Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The principal criterion for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy is whether the thesis represents an original and significant contribution to knowledge, either by the discovery of new facts 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 techniques to a new area of research.

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 recognised refereed research journals, or in some disciplines, to form the basis of a monograph. Examiners are invited to offer an opinion on whether the thesis contains material suitable for publication.

The thesis may include for consideration any material previously published, provided the research was undertaken during the candidature for this Doctor of Philosophy.

The research 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 the research in relation to the field.