

# Requirements for PhD with a Creative Practice Component

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## OVERVIEW

A PhD which includes a creative practice component is an alternative to the traditional PhD by single 'unpublished' thesis document. This model is an option for students who intend to integrate a creative practice component such as a music or dance performance, composition, film or work for stage, screen or broadcast, creative written work, exhibition or design, with a thesis. The PhD with a creative practice component involves both producing new and original works in the candidate's chosen medium/media, and engaging in critical reflection and/or theoretical analysis of their research question. As with all types of academic research, the PhD with a creative practice component is original, speculative and systematically pursues new knowledge. However, while the outcomes of research with creative practice can mirror the range of outcomes found in many different academic disciplines, it is the presentation of those outcomes that differentiates creative practice research from other approaches. These requirements should be considered in consultation with the PhD regulations which can be found online at <http://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/regulations/higher/phd.html>.

## THE PRESENTATION OF A PHD WITH A CREATIVE PRACTICE COMPONENT

A PhD with a creative practice component is presented in three interrelated parts:

- (i) **A Thesis Abstract** (max. of 2 written pages) that outlines the nature, scope and intent of the creative project. The abstract must provide a brief description that locates the creative and written components within their relevant fields of practice and theory. It must also outline the proportionate balance between the respective creative and written components, and their preferred 'reading/viewing' order.
- (ii) **A creative practice component** presented in a professional, high quality format/medium that provides a durable record of the creative work undertaken for the creative project.. This component will be submitted to Te Mata Kairangi School of Graduate Research with the written thesis. A copy of the recorded material will also be submitted to the University Research Repository upon completion of the degree. It is the responsibility of the student to plan (costs and resourcing required), prepare and organise for the recording to be made, and appropriately saved and stored.
- (iii) **Written Thesis Component** of between 30,000 and 100,000 words which follows the general structural requirements of a thesis document, in terms of, for example, containing a literature review, methodology, findings, etc., and which provides a critical scholarly analysis of the creative project and its outcomes. A written creative practice component, such as prose fiction, poetry or script, can not be counted as part of the written thesis component.

The relative weighting of the written and creative practice components can range between 40:60 and 60:40.

## ▼ REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE INTO A PHD WHICH WILL INCLUDE A CREATIVE PRACTICE COMPONENT

In addition to meeting the entry criteria for the PhD, applicants who wish to include a creative practice component in their PhD are expected to have advanced training or professional experience in the relevant creative field. Advanced training may be understood as a postgraduate degree or diploma and professional experience may be understood as two or more year's employment or productivity in the relevant creative field.

At the application for confirmed enrolment stage (normally at six months of full-time study) PhD candidates are required to present a formal research proposal; candidates intending to include a creative practice component must outline the intended integration of the creative and written components as part of the draft methodology chapter.

The supervision team should comprise at least one supervisor who also has professional experience as a practitioner in the relevant creative field/s.

## ▼ EXAMINATION

The PhD with a Creative Practice Component is to be examined on the basis of the combination of the creative practice component and the written thesis. These components are not to be examined separately, but as an integrated whole constituting the original and substantial contribution to knowledge required of research candidates at doctoral level.

- Examiners for a PhD with a Creative Practice Component should be nominated following the standard processes for appointing examiners. Examiners should normally have a PhD and at least one examiner should have professional experience as a practitioner in the relevant creative field/s.
- Examiners must be advised by the Chief Supervisor that they are being invited to examine a PhD with a Creative Practice Component at the time they are contacted for nomination. Te Mata Kairangi School of Graduate Research will also ensure the examiners advised and provided with the relevant documentation for examining a PhD with a Creative Practice Component.
- At this point the examiner must also be advised of how the student would like them to interact with/examine the creative work, subject to resourcing approval from the Divisional/Faculty Dean.
- For a PhD with a Creative Practice Component that requires examiner attendance at a live occurrence of the creative component, these additional requirements are to be followed:
  - a) At the time of their nomination, a nominated examiner must confirm their availability *both* for the proposed date of the live component *and* for the usual 6-8 weeks for thesis examination following the estimated submission date.
  - b) Te Mata Kairangi School of Graduate Research must be notified of the details of the live occurrence, including date, time, and location.
  - c) Examiner attendance at a live occurrence of the creative practice would normally take place within the 6 months preceding the submission of the thesis, and in ordinary circumstances may only take place once.
  - d) Examiners should be provided with the Thesis Abstract at least 2 weeks prior to their attendance at a live component.
  - e) At least one examiner must view the live occurrence of the creative practice.
  - f) Costs associated with travel to view the live occurrence are the responsibility of the relevant Division/Faculty.

g) Attending examiner/s at a live occurrence of the creative component are not to consult with the student over the creative work, nor to discuss the written thesis at the occurrence or any time before the oral examination.

h) Because examination of the creative practice component is to be undertaken with a mind to the PhD in its entirety, examiners who attend live occurrences will not be required to submit reports until after they have been sent the written thesis and the high quality documentation of the creative practice component. Examiners will then be encouraged to reflect on the creative component, the thesis, and the interrelationship between the two, in their reports.

i) A recording/high quality documentation of the live component must be provided to Te Mata Kairangi School of Graduate Research by the thesis submission date, along with the written thesis, both of which will be sent to the examiners.

j) Where the Postgraduate Research Committee consider that the quality of the work being examined will be retained through recorded media, they may allow an examiner to receive a recording of the performance or exhibition instead of attending in person. A request to this effect must accompany the nomination of examiners when it is submitted to Te Mata Kairangi School of Graduate Research for approval.

## ▼ CONCLUSION

The PhD with a creative practice component should not lessen the extent to which scholarship is developed during the PhD. It is an alternative designed to facilitate the development of new knowledge that can be expressed through creative practice. It is critical that the supervision team and student negotiate and clarify the relationship of the creative practice components with the written thesis component. Finally, the PhD candidate and the supervision team need to consider the following: Does the PhD with a creative practice component make a strong contribution to the research and indicate that the candidate can conduct independent research? Ultimately this is the goal of any PhD.