

Guidelines for Candidates of Higher Doctorates

The University of Auckland offers higher doctorates in Engineering (DEng), Laws (LLD), Literature (LittD), and Science (DSc). These are the highest academic awards offered by the University and are awarded to graduates or close affiliates of The University of Auckland who have published original work that has, over an extensive period of time, given them authoritative standing and international eminence in their respective field. The higher doctorate is thus to be seen as recognition of real distinction in one of these areas of study. It is awarded rarely and only after rigorous examination of a substantial and significant corpus of material by examiners of authoritative standing and international eminence in the field of the submitted work and who are themselves active in research.

In the first instance, an application must be made for candidature. Only if an application is accepted should the candidate submit the work to be examined.

Eligibility

A person wishing to become a candidate for a higher doctorate should refer to the relevant regulations for the Degree for which they wish to be examined in *The University of Auckland Calendar*. The online version of the Calendar (www.calendar.auckland.ac.nz) remains the definitive source of information. In the event of any conflict between the relevant regulations and these guidelines, the regulations outlined in the online version of the Calendar will prevail.

Application for candidature

A person wishing to become a candidate for a higher doctorate should apply in writing to the Dean of Graduate Studies, providing:

1. a completed [Application to be Examined for a Higher Doctorate \(DOC10\)](#);
2. an academic curriculum vitae; and
3. academic transcripts for each degree previously awarded (if these degrees were not awarded by The University of Auckland).

The applicant must be a graduate of The University of Auckland or have a substantial, demonstrable association with the University.

No application for a higher doctorate will be considered until at least 8 years after graduation to the applicant's first degree.

Consideration of applications to be examined

As soon as possible after the Dean of Graduate Studies has determined that the application is complete and meets initial requirements for consideration for a higher doctorate, the application will be forwarded to the relevant Faculty Dean or delegate ("the Faculty") for further consideration.

The Faculty will appoint an Examination Committee of three senior academics who have a general understanding of the applicant's field of research. At least two members of the Committee must be academic members of the University, one of whom will be nominated to chair the Examination Committee. The Examination Committee will advise the Dean of Graduate Studies within 1 month whether the applicant should be admitted to candidature for the higher doctorate. If the applicant is admitted to candidature, the Examination Committee may offer the candidate advice as to which documentation or publications/works should be included or excluded from the final submission.

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Notification of assessment of application and intention to submit

The Dean of Graduate Studies will advise the applicant of the Faculty's decision and, if the application has been accepted, will request written notification of the applicant's intention to proceed with candidature and submission. At this stage, fees become payable as outlined in Schedule B of the Fees Regulations <https://www.calendar.auckland.ac.nz/en/genregs/fees.html>. The submission of work to be examined must be received by the Dean of Graduate Studies within 3 months of the notification that the application was accepted.

Appointment of examiners

Upon payment of fees and receipt of the candidate's written notification of intention to proceed, the Dean of Graduate Studies will request that the Faculty nominate three external examiners, all of whom will be of authoritative standing and international eminence in the field of the submitted work and must be active in research. At least one examiner shall be resident outside New Zealand. The nomination of examiners will take place within 3 months of receipt of the candidate's written notification of intention to proceed.

Submission

Candidates shall supply the Graduate Centre with three copies of the submission and a [Declaration to Accompany a Written Submission for a Higher Doctorate \(DOC10A\)](#) signed by a Justice of the Peace. Each submission should include an introduction that addresses the nature and significance of the work. Where possible, the works under examination should be bound with the introduction.

Examination

The degree will be awarded solely on consideration of the submitted works upon which the candidate's claim to the degree is based.

In order to qualify for the degree, the submitted works must provide sufficient evidence that the candidate has made an original contribution of special excellence to their discipline such that they are considered to have authoritative standing and international eminence in their field.

Examiners will be requested to report on the submission within 3 months of receipt and recommend whether the candidate:

- (a) should be awarded the degree; or
- (b) should not be awarded the degree.

The reports of all examiners will be forwarded to the Examination Committee for consideration of whether or not to admit the candidate to the degree. The Examination Committee will recommend an outcome based on the examiners' reports to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Dean of Graduate Studies will determine the result of the examination and notify the candidate of the decision.

An unsuccessful submission may not be presented for re-examination until at least 5 years after initial submission and must include new material.

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Deposit of submission in the Library

On successful completion of the examination of the submitted work, and when possible, two bound copies will be deposited in the University Library by the Graduate Centre. The first bound copy will remain in the Library for reference purposes; the second copy may be borrowed by members of the Library, or sent to other libraries on inter-library loan. The third copy will be returned to the candidate.

Graduation

Candidates who have satisfied the requirements for any award of the University shall be admitted to that award.