RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE THESIS AWARDS

1 PURPOSE

The Outstanding Research Higher Degree Thesis Awards are intended to recognise high-quality research theses produced by research higher degree candidates at CQUniversity. The Awards are intended to reward research higher degree candidates, encourage an aspiration of excellence in the research higher degree community, and acknowledge the importance of research quality to the success of CQUniversity.

2 SCOPE

This procedure relates to all Research Higher Degree Theses produced by candidates in any research higher degree program at CQUniversity.

3 EFFECTIVE DATE

1 June 2016

4 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Central Queensland University Act 1998 Qld

5 PARENT POLICY

There is no parent policy.

6 PROCEDURE

Eligibility

6.1 These Awards are intended to recognise outstanding performance by CQUniversity research higher degree candidates in any discipline area or campus location.

6.2 Per annum, two levels of Awards are available:

   The Outstanding Research Higher Degree Thesis Award, which will be awarded to the candidate who has produced the highest-quality thesis in the preceding twelve months. This award is resourced from a University Sponsor through the Office of Alumni and Graduate Relations and consists of a monetary award ($1,000) and citation.

   Thesis Academic Excellence Award(s), which will be awarded to one or more candidates who have produced high-quality theses in the preceding twelve months. These awards are resourced from the Office of Research Services, and consist of a monetary award of no more than $250 per recipient, with up to $1,000 in awards available in total each year.

6.3 A candidate who will be eligible for an award only where the moderated outcome of the original Examination process is in one of the following categories:

   (a) that the thesis be accepted as satisfactory for the award of the degree;
   (b) that, provided the listed minor revisions are addressed to the satisfaction of the Chair of Examiners, the thesis be accepted as satisfactory for the award of the degree.
Selection Criteria

6.4 The Awards will consider theses (including accompanying folio and/or creative works) that have demonstrated:

(a) knowledge of the research topic and the discipline(s) it embraces;
(b) a capacity for clear methodical and critical thinking;
(c) demonstrated a mastery of analytical techniques appropriate to the research;
(d) communicated in a succinct and cogent form using appropriate writing skills and presentation of the results of the research.

6.5 For a thesis submitted in a research doctoral degree, the candidate should demonstrate that the body of work that has made a significant original contribution to the knowledge of a subject area by a substantial contribution to knowledge in the form of new knowledge through discovery or in an original application of existing knowledge by the exercise of independent critical thinking;

6.6 For a thesis submitted in a research masters degree, the candidate should demonstrate that the undertaken original research in a scholarly form that has made a significant contribution to the knowledge of a subject area;

6.7 In selecting award recipient(s), the Award Sub-Committee should have regard to:

(a) the totality of comments made by members of the Examination Panel (including the Chair);
(b) the expected performance of a candidate relative to the research higher degree being conferred; and
(c) the timeliness of the candidate’s completion of the degree (expressed in EFTSL consumption, which does not include periods of approved leave).

Information regarding the timeliness of the completion shall be supplied by the Office of Research Services, based on the official student record.

Process for Consideration

6.8 A shortlist of candidates will be prepared by the Office of Research Services once per year, based on Recommendations of Awards (and the attendant Examination Reports) tabled at the Research Higher Degree Committee. This list will identify any candidate where one or more examiners have indicated that the work is of outstanding quality (within the top 10% in its field).

6.9 The Dean of Graduate Studies (or nominee) will convene a sub-committee (by volunteer or nomination) of the Research Higher Degrees Committee to consider the shortlisted candidates. The sub-committee shall include, at the minimum, three current Committee members. A member is not permitted to stand on the sub-committee where they have been involved in the supervisory panel for one or more on the nominated award recipients.

6.10 The Sub-Committee will assess all nominations (and accompanying portfolios of work) against the criteria provided for the Awards.

6.11 The Committee will make a recommendation for the Outstanding Thesis Award to the Development and Alumni Relations Directorate; and recommendation(s) for Thesis Academic Excellence Award(s) to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) before June of each year, to enable presentation of the award(s) at an appropriate ceremony.

6.12 The Committee reserves the right not to make a recommendation for each Award in any year. In exceptional circumstances, the Committee also reserves the right to recommend more than one Outstanding Thesis Award in any year.

Presentation

6.13 Where practicable, the Award(s) will be presented at the chosen Graduation Ceremony of the recipient(s).

6.14 Unsuccessful nominees will receive a written citation from the Office of Research Services to acknowledge the quality of their thesis, despite not winning an award.

7 RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 All Research Higher Degree Candidates should be made aware of these awards at time of enrolment at CQU.

Compliance, Monitoring and Review

7.2 The Dean of Graduate Studies is responsible for ensuring compliance with these procedures.

Reporting

7.3 All reporting relevant to this document will occur through the Research Higher Degrees Committee.

Records Management

7.4 All records relevant to this document are to be maintained in a recognised University recordkeeping system.

8 DEFINITIONS

Refer to the University glossary for the definition of terms used in this policy and procedure.

9 RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

Related Policy Document Suite

Examination Panel (DBR Portfolio) Guidance Procedures
Examination Panel (EdD Theses) Guidance Procedures
Examination Panel (Masters’ Theses) Guidance Procedures
Examination Panel (PhD Theses) Guidance Procedures

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