Thesis *with* publication(s): the University of Auckland model

What and how

June 2015

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What is a thesis with publication?

- A thesis that contains one or more publications/manuscripts intended for publication (produced during candidature) as it’s core
- Publications in the original wording or revised to fit the thesis
- Non-published contextual framework and discussion sections
- A malleable feast
- The integration of published and non-published information
- An academic piece of work
- A coherent body of work with a single thesis statement that flows from start to end
- A body of work that is consistent in citation style, format and typeface
- Not a thesis by publication!
What are the ‘Guidelines for Including Publications in a Thesis’?

• Must be sole or lead author
• Must have written all or most of the text
• Same publication cannot be used in more than one thesis
• Co-author approval is required (Co-authorship form)
• Publisher approval/ copyright permission is recommended
• Publication can be incorporated as published or re-worded
How is a thesis with publication examined?

• The same criteria apply as other PhDs

8. Examination of a thesis that contains published work

The inclusion of one or more publications in a thesis does not alter the University’s examination processes. Examiners are required to examine the thesis as a whole. They are at liberty to disagree with the findings in a published paper and to require revision to published work.
How can you defend your written thesis against the PhD examination criteria?

(i) is an original contribution to knowledge or understanding in its field and
(ii) meets internationally recognised standards for such work and
(iii) demonstrates knowledge of the literature relevant to the subject and the field or fields to which the subject belongs, and the ability to exercise critical and analytical judgment of it and
(iv) is satisfactory in its methodology, in the quality and coherence of its expression, and in its scholarly presentation and format.

The PhD must be the candidate’s own work.
Literature review

- Is still directly relevant to the thesis argument
- Is up-to-date

Method/ materials section

- Write a separate overarching method section
- Give sufficient detail that study can be replicated
- Don’t repeat the detail in each publication
What do you need to consider when writing a thesis with publication?

- Co-authorship
- Publication plan
- Where you publish – Impact factor (Open-access costs $1500+ per article)
- How you will indicate to the examiner that you have produced a thesis with publication
- That it has an overarching story/ argument
- How will the publications best fit into your thesis
  - Avoid repetition
  - Consistent use of ‘we’
  - Consistent use of terms/ abbreviations
  - Consistent language style
  - Consistent format & typeface
  - Complete list of references at end of thesis
- Can be embargoed
Time is critical

• To write the publication
• To rewrite the publication for acceptance
• To reformat the publication for inclusion in the thesis
• To write the rest of the thesis

3 years = 36 months = 1095 days
Co-authorship form

This form is to accompany the submission of any PhD that contains research reported in published or unpublished co-authored work. Please include one copy of this form for each co-authored work. Completed forms should be included in all copies of your thesis submitted for examination and library deposit (including digital deposit), following your thesis Acknowledgements.

Please indicate the chapter/section/pages of this thesis that are extracted from a co-authored work and give the title and publication details or details of submission of the co-authored work.

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Certification by Co-Authors

The undersigned hereby certify that:
- the above statement correctly reflects the nature and extent of the PhD candidate’s contribution to this work; and
- in cases where the PhD candidate was the lead author of the work that the candidate wrote the text.

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Things to consider

• Referencing
• Images, figures and tables
• Repetition
• Cohesion
• Co-authorship forms
Example theses with publication

https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/21752
Vice-Chancellor's prize for best doctoral thesis

https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/20056
Neonatal hypoglycaemia / Deborah Louise Harris. PhD Nursing University of Auckland, New Zealand, 2013.
Vice-Chancellor's prize for best doctoral thesis

https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/24498
Effects of Calcium on Indices of Bone and Cardiovascular Health, and on Cancer / Bristow, Sarah Marie PhD Medicine University of Auckland, 2014.

https://researchspace.auckland.ac.nz/handle/2292/23952
Old target, new paradigm: determinants of sensitivity to hypoxia-directed anticancer prodrugs / Francis Wahren Hunter. PhD Molecular Medicine University of Auckland, 2014.


Determining the effects of active methamphetamine dependence on grey matter structure and function of the human brain using magnetic resonance imaging / Reem Kais Jan. PhD Medical and Health Sciences University of Auckland, 2013.