

**INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM BY  
PUBLICATION MODE (PRIOR PUBLICATIONS)**

**1. Program of Study**

This program of study is classified as a Doctor of Philosophy by Publication which is a program implemented through the submission of a thesis containing published works and other additional documents that integrate the said works.

**2. Admission Requirements**

(1) The candidate should be:

- (a) a Professor, Reader, Associate Professor or Lecturer, who at the time of applying for admission as a candidate has had no less than three years of service as a University tutor and who is in active service at the University; or
- (b) a graduate of this University with the following minimum qualifications:
  - (i) a Master degree, or
  - (ii) a Bachelor of Medicine or Dentistry degree, or
- (c) one who is recognized by the Senate as having previously published and contributed to the scholarship of knowledge in the field concerned.

(2) Candidates should not have qualifications such as a doctorate in the research field concerned from this University or other universities.

**3. Application**

(1) The applicant must submit a written application to the Registrar together with a curriculum vitae. Applications should include the following documents:

- (a) At least **4** examples of published work preceded by a critical summary of the said work of approximately 3,000 words. The critical summary must provide context to the papers submitted, show coherence and identify its contribution to knowledge. It should also state the research methodology used; and
- (b) A detailed list of **published works** submitted for evaluation, along

with a synopsis of about 1,000 words for each of the paper.

- (2) The Faculty shall appoint a panel comprising of the following to evaluate the quality and coherence of the published works submitted, to verify the contribution of the applicant and whether the submission of the papers meets the criteria for the conferment of the degree:
  - (a) Dean – Chairperson;
  - (b) Deputy Dean (Postgraduate);
  - (c) Head of Department;
  - (d) A senior academic staff in the same field; and
  - (e) A representative of the Senate
- (3) Applicants are required to attend an interview with the Panel.
- (4) If the Faculty concurs that the published works are on par with the quality required for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the application will be forwarded for Senate approval.
- (5) Candidates who qualify for admission into the PhD program through the publication mode must complete the PhD program application form.

#### **4. Registration**

Candidates must renew his candidacy not later than seven weeks from the commencement of the semester concerned.

#### **5. Duration of Study**

Minimum: 6 months

Maximum: 24 months

#### **6. Program Structure**

Candidates are required to submit the published works in the form of a thesis for examination.

#### **7. Supervision**

- (1) At least one supervisor in the field will be assigned to the candidate.
- (2) The role of the supervisor is to:
  - (a) guide the candidate in choosing the published works for the submission;
  - (b) advise the candidate as to whether additional papers should be published;
  - (c) guide the candidate in preparing the required thesis as well as ensuring

the papers are coherent;

- (d) advise the candidate on any research training needed.
- (3) The candidate must submit a progress report at the end of each semester to the supervisor according to the prescribed procedures.

## **8. Thesis Format**

- (1) The thesis may include published works encompassing reviewed journal papers, monographs, books, researched-based chapters in books which are peer reviewed, high impact and high quality electronic publications and creative works and artifacts in the related fields. Publications which have been submitted for other degree conferment purposes are not accepted.
- (2) The number of published works is between 4 and 6. These works must be those published within a period not exceeding 10 years from the date of submission.
- (3) Where there is more than one author, the candidate should be the primary author of no fewer than 4 of the published works submitted.
- (4) In principal, the thesis shall contain the following in addition to the usual items of a standard thesis:
  - (a) The list of published works;
  - (b) Acknowledgment of co-authors and verification of originality, and
  - (c) the published works.

Each published work must begin with a clear statement about the contribution made by each author in any joint published work.

- (5) The thesis must be preceded by an abstract of the major findings of each of the published work. It should explain how the work is integrated into one coherent intellectual framework and how, when taken together, would contribute to knowledge in the field concerned.
- (6) The Introduction Chapter should contain:
  - (a) a description of the research issues investigated;
  - (b) the objectives of the study; and
  - (c) a discussion of the advancement in research linked to the published works concerned.

The discussion of the advancement in research is so there is continuity in the published works concerned and so the logic of the advancement in research can be understood.

- (7) The Literature Review chapter should be in a format consistent with the discipline concerned and must contain a critical review of relevant literature, must identify

knowledge gaps as well as link the literature with the research program.

- (8) The Conclusion chapter should illustrate the cumulative effects of the papers; their significant findings and their contribution to knowledge.
- (9) Published works should be presented in a coherent manner in the thesis in accordance with the requirements of the University of Malaya Rules and Regulations (Doctor of Philosophy) 2007, including any relevant declarations.

## **9. Examination**

- (1) The candidate shall give three months written notice to the Faculty about the intention to submit the published works for examination.
- (2) The candidate must submit five copies of the published works in the form of a thesis, for examination.
- (3) Three examiners who are experts in the field concerned shall be appointed to examine the thesis, with at least two of whom shall be external examiners.
- (4) The Board of Examiners shall recommend whether the candidate's thesis:
  - (a) has attained sufficient academic merit to be awarded the degree without any correction; or
  - (b) has attained sufficient academic merit to be awarded the degree subject to the candidate making minor corrections within a period of less than 6 months without re-examination. The minor corrections referred to do not involve any changes to the published works, or
  - (c) has not attained sufficient academic merit and the candidate has failed in the thesis examination.
- (5) A viva-voce examination is required.
- (6) When all amendments have been made, the candidate must submit 3 final copies (one is the original) and one electronic copy that will become the property of the University.

## **10. Conferment of Degree**

A thesis qualifies to be awarded as excellent when it has been:

- (1) recommended as excellent in the reports of all examiners; and
- (2) recommended by the Board of Examiners.