replace 'Sydney Dental School Research Office' with 'Research Advisory Group'.	10 January 2022
5(4)(b)	Replace 'chair of examination' with 'Unit of Study Coordinator for Dental Research Studies, on the recommendation of the Research Advisory Group'.	6 May 2022