



Doctor of Creative Arts (DCAR) Examiner Guidelines & Assessment Criteria

Overview

Candidates completing a creative arts thesis as part of the Doctor of Creative Arts (DCAR) at USQ are required to submit a portfolio that includes both (a) creative work/s and an exegesis. The USQ DCA is a practice-led research program with an AQF level of 10, equivalent to a PhD program.

Within the DCA program, the creative work comprises 70-80% weighting of the examinable outcome of the project, and the exegesis 20-30% weighting. The relative weightings are nominated by the candidate at confirmation, and approved during that process. The weightings of the creative work and exegesis for the thesis you are examining will be stated in the preliminary pages of the exegesis, and/or provided to you prior to attending a relevant performance/exhibition.

The size, form, and scale of the creative work varies depending on the field of practice in which the thesis is situated. As a general guide, expected creative practice outcomes may include:

- *Creative writing*: a novel or suite of short stories, or equivalent, of up to 70,000 words.
- *Visual Arts*: an exhibition/s, curatorial work/s, visual art performance/s (live or recorded/documented).
- *Music*: recording, album production, music performance (live or recorded/documented).
- *Theatre*: performance, playwright, directorial work etc.
- *Film, Television, Radio*: film, film editing, animation, broadcasting work
- *Cross-arts or hybrid practice*: works that combine arts practices or combine the exegetical work and creative practice. The size and form of these works will vary substantially. You will be provided with a description of the scope/size of any hybrid or cross-arts thesis prior to agreeing to act as an examiner.

The exegesis should be around 20,000-30,000 words (not including references or preliminary material, such as the abstract, acknowledgements, or table of contents).

In assessing the overall merit and quality of the thesis, we ask you to score each component separately, and combine these scores to give you an indicative overall rating.

Indicative rating of the creative work	(out of 70-80)
Indicative rating of the exegetical component	(out of 20-30)

Overall indicative rating	(out of 100: indicative ratings for creative work and exegesis combined)
Summary recommendation on thesis <i>(scores in parenthesis are offered as a guide for converting your 'Overall indicative rating' into an equivalent recommendation on the thesis)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass (90 or above) • Pass subject to minor revisions* (75-90) • Pass subject to major revisions* (60-75) • Resubmitted to the Examiners Following Rewriting* (50-60) • Fail (50 or below) • Accepted for a Research Masters (40-50) • Accepted for a Research Masters Subject to Minor Revisions (40-50) • Unacceptable for a Research Masters (40 or below)

* Revisions to the thesis may include revisions to the creative work or works, as well as to the exegesis.

The Creative Work (70-80% weighting)

The creative work may be in any genre or field. For instance, creative works may come in the form of a literary work, exhibition, performance, film, CD, or other format. In composing the work, it is expected that students demonstrate familiarity with the genre or field in which their work is positioned, and produce work of a professional standard.

In assessing the creative work, please apply the following criteria:

- The creative work demonstrates a rigorous and critically-informed approach to arts practice, and embodies a clear symbiotic relationship with the exegesis.
- The creative work embodies or expresses a creative and/or innovative approach to solving the problems or challenges arising from within the practice.
- The creative work establishes a clear relationship to a field of artistic practice, either sitting well within a field of practice, or subverting or expanding on the field's existing practices.
- The creative work demonstrates technical mastery in execution and presentation.
- The creative work communicates in creative, imaginative, or otherwise stimulating ways with its intended audience.
- The creative work embodies an ethically informed approach to creative practice.

Exegesis (20,000 to 30,000 words / 20-30% weighting)

The exegesis may be in any form or format, provided that it provides a critical research framework for understanding a substantive aspect of the creative work, including but not limited to an examination of creative practices or processes, genre, or an appropriate theoretical concept or concepts. That is, the exegesis should illuminate some aspect of the creative work from a practitioner's perspective that is critically and/or professionally informed.

In assessing the exegesis, please apply the following criteria:

- The exegesis has a clear symbiotic relationship with the creative work.
- The exegesis identifies and develops a clear research question and/or central premise/hypothesis.
- The exegesis demonstrates a robust and thoughtful engagement with relevant critical theory and/or creative practice.
- The exegesis describes and/or embodies appropriate research methods, approaches, and documentation.
- The exegesis demonstrates the candidate's capacity to critically and creatively reflect on and analyse theoretical concepts, professional practice, or aspects of creative practice.
- The exegesis demonstrates the candidate's capacity to formulate coherent and convincing arguments based in a strong knowledge and understanding of their field of practice or investigation.
- The exegesis demonstrates the candidate's capacity to structure and communicate ideas in a scholarly manner.
- The exegesis demonstrates technical proficiency in execution and presentation.
- The exegesis demonstrates an ethical approach to research and research writing.

Where the creative work is a performance, exhibition, or other time-limited event, a copy of the exegesis in temporary binding will be submitted to the examiner approximately one month prior to the examiner's viewing of the creative work/s.

In assessing the candidate's submission, we invite you to respond to these criteria in your report. Your report should offer substantive feedback on both the creative work and the exegesis, as well as the relationship between these two works. The body of the report should be a minimum of two to three pages and submitted to the USQ Faculty Research Office within six weeks of viewing the creative work, or receiving the exegesis (whichever is the later).