

Flinders University

Additional Information for Examiners of a thesis by exegesis and artefact

A Masters by Research or PhD at Flinders University allows students to pursue a rigorous research program that enhances their creative/industry practice and makes a contribution to that practice and to the intellectual discourse of the field.

Students completing a research thesis which includes an exegesis and artefact must demonstrate that they can undertake research at an advanced level and will meet the general requirements for a higher degree by research. See the [Higher Degrees by Research Policy](#).

The artefact/exegesis higher degree by research at Flinders can take a range of forms and can follow different models of practice-led research in a variety of disciplines and genres.

Exegesis and Artefact

Students will submit for examination a thesis consisting of an exegesis and an artefact. Depending on the nature of the proposed artefact, the student will undertake a program of appropriate research covering primary texts in the field and secondary material on this topic (e.g. appropriate critical and theoretical texts that contextualise the work). The results of this research will be embodied in both the artefact *and* the exegesis. Interdisciplinary projects are welcome where students produce and/or examine works in more than one genre.

An exegesis is an explanation of the research. An exegesis is not a re-telling of how the artefact was made. The exegesis must incorporate standard research practices, such as situating the research and the artefact in the current literature, posing research questions, discussing methods and focusing on the results/theory and analysis of the research. A student should also incorporate in the exegesis the reason for choosing this mode of thesis any why it was necessary. The exegesis must be supported by an appropriate bibliography and annotations, as in other higher degree by research theses.

A thesis with an exegesis and artefact is no different from all other research in that it must also demonstrate accountability, repeatability and transparency. For the thesis to be passed at a doctoral level, there must be a **significant original contribution to knowledge**.

When the exegesis and the artefact are combined, they develop evidence of the research and can demonstrate a significant original contribution to knowledge. This must be discussed and highlighted in the exegesis. The artefact in itself is not the contribution to knowledge and cannot stand independently of the exegesis.

Students can make a case that part of the original contribution to knowledge comes from the relationship between the two parts of the thesis. Alternatively, students can integrate the creative/industry practice and critical portions of the thesis into a coherent whole and present it as one work.

The thesis consisting of exegesis and artefact will be examined in the same way as other theses, that is, **as a whole product**. Although it is normally made up of two elements, the exegesis and

artefact as a whole must fulfil the requirements for an Masters by Research or PhD in accordance with the [Flinders University Higher Degrees Research Thesis Rules](#).

The length of the thesis depends upon the artefact and academic discipline and will be negotiated with supervisors. In general, the work should represent a substantial effort in the genre.

For the Masters by Research: The thesis embodies the equivalent of two years of full-time work. The intellectual and creative/industry practice effort inherent in the artefact and exegesis should be equivalent to that inherent in a standard thesis of 35,000 – 50,000 words. The exegesis should be no more than 30,000 words and no less than 15,000 words.

For the PhD: The thesis embodies the equivalent of three years of full-time work. The intellectual and creative/industry practice effort inherent in the artefact and exegesis should be equivalent to that inherent in a standard thesis of 70,000 –100,000 words. The exegesis should be no more than 60,000 words and no less than 40,000 words.

Artefact

The creative product/industry practice/artefact demonstrates the student's ability to perform professionally and competently in a chosen genre. It will embody the results of research into the genre and display mastery of the appropriate craft that reaches the level of current industry standards. In other words, the artefact can sustain critical examination in the same way that exemplary texts can. Work submitted for the PhD must attain a high standard.

i) Creative Writing

As a guide, these artefacts are acceptable for a MA or PhD in Creative Writing:

- a full-length collection of poems;
- a full-length collection of short fiction;
- a full-length novel;
- a work of creative nonfiction (e.g., essays, fictocriticism, etc.); an autobiography or biography;
- mixed media or multimedia works that are substantial efforts in the genre.

For the MA, the artefact is adjusted accordingly. For example, a novella, short novel or one-act play are acceptable.

ii) Drama

As a guide, these artefacts (or their equivalents in other genres) are acceptable for an MA or PhD in Drama:

- a series of creative developments for a work;
- a full-length script, developed through dramaturgical research;
- a staged production of an original work;
- a pilot for a feature film or documentary, including a filmed excerpt;
- mixed media or multimedia works forming a substantial contribution in a genre;
- a substantial, original contribution to theatre training.

iii) Screen and Media

As a guide, these artefacts are acceptable for an MA or PhD in Screen and Media include:

- a film or documentary;
- a film or documentary script;
- a series of linked film or video productions which constitute a coherent body of work;
- interactive or mixed media works such as games or websites that are substantial efforts in their field

This list is merely indicative; there are others that would be also be acceptable. For the MA the creative is adjusted accordingly, although it should still represent a substantial achievement in the chosen art form. For example, a substantial short film, video or digital work may be acceptable.

iv) Artefact based in other industries

As a guide, the following are examples of artefacts acceptable in other disciplines/industries:

- curricula design;
- architectural design;
- fashion design;
- original choreography;
- furniture and student-designed and built objects of material culture;
- sonic art, sonic architecture and soundscapes.