REGULATION 87 DOCTOR OF MINISTRY	UNIVERSITY OF DIVINITY

Current version with effect from:	N/A
Approved by:	Council
Approval History:	14 Dec 2022
Repealed:	13 Mar 2024, with effect 1 Apr 2024
Transitional note:	The information covered in this regulation can now be found in Regulation 11 Awards, Courses and Units, and on the Doctor of Ministry page of the University website

Temporary Note

Regulation 87 is established initially for the purpose of enabling candidates formerly enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry at the Adelaide College of Divinity to transfer their candidature to the University of Divinity. No new admissions to the award are permitted at the present time. If the Council makes no further decision about this award, the Regulation is repealed on the earlier of 1 January 2031 or the date on which there are no longer candidates enrolled in the award.

87.1   Admission and Enrolment

87.1.1   A person may apply to the Academic Board to enrol as a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry if the person

a)   has completed the equivalent of at least four years of full-time tertiary study, including at least one year of study in divinity or its associated disciplines, at the University of Divinity or at a university or college recognised by the Academic Board, at a standard decided by the Academic Board; and

b)   has at least three years of relevant professional experience at a standard decided by the Academic Board.

87.1.2   Notwithstanding any other provision in this Regulation, the Academic Board may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations or meeting such other standards as the Academic Board may decide.

87.1.3   An applicant who meets the requirements of the Academic Board may be admitted as a candidate for the Doctor of Ministry in a College of the University. Upon admission the applicant becomes a member of the School of Graduate Research.

87.1.5   The Academic Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

87.2   Course Structure

87.2.1   The standard full-time duration of the Doctor of Ministry is three years. The Doctor of Ministry must be completed in not less than two years and not more than eight years from the date on which the course is commenced, unless the Academic Board decides otherwise, provided that:

a) a full-time candidate must complete the course of study within four years; and

b) any period of part-time enrolment is calculated as half of a full-time load, and the maximum length of candidature adjusted accordingly; and

c) approved periods of leave of absence are not included in determining the length of candidature; and

d) any period in which a research project is under examination is not included in determining the length of candidature; and

e) any candidate who does not complete the course of study within the maximum time and whose candidature lapses in good standing may be permitted to submit a research project for examination within two years of the date on which candidature lapsed.

87.2.2   The Academic Board must establish course outcomes for the Doctor of Ministry

87.2.3   The course of study for the Doctor of Ministry consists of a course of units and the preparation and examination of a research project of not more than 54,000 words or equivalent. At least 60% of the award must be directly related to research or research training.

87.2.4   The Academic Board must decide the number and type of units required to complete the course of study, to provide an appropriate standard of research training and to meet the course outcomes for the Doctor of Ministry.

87.2.5   Every candidate for the Doctor of Ministry must have two Supervisors appointed prior to commencing the research project component of the course.

87.2.6   The research project constitutes a distinct contribution to the knowledge and practice of ministry, demonstrated through a command of its subject and the presentation of original research and independent analysis. The research project must be of not more than 54,000 words, inclusive of all elements except the bibliography, must be presented in the manner decided by the Academic Board, and may take one of the following forms:

a) a research project of 54,000 words on an area of ministry practice

b) a creative project approved by the School of Graduate Research Committee together with an exegetical essay of not less than 32,000 words

c) a portfolio of articles or book chapters accepted for publication by a peer-reviewed journal or by a reputable publisher during the period of enrolment in the degree, together with an exegetical essay of not less than 22,000 words.

87.2.7   Every candidate must apply for confirmation of candidature prior to completion of the first semester of full-time enrolment in the research project component of the course or of the part-time equivalent. The Academic Board must decide requirements for confirmation of candidature. Failure to complete the requirements for confirmation of candidature satisfactorily within the prescribed time constitutes unsatisfactory progress.

87.3   Examination

87.3.1   The research output must be examined by at least two persons external to the University with relevant expertise.

87.3.2   The Academic Board is responsible for the examination of the research and must decide examination procedures.

87.3.3   The examination of the research output must lead to one of the following outcomes:

a)   that the candidate has completed the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Ministry without amendment to the research;

b)   that the candidate has completed the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Ministry conditional on amendments to the research output being made;

c)   that the candidate has not completed the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Ministry but may revise and resubmit the research for re-examination;

d)   that the candidate has not completed the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Ministry but may be recommended for award of the degree of Master of Philosophy;

e)   that the candidate has not completed the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Ministry and may not revise and resubmit the research for re-examination.

87.3.4   On successful completion of the examination, the candidate must lodge a copy or copies of the approved version of the research in the form and manner decided by the Academic Board.

87.4   Award

87.4.1   When a candidate has completed the requirements for the Doctor of Ministry, the Academic Board may recommend that the award be made to the candidate. Candidates to whom such an award has been made may use the title 'Doctor' and are entitled to append the letters 'DMin' as a suffix to their name

87.1.1   Admission

1. Candidates who have completed at least 72 points in the Adelaide College of Divinity Doctor of Ministry may apply to transfer their enrolment to the Doctor of Ministry with effect from 1 January 2023. Candidates may receive specified credit for units completed satisfactorily at the Adelaide College of Divinity through a credit transfer.

87.2.2   Statement and Rationale and Course Outcomes

The Doctor of Ministry is a professional research degree for people involved in ministry. It assists religious leaders to develop their ministry practice and associated research skills at an advanced level. Participants engage with contemporary debates about ministry practice, reflect critically on areas of ministry specialisation and carry out original research in professional practice, the results of which are presented for external examination.

Graduates of the Doctor of Ministry:

1. have a substantial body of knowledge at the frontier of professional ministry or related practice in ordained and/or lay settings, including knowledge that constitutes an original contribution to the field

2. have a substantial knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to professional ministry or related practice

3. have expert cognitive, technical, and creative skills to use intellectual independence to think critically, analyse and evaluate existing knowledge and ideas in professional ministry or related practice, undertake systematic investigation, reflect on theory and practice to generate original knowledge, demonstrate expert understanding of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on that theory and practice and its application to integrative ministry or related practice.

4. apply knowledge and skills with intellectual independence, and with responsibility and accountability to plan and execute an ongoing program of original research to generate new knowledge in the context of professional ministry or related practice, and to understand explicit and implicit ethical considerations to the formulation of a research project

5. have skills to present explain and critique theoretical propositions, methodologies and conclusions, and to present cogently a complex investigation of originality or original research for external examination against international standards and to communicate results to peers and the community.

87.2.4 Course of Study

The Doctor of Ministry consists of 432 points comprised of:

a) DA9700Z Reflecting on Best Ministry Practice

b) DA9701Z Theology for Ministry Practice

c) DA9702Z Introduction to Community Research

d) DA9703Z Community Research Portfolio 1

e) DA9703Z Community Research Portfolio 2

f) DA9703Z Community Research Portfolio 3

g) 18 points of a research methodology unit

h) 90 points of Postgraduate Elective units

i) 216 points of Doctoral units including the research project component.

87.2.5 Supervision

1. The School of Graduate Research Committee must ensure that the supervision arrangements for each candidate's research project component meet the requirements of this Schedule and the Supervision Policy approved by the Academic Board.

2. A Supervisor may only be appointed or removed by the School of Graduate Research Committee.

3. To be eligible for appointment as a Principal Supervisor or as an Associate Supervisor supervising as the majority Supervisor of the Doctor of Ministry research project, a person must:

   a) hold a doctoral qualification or, in exceptional circumstances, an equivalent qualification or level of experience to the satisfaction of the School of Graduate Research Committee; and

   b) be research active in an area relevant to the candidate's project; and

   c) consent to meet the requirements of this Schedule and of the Supervision Policy of the Academic Board.

   d) attend a research supervisors training or development seminar at least once every three years.

4. The School of Graduate Research Committee must appoint at least two Supervisors. At least one of the Supervisors must have previously supervised a candidate to successful completion of a doctoral award.

5. The School of Graduate Research Committee must appoint one of the Supervisors as the Principal Supervisor. The Principal Supervisor must be a member of academic staff of the University. The Principal Supervisor must ensure that:

a) the candidate is meeting regularly with one or more of the Supervisors through the duration of the enrolment in research project units; and

b) an annual report is submitted to the Dean of the School of Graduate Research in a timely manner; and

c) the candidate is meeting the requirements of the course of study, and that if there is any reason to believe this is not the case, that this is reported to the Research Coordinator of the candidate's home College.

87.2.6   Research Project

1.   The research project must demonstrate expert knowledge of a substantial body of scholarship in Ministry or related practice, and an ability to evaluate it critically and systematically.

2.   The research project must demonstrate expert specialised knowledge of appropriate methodologies and technical skills.

3.   The research project must demonstrate the ability to plan and execute original research leading to new knowledge or to a reevaluation or modification of existing knowledge.

4.   The research project must be the original work of the candidate. A candidate must not present for examination any work or any part of a work previously submitted for an award of the University or of another tertiary institution, unless approval to do so is given by the School of Graduate Research Committee and the work so presented is clearly indicated in the research project.

5.   The research project must be written in a scholarly style; provide comprehensive, consistently formatted references for all works cited; and include a full, precise and consistently styled bibliography.

6.   Prior to commencing the research project, candidates must submit a Research Proposal to the School of Graduate Research Committee for approval. The Proposal must specify the form the research project is to take (Regulation 87.2.6 a) b) or c), the proposed supervision arrangements, and the methodological approach.

87.3.1   Board of Examiners

1.   The Board of Examiners for each research project is appointed by the School of Graduate Research Committee of the Academic Board and consists of a Chair of Examiners and no less than two Examiners.

2.   The Chair of Examiners is a member of academic staff of the University. The Chair of Examiners is responsible for oversight of the examination, assessing the Examiners' reports, and making recommendations to the School of Graduate Research Committee in relation to the conduct and outcome of the examination.

3.   The Examiners are persons external to the University with expertise directly relevant to the subject matter of the research project and who, in the opinion of the School of Graduate Research Committee, do not have a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest in relation to the examination, the research project, or the candidate. The role

of each Examiner is to make an independent assessment of the research project against the standards established by the University and to write a report detailing that assessment.

4. No person associated with the candidate either as a supervisor or as a subject of the research is to be appointed as an Examiner.

5. The supervisor may nominate Examiners in writing to the School of Graduate Research Committee.

6. A candidate or a supervisor may request in writing that a person not be appointed as an Examiner.

7. The School of Graduate Research Committee must appoint no less than two reserve Examiners authorised to act in the event that an Examiner is unavailable, or that the Chair of Examiners decides a third Examiner is required.

8. The identity of the Examiners must not be disclosed to the candidate until the outcome of the examination has been decided by the School of Graduate Research Committee.

9. No Examiner is permitted to communicate with the candidate or supervisor in relation to the examination during the examination process. If such communication occurs, the Chair of Examiners may remove the Examiner from the Board of Examiners and appoint a reserve Examiner as a member of the Board of Examiners.

87.3.2 Examination of the research project

1. The candidate and supervisor must notify the University of intention to submit in writing at least one calendar month prior to submission of a research project.

2. One digital copy of the research project must be submitted for examination

3. A research project may only proceed to examination if the Dean of the School of Graduate Research certifies that the candidate has met all other requirements of the course of study.

4. One copy of the research project is provided in confidence to each Examiner. Each Examiner must provide the Chair of Examiners with a written report on the research project within three calendar months of receipt of the research project. The report must include recommendation of one of the outcomes in Regulation 87.3.3 and specify amendments or revisions (if any) to be made to the research project. If the recommendation is that the candidate has completed the requirements of the degree conditional on amendments to the research project being made, the Examiner must specify whether the amendments are to be made to the satisfaction of the Examiner or of the Chair of Examiners.

5. If an Examiner does not provide a written report and recommendation on the research project within three calendar months of receipt of the research project, the Chair of Examiners may remove the Examiner from the Board of Examiners and appoint a reserve Examiner as a member of the Board of Examiners.

6. The Chair of Examiners considers the written reports and recommendations of the Examiners and may proceed to report the outcome of the examination to the School of

Graduate Research Committee. If the Chair of Examiners is unable to make a clear recommendation to the School of Graduate Research Committee, then in order to reach a recommendation the Chair may:

a) request the Examiners to consult with each other; or

b) appoint a reserve Examiner as a member of the Board of Examiners to conduct a further examination of the research project.

87.3.3   Outcome of examination of the research project

1. The Chair of Examiners makes a confidential written report on the examination to the School of Graduate Research Committee, the report to include recommendation of one of the outcomes in Regulation 87.3.3 and to specify any amendments or revisions to be made to the research project.

2. The School of Graduate Research Committee considers the report and recommendation of the Chair of Examiners and decides the outcome of the examination in accordance with Regulation 87.3.3, provided that:

a) any required amendments to the research project are completed by the candidate within twelve months of receipt of written notification of the outcome of the examination;

b) any required amendments to the research project are approved by the Chair of Examiners as having completed the requirements of the examination, after the Chair has sought advice (where applicable) from a Supervisor or one or more of the Examiners;

c) a research project that is permitted to be resubmitted for re-examination is resubmitted within twelve months of receipt of written notification of the outcome of the examination;

d) no research project is resubmitted more than once.

3. The School of Graduate Research Committee must inform the candidate and the supervisor in writing of the outcome of the examination. The School of Graduate Research Committee has discretion to decide the form of written report to be provided.

4. The School of Graduate Research Committee must report the outcome of each examination to the Academic Board.