

SCHEDULE 5 CREATIVE THESES

1 PURPOSE

To assist Higher Degree Research (HDR) candidates in the preparation of a thesis including creative components.

2 SCHEDULE

The University accepts theses for PhD, MPhil and MRes degrees in the form of combined dissertation and creative work. The creative component of the thesis can be in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, music, writing, video, film, performance, drama and multimedia.

Thesis Components

For the purpose of examination, the dissertation component must be 50% of the typical length of the discipline.

Creative Component

The creative component of the thesis must demonstrate a high level of proficiency in the chosen genre, and show that informed choices have been made in the design and execution of the work. The creative component in music could be: a written score; a compositional folio containing a number of pieces which might be in different forms; software; video; audio recording(s); etc. In writing, the creative component could be: a novel; biography; a collection of shorter pieces; creative non-fiction or a volume of poems; etc. Candidates may also choose to integrate the creative and the critical components, as for example, ficto-critical writing or essay films.

Dissertation Component

The dissertation component may take a variety of forms. It may comprise a theoretical explanation of the subject-matter of the thesis, it may address the genre of the creative work or its historical, social or cultural context, or a combination of these.

There will be a relationship between the research and creative components. This relationship is the crux of the thesis' integrity. The research component and the creative project are conceived as complementary elements of a coherent research project. There will not be a hierarchical relationship between a 'primary' creative text and a 'secondary' critical component. The research component is not a supplementary justification or explanation of the creative work. It must not be a personal commentary on the writing of the creative project, although it should engage in a scholarly way with critical issues that inform the creative work.

Preparing for a Creative Thesis

The candidate will undertake a program of appropriate research engaging with both creative and scholarly primary and secondary texts that are relevant to their topic. The results of this research will be embodied in both the creative product and the critical research component.

The research may be interdisciplinary and draw on approaches informed by (for example) literary studies, ethnography, philosophy, history, cultural studies, and sociology. Candidates must demonstrate competency in all fields that they engage as methods or approaches in the thesis.

The university accepts theses by publication. Information about theses by publication can be found in Schedule 1.

No creative components which have been published or submitted for publication prior to candidature may be submitted as part of the project.

Theses submitted for examination must meet the criteria for award of the degree, specified in Schedule 3.

3 NOTES

3.1	Contact Officer	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships)
3.2	Implementation Officer	Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research Training and Partnerships)
3.3	Approval Authority / Authorities	Academic Senate (Res no 20/23)
3.4	Date Approved	7 April 2020
3.5	Date of Commencement	7 April 2020
3.6	Date for Review	April 2023
3.7	Documents Superseded by this Schedule	New Schedule
3.8	Amendment History	Nil
3.9	Policy Authorisation	HDR Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination Policy approved Academic Senate 7 April 2020, Res no 20/23