

APPROVED RULE CHANGES

On 31 March 2026 the Deputy Director, Corporate Governance approved under Delegation 3.14.2 changes to the UTS Rules to reflect the title change of the Graduate Research School Board to the Graduate Research Board as approved by Academic Board (AB/26-1/12).

THE APPROVED AMENDMENTS TO THE UTS RULES ARE PROVIDED BELOW

[new text **bold underlined**, text to be deleted in ~~**bold and strikethrough**~~]

UTS STUDENT RULES

Section 5 — Admission

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- 5.8.1 Applicants who satisfy both the general requirements for admission and language requirements for admission may also have their application assessed in accordance with specific course requirements as recommended by the relevant Faculty Board or Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board and approved by Academic Board.
- 5.8.2 Academic Board, on the advice of the relevant Faculty Board or Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board, may require the applicants for admission to a particular course to submit a personal statement or other document, undertake an examination or interview, or submit portfolios or other additional information. This material may be taken into account by the staff of the relevant faculty or Graduate Research School according to criteria approved by the relevant Faculty Board or Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board for the purposes of determining whether or not to make an offer of admission.

Section 11 — Graduate research

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- 11.1.3 All research degrees at UTS are governed by a series of rules, policies, guidelines, procedures and frameworks. In section 11 of the Rules:

'Policy' means the [Graduate Research and Supervision Policy](#), and

'Procedures' means the [Graduate Research Candidature Management Thesis Preparation and Submission Procedures](#) as approved by the Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board from time to time.

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- 11.2.1 Students admitted to Doctoral degrees are required to:

- (1) undertake a program of study and supervised research which demonstrates the capability for substantial independent research and which has made an original and distinct contribution to knowledge in one or more fields of investigation, scholarship or professional practice;

- (2) undertake any mandatory or program-related training elements;
- (3) undertake a research component which is to comprise no less than two-thirds of the total course requirement; and
- (4) submit a thesis, which may include a product and/or artefact, in a format according to requirements specified by the Graduate Research **School**-Board.

11.2.2 Students admitted to Masters degrees (Research) are required to:

- (1) undertake a program of study and research which demonstrates application of an advanced body of knowledge in a range of contexts for research and scholarship;
- (2) undertake any mandatory or program-related training elements;
- (3) undertake a research component which is to comprise no less than two-thirds of the total course requirement; and
- (4) submit a thesis, which may include a product and/or artefact, in a format according to requirements specified by the Graduate Research **School**-Board.

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11.3.1 Prior to initial enrolment:

- (1) students who have been admitted to a graduate research course are required to certify that they can devote sufficient time to advanced study and research such that they are able to complete the course within the approved period of candidature determined by the Graduate Research **School**-Board;
- (2) students must comply with the requirements in [Rule 2.5.2](#);
- (3) the relevant faculty is required to certify that it will provide appropriate resources and facilities for students to undertake their research and is responsible for providing appropriate supervision in line with the Policy and Procedures; and
- (4) any research to be undertaken at a site external to the University must be in accordance with the Policy and/or procedures approved by the Graduate Research **School**-Board or other appropriate UTS authorities from time to time.

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11.5.1 Students who wish to transfer from one graduate research course to another shall obtain the recommendation of the principal supervisor and the Responsible Academic Officer prior to submitting an application to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) for approval on the appropriate form.

11.5.2 Students are not usually considered eligible for course transfer until they have completed at least one half year of full-time study (or equivalent) in the enrolled course, except in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances will be considered by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).

11.5.3 Students may apply to transfer into a graduate research course at the same level or at a different level. Transfer applications may be submitted following candidature stage assessment (refer Rule 11.15.6(2)) or in exceptional circumstances. Students must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research), and in accordance with the Procedures:

- (1) evidence of satisfactory progress in the enrolled course;
- (2) how the proposed changes to the research project satisfy the requirements of the course into which transfer is sought;

- (3) suitability of the research already undertaken in relation to the requirements of the course into which transfer is sought; and
- (4) certification from the student, the relevant faculty and any external site management in accordance with the requirements of Rule 11.3.1.

11.5.4 Where a transfer is approved, the new period of candidature will be determined by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) taking into account the contribution of the current research towards the requirements of the course into which transfer has been approved.

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11.6.2 Recognition of prior research, including the extent of any such recognition, the period of candidature and exemption from any candidature stage assessments, must be approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) on the recommendation of the Responsible Academic Officer. The recommendation must include consideration of the following:

- (1) the nature, duration and quality of the prior research;
- (2) the suitability of the prior research relative to the proposed UTS graduate research course; and
- (3) the recommended period of candidature as a consequence of the recognition of prior research.

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11.7.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 11.7.1, students with prior study and research recognised as contributing to the requirements of the current course may be required by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) to complete the program in less than the normal time.

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11.8.4 In exceptional circumstances, students may request variations to the application of Rules 11.8.3(1) and 11.8.3(2). Any variation will require documentary evidence and recommendations from the principal supervisor and the Responsible Academic Officer prior to seeking approval from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).

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11.9.4 In exceptional circumstances, students may request variations to the application of Rules 11.9.2 and 11.9.3. Any variation will require documentary evidence and recommendations from the principal supervisor and the Responsible Academic Officer prior to seeking approval from the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).

11.9.5 Students resuming a course after leave of absence shall be subject to course requirements in operation at the time of their return and are required to be enrolled as directed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).

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11.11.1 Students shall have a supervisory panel recommended by the relevant faculty, appointed by the Responsible Academic Officer and approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research). The composition of the supervisory panel shall be in accordance with the Policy as approved by Academic Board from time to time.

- 11.11.2 The criteria necessary for appointment as a supervisor of students shall be approved by the Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board and reported to Academic Board from time to time.
- 11.11.3 The Graduate Research School is responsible for maintaining a register of suitably qualified supervisors who are recommended by the relevant faculty and approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree by Research).
- 11.11.4 All members of supervisory panels shall operate in accordance with the Policy and the Procedures.
- 11.11.5 Where students undertake any research at sites external to the University, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree by Research) may appoint, in addition to the supervisory panel, an external supervisor or adviser upon the recommendation of the Responsible Academic Officer for students studying and/or researching at a site external to UTS. Where the location of research is outside of Australia, the [Guidelines to counter foreign interference in the university sector](#) apply.
- 11.11.6 Where students have a candidate program agreement to present a thesis in a language other than English, the principal supervisor must be competent in that language.
- 11.11.7 Where students seek to change the supervisory panel, the request must be approved by the Responsible Academic Officer. Where a student is dissatisfied with the determination of the Responsible Academic Officer, they may appeal the decision to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree by Research) within the timeframe and in accordance with the process stated in the Procedures.

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- 11.15.3 The requirements for each candidature stage assessment will be determined by each faculty, subject to the approval of the Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board and in accordance with the Procedures.

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- 11.17.2 A thesis shall comply with the following requirements:

- (1) it must be in English, with the exception of a thesis written under a collaborative agreement (refer to Rules 11.11.6 and 11.17.3);
- (2) it must reach a satisfactory standard of presentation in accordance with the Procedures;
- (3) it must consist of the students' own account of their work, except that, in special cases, work done conjointly with other persons may be accepted provided the Responsible Academic Officer is satisfied as to the extent of the student's part in the joint work;
- (4) it must be embodied in a format as approved by the Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board;
- (5) it must not include any work or material previously submitted in full or in part for another award, except as fully acknowledged within the text of the thesis; and
- (6) it may include work previously published by the student only if it bears on the subject of the thesis. Joint publications will be acceptable provided the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree by Research) is satisfied with the graduate research student's part in the joint work.

- 11.18.2 Notwithstanding Rule 11.18.1, an oral presentation may form part of the approved examination process as provided for in the Procedures and/or in a collaborative degree agreement. If an oral presentation is part of the examination process, timing of the presentation will be set in consultation with the principal supervisor and Responsible Academic Officer, and approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).
- 11.19.1 Students shall provide two months prior notice in writing to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) of their intention to submit the thesis for examination.
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- 11.20.5 Students who do not require re-examination must submit their final thesis for graduation within six months of receiving the final examination outcome.
- Any revisions to the thesis that do not require resubmission for re-examination, must be completed to the satisfaction of the Responsible Academic Officer within the notified time period as indicated in the final examination outcome documentation. The Responsible Academic Officer will report satisfactory completion of the revisions to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).
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- 11.24.1 Students whose candidatures are discontinued in accordance with Rule 11.23.2 may lodge an appeal against the discontinuation of candidature with the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).
- 11.24.2 An appeal against discontinuation of candidature must be in writing and reach the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) within 20 working days of the date of official notification.
- 11.24.3 In exceptional circumstances, students may request the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) to consider an extension of time to submit an appeal against discontinuation. Any such request must be received by the appeal due date with evidence to support the exceptional circumstances.
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- 11.24.6 At any time during the appeal process (up until the Appeals Committee convenes), students shall have the right to discontinue the appeal by notifying the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) in writing. If students exercise their right to discontinue the appeal, the decision of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) to discontinue the students shall stand.
- 11.24.7 The appeal steps are outlined in the [Graduate Research Candidature Management Thesis Preparation and Submission Procedures](#).
- 11.24.8 Upon receiving the Responsible Academic Officer's response to the appeal against discontinuation of candidature, the student's response must reach the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) within 10 working days of the date of notification.
- 11.24.9 In exceptional circumstances, students may request the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) to consider an extension of time of up to 10 working days to submit a response to the Responsible Academic Officer's recommendation. Any such request must be received by the appeal deadline with evidence to support the exceptional circumstances.
- 11.25.1 Where an appeal against discontinuation due to unsatisfactory assessment is upheld:
- (1) the student's candidature will be reinstated; and

- (2) the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) will, upon advice from the Responsible Academic Officer, determine the period of candidature remaining and any other requirements for the student to complete the course.

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11.25.3 Where an appeal against discontinuation is dismissed, the discontinuation of candidature will be confirmed to the student, the Responsible Academic Officer and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research).

Section 12 — Higher Doctoral degree requirements

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12.6.1 On the recommendation of the Dean of the relevant faculty and the Thesis Examination Committee, the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) shall appoint no fewer than three external assessors to assess the submitted works.

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12.6.3 The Thesis Examination Committee shall consider the reports of the assessors and make a recommendation to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) who, on behalf of Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board, shall formulate a recommendation to Academic Board, upon advice of Director, Student Administration, and in accordance with the [Statement of Assurance — Conferral of Awards](#) (PDF), that:

- (1) the candidate has satisfied requirements for the award of the degree as specified in Rule 12.2; or
- (2) the candidate has not satisfied requirements for the award of the degree.

12.6.4 The candidate shall be advised by the Chair of Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board of Academic Board's action under Rule 12.6.3.

Section 13 — Awards and graduation

13.2.2 Graduate research

- (1) Graduate research students must have:
 - (a) been enrolled in the course that leads to the award; and
 - (b) completed satisfactorily the educational, research and other requirements as approved for the student.
- (2) The Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board shall determine those students who have completed the course requirements.
- (3) The Chair of Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board, acting on behalf of Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board, shall recommend to Academic Board, upon advice of the Director, Student Administration, that the process outlined in the [Statement of Assurance — Conferral of Awards](#) (PDF) has been followed, and the resulting graduate research students who have satisfactorily completed course requirements in accordance with Rule 13.2.2(1) and (2) are considered eligible to graduate.
- (4) Where, as a result of death or permanent incapacity, a student fails to complete the course requirements, but has completed a substantial proportion of them, upon recommendation from the relevant Faculty Board, the Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board may recommend to Academic Board that the student be deemed to have completed requirements of a course and that an award be conferred. Such a

recommendation would normally be made within two years of the student's last enrolled teaching period and must be supported by relevant documentary evidence. Such evidence may include the completion of research work, papers and publications, literature reviews, or other tangible research related activities.

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13.3.2 Upon advice of the Director, Student Administration, the Chair of Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board, acting on behalf of Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board, shall recommend to Academic Board the conferral of awards upon those graduate research students who have satisfactorily completed course requirements in accordance with Rule 13.2.2 and are considered eligible to graduate.

Schedule 1 — Definitions

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Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board means the body appointed by Academic Board to provide recommendations and advice on matters relating to graduate research training quality and performance, degree accreditation and removal, research integrity and emerging trends in graduate research.

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supervisory panel means the group of people appointed by the Graduate Research ~~School~~ Board in accordance with the guidelines approved by Academic Board to supervise the candidature of a research degree student.

G3 — Rules relating to Academic Board, Faculty Boards and Elections

Division 1 — Constitution of the Academic Board

1.(1) Academic Board is to include:

- (a) ex officio members (in addition to the Vice-Chancellor as per Rule G1-12(1));
- (b) a Chair, when appointed as per Rule G3-6(2)(b), and a Deputy Chair, when appointed as per Rule G3-8(2)(b); and
- (c) elected members;

as provided by this Division, in addition to any persons determined by Council.

(2) The ex officio members of Academic Board are to be the person or persons holding the positions of:

- (a) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic);
- (b) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement and Partnerships);
- (c) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International);
- (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research);
- (e) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education);
- (f) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement);
- (g) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students);
- (h) Deans;
- (i) University Librarian;

- (j) President of the UTS Students' Association;
- (k) Director, Teaching Learning and Curriculum;
- (l) Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures;
- (m) Chair, Courses Accreditation Committee;
- (n) Deputy Chair, Courses Accreditation Committee;
- (o) Deputy Chair, Research Committee; and
- (p) Deputy Chair, Teaching and Learning Committee;

in addition to the holder or holders of any other position determined by Council.

(3) The elected members of Academic Board comprise:

- (a) one member elected by and from the academic staff of each faculty;
- (b) eight members elected by and from the Professoriate and Associate Professoriate (levels D and E), with no more than two from any one faculty or unit;
- (c) four members elected by and from the academic staff (levels A, B, C), with no more than two from any one faculty or unit;
- (d) two members elected by and from the deputy deans or associate deans, or heads of schools (or equivalent);
- (e) one student elected by and from students from each faculty, and an alternate (see Rule G3-1(4));
- (f) one postgraduate research student elected by and from the postgraduate research students of the University, and an alternate (see Rule G3-1(4)); and
- (g) one Indigenous undergraduate or postgraduate student, elected by and from the UTS Indigenous student body.

(4) The Chair of Academic Board may, with the consent of the runner-up in the election for the relevant student category and term, appoint that runner-up to be the alternate member for the relevant student category. In the event that the runner-up does not consent to be the alternate member, the other candidates in the election for the relevant student category and term, will be offered the position in the order of their ranking in the election as determined in accordance with Rule G3-35. If the candidates in the election are exhausted and the vacancy remains unfilled, the Chair of Academic Board will appoint another student to act as an alternate member on the recommendation of the Dean of the relevant faculty(s) (for Rule G3-1(3)(e)) or on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research) (for Rule G3-1(3)(f)) or on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement) (for Rule G3-1(3)(g)).

The alternate member, who is appointed for the same term of office as the elected member, has speaking and voting rights at those meetings of Academic Board which the alternate member attends in place of the elected member.

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3.(1) The elections for the elected members of Academic Board are to be conducted in accordance with Part 3 of these Rules.

(2) If, at the close of nominations in the conduct of an election, the number of vacancies for elected positions exceeds the number of candidates who are declared elected by the Returning Officer, any remaining vacancy may be appointed by the Chair of Academic Board for the period stated in the notice of election or, where the appointment is made after 1 January, for the remaining period in the notice of election. Appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the appropriate officer, as outlined in Rule G3-3(3).

(3) For positions under:

- (a) Rule G3-1(3)(a), appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the Dean of the relevant faculty;
- (b) Rule G3-1(3)(b-d), appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the Dean of each faculty. In the event the number of recommendations exceed the number of vacant positions, the position will be determined by lot (drawn by the University Secretary or nominee);
- (c) Rule G3-1(3)(e), appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the Dean of the relevant faculty;
- (d) Rule G3-1(3)(f), appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree **by** Research);
- (e) Rule G3-1(3)(g), appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement).

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12. (2) Without limiting the effect of Rule G3-11, Academic Board shall:

- (a) upon recommendation of the Chair of Faculty Board (acting on behalf of the Faculty Board) for coursework, and Chair of Graduate Research ~~School~~-Board (acting on behalf of Graduate Research ~~School~~-Board) for graduate research, approve those students who are considered eligible to graduate, having completed approved course requirements satisfactorily noting:
 - (i) the Chair of Faculty Board and Chair of Graduate Research ~~School~~-Board shall make such recommendation to Academic Board upon the advice of Director, Student Administration;
 - (ii) the [Statement of Assurance — Conferral of Awards](#) (PDF) as prepared by the University Secretary, under which proposals for conferrals of awards will be recommended to Academic Board for approval;
- (b) determine the accreditation of proposed or existing award courses on their academic merit, and the removal of the accreditation of award courses;
- (c) develop, monitor and review academic policies and their effectiveness;
- (d) determine the standards and benchmarks for governing all aspects of academic administration, including, but not limited to, the admission of students and the examination and assessment of students' work;
- (e) determine the structures and functions of Faculty Boards, and any subsequent amendments to these, noting that a Faculty Board's authority to act on specific matters will continue to require Council's delegated authority.
- (f) undertake initiatives to oversee academic and research integrity and its breaches thereof, including identification, management, mitigation and monitoring of its potential risks.