

8.2 Elements of assessment

Procedures for assessment for research degrees include clarification of research output, most often a thesis (*here meaning a coherent body of detailed written work on a specific topic particular to the student*) but may also be a written submission with a selection of papers, performance practice or research artefact and, in some cases, performance in a *viva voce* (oral examination). Processes for submitting the research output are clearly outlined. Assessment for doctoral degrees always includes a *viva voce*. Other circumstances in which a *viva voce* is required, available on request, or not facilitated are clearly outlined.

Procedures are clear with regard to the impact on the overall result of the thesis evaluation and the performance of the candidate at the *viva voce* where applicable.

8.2.1 Research theses and contribution

Procedures are clear on the variety of formats for capturing research contribution available to students, consistent with international norms in the disciplines in which programmes are offered.

Specific contexts are identified in which formats other than a monograph may be appropriate. All permitted formats facilitate assessment against an equivalent standard.

Clear guidelines are available to students, supervisors, examiners and members of an examination board on each format, including considerations to be taken into account in choosing it, at what stage a student can indicate the intended format, who can approve the format, standards, length and presentation and conventions and protocols for student vetting of their draft thesis using appropriate software.

Procedures are in place which require acknowledgment of the specific contributions of others, if any, to the research project.

Procedures are in place for accessing, disclosure, dissemination and archiving of the thesis, subsequent to award.

8.2.2 Viva voce

Clear procedures are in place for the conduct of oral examinations which outline:

- who is responsible for arranging and communicating the date and location of the exam
- what mode of engagement is permitted
- expected duration
- acceptable locations
- who may be present, and who (if anybody aside from the student and examiners and independent chairperson) may contribute, and under what circumstances
- the circumstances, if any, in which the examination may be conducted with an examiner at a location remote to the student, and the conditions relating to how this is done