

Guidelines For The Doctor Of Philosophy Degree Programme By Prior Publication

1. Programme Of Study

The programme of study shall be classified as Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Prior Publication, that is, a programme of study leading to the submission of a thesis comprising published works and additional papers integrating the work.

2. Admission Requirements

- (1) The candidate shall be as follows:
 - (a) Professor, Reader, Associate Professor or Lecturer who at the time of application for admissions, have served not less than three years as a teacher of the University and are still active in the service in the University;
 - (b) Graduates of the University having the minimum qualifications as follows:
 - (i) a Master's degree; or
 - (ii) a Bachelor of Medicine or Dentistry degree; or
 - (c) An individual who through prior publication and contribution towards the body of knowledge, is accepted by the Senate as a scholar in the field.
- (2) The candidate must **not** already hold a doctoral degree from the University or any other university in the same discipline or area of research.

3. Application

- (1) The candidate is required to submit a written application together with a curriculum vitae to the Registrar. The application shall include the following:
 - (a) At least five samples of published work which are prefaced by a critical summary of approximately 3,000 words about the publications. The critical summary should document the theme or research focus that relates the selected

publications, demonstrate their coherence and identify the contribution to the advancement of knowledge of the research which they represent. It should also indicate the methodology adopted in the research.

- (b) A detailed list of the papers which will be submitted for examination, together with a synopsis of about 1,000 words which summarises the most important findings for each paper concerned.
- (2) The faculty will appoint the following to consider the quality and coherence of the papers to be submitted, ascertain the parts contributed by the applicant and the likelihood the submission will meet the criteria for an award:
- (a) Dean – Chairman
 - (b) Deputy Dean (Higher Degree)
 - (c) Head of Department
 - (d) A senior academic staff in the relevant field; and
 - (e) A representative of the Senate.
- (3) The applicant is required to attend an interview by the Panel.
- (4) Should the Faculty agree that the work submitted is consistent with the level of a PhD research, the application shall be recommended for the Senate's approval.

4. **Registration**

The candidate must renew his candidature not later than week seven of the relevant semester.

5. **Duration Of Study**

Minimum period : 6 months
Maximum period : 24 months

6. **Structure Of Programme Of Study**

The candidate is required to submit papers published in high impact journals (e.g. ISI journal) in the form of a thesis for examination.

7. **Supervision**

- (1) At least one supervisor in the relevant field will be appointed for the candidate.
- (2) The role of the supervisor will be to:
 - (a) guide the candidate in the selection of publications for inclusion in the submission;
 - (b) guide the candidate as to whether further publications are needed;
 - (c) guide the candidate in the preparation of the thesis including the coherence of the body of work to be submitted;
 - (d) advise the candidate in relation to any research training requirements.
- (3) A candidate shall be required to submit a progress report at the end of each semester to his supervisor in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

8. **Format Of Thesis**

- (1) The thesis may comprise published papers and/or manuscripts accepted for publication by high impact journals (e.g. ISI journals). Papers that have been used in the submission for another research degree cannot be accepted.
- (2) The number of papers and/or manuscripts cannot be less than five. Such papers should be published within 10 years prior to the date of submission.
- (3) Where the papers have more than one writer, the candidate must be the main writer of at least four out five papers.
- (4) Normally, the thesis shall include the following in addition to the components required of a standard thesis:
 - (a) list of publications and/or manuscripts;
 - (b) acknowledgments of joint writers and evidence of permissions; and
 - (c) published papers and accepted manuscripts.

Each published paper or submitted manuscript must begin with a clear statement of the contribution made by each writer of any jointly written paper.

- (5) The thesis shall be prefaced by a synopsis which summarises the most important findings presented in each published paper or submitted manuscript. It should indicate how the included works are thematically linked or tied to a particular research framework and how, when considered together, they contribute significantly to knowledge in the discipline.
- (6) The “Introduction” chapter should contain:
 - (a) description of research problem investigated;
 - (b) objectives of the study; and
 - (c) account of research progress linking the research papers.

The account of research progress must link together the various papers submitted as part of the thesis so that the reader can understand the logic behind the progression of the research programme.

- (7) The “Literature Review” chapter must contain, in accordance with discipline norms, a critical review of relevant literature, identify the knowledge gaps and the relationship of the literature to the programme of research.
- (8) The “Conclusion” chapter establishes the cumulative effect of the papers, the significance of the findings and the knowledge claim in the thesis.
- (9) Published or accepted papers must be presented coherently in the thesis according to the requirements of the University of Malaya (Degree of Doctor of Philosophy) Regulations 2007 including any accompanying declarations.

9. Examination

- (1) A candidate shall give at least three months’ notice in writing to the Faculty prior to the submission of his thesis for examination.
- (2) A candidate shall submit five copies of his published work in the form of a thesis for examination.

- (3) Three examiners with expertise in the field concerned of whom at least two are external examiners are appointed to examine the thesis.
- (4) The Committee of Examiners shall recommend that the thesis of the candidate:
 - (a) has achieved sufficient merit to be awarded the Degree without any corrections; or
 - (b) has achieved sufficient academic merit to be awarded the Degree subject to the candidate making minor corrections within six months without any reexamination. The minor corrections do not include any amendments to the published papers; or
 - (c) has not achieved sufficient academic merit and the candidate has failed in the examination of his thesis.
- (5) A viva-voce examination is compulsory.
- (6) After all amendments have been made, the candidate shall submit three final copies of the thesis in print format (one copy should be original) and an electronic copy which shall be the property of the University.

10. **Award Of Distinction For Thesis**

A thesis qualifies to be awarded a distinction if:

- (a) a distinction is recommended in the reports of all the examiners; and
- (b) it is recommended by the Committee of Examiners.