



## APPROVED RULE CHANGE

On 8 October 2025 the Deputy Director, Governance Support Unit approved under Delegation 3.14.2 amendments to sections 11 and 12 of the UTS Student Rules and G3 of the UTS General Rules to reflect the new position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research) and the disestablishment of the position of Dean, Graduate Research School.

### THE APPROVED AMENDMENT TO THE UTS RULES ARE PROVIDED BELOW

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

## UTS STUDENT RULES

### Section 11 — Graduate research

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#### 11.5 Course transfer

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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 Recognition of prior research

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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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 Period of candidature

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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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research) to complete the program in less than the normal time.

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## 11.8 Extension of candidature

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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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research).

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## 11.9 Student leave

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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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research).

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## 11.11 Supervision

11.11.1 Students shall have a supervisory panel recommended by the relevant faculty, appointed by the Responsible Academic Officer and approved by the ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 **Dean, Graduate Research School Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 **Dean, Graduate Research School Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 **Dean, Graduate Research School Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)** within the timeframe and in accordance with the process stated in the Procedures.

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## **11.17 Thesis requirements**

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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 **Dean, Graduate Research School Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)** is satisfied with the graduate research student's part in the joint work.

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## **11.8 Oral presentation of thesis**

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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 **Dean, Graduate Research School Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)**.

## **11.19 Submission of thesis for examination**

11.19.1 Students shall provide two months prior notice in writing to the **Dean, Graduate**

~~Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)** of their intention to submit the thesis for examination.

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## 11.20 Examination of thesis

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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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)**.

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## 11.24 Appeal against discontinuation of candidature

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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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)**.

11.24.2 An appeal against discontinuation of candidature must be in writing and reach the ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)** within 20 working days of the date of official notification.

11.24.3 In exceptional circumstances, students may request the ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)** in writing. If students exercise their right to discontinue the appeal, the decision of the ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)** within 10 working days of the date of notification.

11.24.9 In exceptional circumstances, students may request the ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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 Result of appeal

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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~**Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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.

11.25.2 Where an appeal against discontinuation due to unsatisfactory examination is upheld:

- (1) the student's candidature will be reinstated; and
- (2) the Thesis Examination Committee will, upon advice from the Responsible Academic Officer, determine the steps and processes necessary for the re-examination to be conducted in an appropriate timeframe or for the examination to be repeated as appropriate.

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 **Dean, Graduate Research School Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)**.

## **Section 12 — Higher Doctoral degree requirements**

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### **12.6 Assessment of works**

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

12.6.2 Each assessor shall submit to the Thesis Examination Committee an independent report in writing and shall recommend, on the basis of the submitted works, whether the candidate's works:

- (1) has demonstrated outstanding creative achievement or an outstanding contribution to the field of knowledge in which those works fall; and
- (2) has exhibited a level of originality and creativity that marks the candidate as a major authority in that field.

12.6.3 The Thesis Examination Committee shall consider the reports of the assessors and make a recommendation to the **Dean, Graduate Research School Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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.

## **UTS GENERAL RULES**

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

#### **Part 1 — Academic Board**

##### **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) Provost;
- (b) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education and Students);
- (c) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement and Partnerships);
- (d) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International);
- (e) Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research);
- (f) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education);
- (g) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement);
- (h) Pro Vice-Chancellor (Students);
- (i) Deans;
- (j) University Librarian;
- (k) President of the UTS Students' Association;
- (l) Director, Teaching Learning and Curriculum;
- (m) Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures;
- (n) Chair, Courses Accreditation Committee;
- (o) Deputy Chair, Courses Accreditation Committee;
- (p) Deputy Chair, Research Committee; and
- (q) 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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~ **Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree 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)).

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### **Conduct of elections**

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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 ~~Dean, Graduate Research School~~ **Pro Vice-Chancellor (Higher Degree Research)**;

(e) Rule G3-1(3)(g), appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Leadership and Engagement).