

Higher Degrees Committee (Research)
Thesis by Published and Unpublished Papers

- 1 As an alternative to the traditional format for a higher degree thesis, it is permissible for candidates to submit a thesis in the form of a series of articles arising from the candidate's higher degree research. These must be along a central theme and may or may not be already published. The presentation of the articles should take into account current regulations for PhDs (see R21.2.9), for Professional Doctorates (see R21.3.9) and for Masters by Research (see R21.5.9). Where the thesis includes work of joint authorship the candidate shall include in the thesis a signed declaration for each article, stating the extent and nature of his or her contribution and justifying the inclusion of the material. A signed declaration from at least one of the co-authors should also be included, verifying the extent and nature of the candidate's contribution.
- 2 The presentation of a thesis as a collection of articles must include at least one substantial integrating article, or preferably a separate introduction, general discussion and conclusion that in combination provide an integration of the material presented. In addition, a clear statement must be included in the thesis indicating which chapters are based on published articles and providing full publication details of these articles.
- 3 The number of articles to be included will depend on the content and length of each and should take full account of the University's requirements for the degree as well as the amount of research expected for the degree in that discipline. Each discipline area may have specific requirements, in addition to those described in these guidelines and in the university regulations.
- 4 With respect to the regulation governing the completion of work undertaken during candidature, (see point 1), it is expected that unless written approval is given to include work undertaken prior to candidature at La Trobe University, e.g., a small proportion of data collected during the Honours degree to be re-analysed, all work will have been completed during the period of candidature. Work published prior to commencement of candidature must **not** be included in the thesis, although reference to such material is permitted.
- 5 With respect to the regulation governing joint authorship (see point 1) the candidate is expected to have made a significant and leading contribution to the work reported, equivalent to that expected for a traditional thesis.
- 6 A published book can also be submitted as a thesis for a Masters, PhD or professional doctorate, provided that it fulfills the requirements set out in the above five clauses of these guidelines.
- 7 The thesis will be examined in the normal way and according to the normal requirements set out for the degree (see Appendix A and Appendix D of the *Handbook for Candidates and Supervisors for Masters Degrees by Research and Doctoral Degrees*). Examiners of a thesis by published and unpublished papers will be given a copy of these guidelines.
- 8 The decision to submit a thesis in the form of a series of published and unpublished articles should be given careful consideration. Candidates should note that this is not an accepted practice in all disciplines. Moreover, it is likely, especially with a series of articles along one theme, that there will be considerable repetition across the articles which may detract from the presentation of the thesis. For these reasons, it may be more appropriate to prepare the thesis in the traditional format, including reprints of any published articles arising from the thesis as an appendix.