

Title: Guidance for Preliminary Assessment of the thesis
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Section 4R: Guidance for Preliminary Assessment of the thesis

Preliminary Assessment of the thesis

Examiners will need to read and examine the thesis and submit an independent preliminary report on it to Graduate Studies before any oral or alternative form of examination is held.

In completing the preliminary report, examiners should consider whether the thesis provisionally satisfies the requirements of the degree (See excerpt from 2Q below) and where possible make an appropriate provisional recommendation subject to the outcome of the oral examination.

Examiners will need to alert Graduate Studies in advance of the examination if the thesis does not provisionally satisfy the requirements of the degree.

Preliminary report forms are to be completed independently and without formal or informal consultation between examiners, whether external or internal. An examiner having received the thesis and wishing to contact another examiner, the student or any member of supervisory team should do so only through Graduate Studies except for the purpose of making practical arrangements about the oral examination, where direct contact is encouraged.

Candidates may not contact examiners between the appointment of the examination team and until the award is made. Any breach of this should be raised with Graduate Studies.

Excerpt from 2Q Admission, supervision and monitoring of research students:

6. Following an approved programme of supervised research, an MPhil is awarded to either:
 - a student who, having critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic and demonstrated an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field, has presented and defended a thesis by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners, or

- a student who, having produced published work, artefact or performance that is accompanied by a written commentary placing it within its academic context, has presented that material and defended the commentary by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners.
7. Following an approved programme of supervised research, a PhD is awarded to either:
- a student who, having critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic resulting in an independent and original contribution to knowledge and demonstrated an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field, has presented and defended a thesis by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners, or
 - a student who, having produced published work, artefact or performance that is accompanied by a written commentary placing it within its academic context resulting in an independent and original contribution to knowledge, has presented and defended a thesis by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners.