APPENDIX E

Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Public Health

The total workload of the Doctor of Public Health degree is the same as for other doctoral degrees. The requirements for the degree should, if the candidate progresses well, be completed in three years full-time study, or longer if the study program is not full-time. Coursework makes up one-third of this workload (48 credit points), the other two-thirds (96 credit points) consisting of the research component, submitted as a thesis. It is expected that the total amount of time allocated to the research component will be only two-thirds the normal allocation for a full Doctor of Philosophy research program (also taken to be three years full-time). The work required to construct the thesis is less than for a thesis submitted for a Doctor of Philosophy degree and (perhaps) the scope is more limited, but the quality and level of research should be similar.

The principal criterion for the award of the degree of Doctor of Public Health is whether the thesis represents an original and significant contribution to knowledge and/or professional practice, either by the discovery of new facts and/or understanding and/or the exercising of independent critical ability and/or the articulation of a new or novel approach to the research question.

An original contribution to knowledge may be reflected in a number of ways. The candidate may have raised an important new problem or have addressed an existing problem in a novel way. A candidate may have investigated previously ignored material, developed new techniques for investigating issues, or have applied existing theory and/or techniques in a new situation of significance.

Whether a candidate’s work constitutes a “significant contribution to knowledge” could be gauged by the extent to which the thesis is publishable. Normally a satisfactory Doctoral thesis might be expected to form the basis for one or more articles in a recognised refereed journal, or in some disciplines, on the basis of a monograph. Examiners are invited to offer an opinion on the publishable content of a thesis.

The thesis may include for consideration any material previously published provided the research forms an integral part of the thesis and was undertaken during the candidature for this Doctorate of Public Health.

The thesis should demonstrate the candidate’s ability to present the research in a written format; it should be free of typographical and grammatical errors and communicate the purpose and result of the research in a concise and effective manner. The candidate should be able to assess critically the present state of knowledge in the subject and understand the place of their research in relation to the field.