

School of Mechanical Engineering – Thesis format guidelines

30th August, 2017

Higher degree by research (HDR) students within the School of Mechanical Engineering may submit their thesis in one of the following formats:

- i. a conventional written narrative, or;
- ii. a thesis by publication, or;
- iii. a hybrid (conventional + papers).

The preferred format is thesis by publication, due to the benefits to the HDR's track record and the critical review of the work prior to submission of the thesis.

In addition to the Adelaide Graduate Centre [rules](#), [handbook](#) and [guidelines](#), the following School-specific guidelines also apply:

- The format of the thesis shall be discussed between student and supervisors early in candidature. The proposed format of the final thesis is to be stated in the Major Review report. Unless there is a reason otherwise, students should plan to do a thesis by publication.
- Any publications must be closely related in terms of subject matter, and must be integrated to form a cohesive document.
- A thesis including papers should contain, in addition to relevant publications, a contextual statement which normally includes the aims underpinning the publications; a literature review or commentary which establishes the field of knowledge and provides a link between publications; and a conclusion showing the overall significance of the work and contribution to knowledge, problems encountered and future directions of the work. The discussion should not include a detailed re-working of the discussions from individual papers within the thesis.
- The quality and quantity of work in a thesis by publication must equate to the research in a conventional thesis. The thesis must cover all the required sections of a conventional thesis and by developing the required linked journal articles coherently convey the hypothesis; the associated background; the research questions, the methods used to answer those questions; results and discussions and what new knowledge has been generated by the candidate.
- In the case of a PhD thesis by publication, it should comprise at least four first-author papers in reputable journals, with no less than two accepted and any remaining papers submitted.
- In the case of an MPhil thesis by publication, it should comprise at least two first-author papers in reputable journals, with no less than one accepted and any remaining papers submitted.
- For publications to count towards the minimum requirements, they should be in top-quartile journals. This ranking should be based on a legitimate database, such as [Scimago](#).
- The student must be first-named author on any publications appearing in the body of the thesis.
- Inclusion of conference articles to replace the main chapters of the thesis is strongly discouraged.
- All papers included in the thesis must be prefaced by a detailed statement of authorship which clearly explains each author's contribution. This must be endorsed by all supervisors and co-authors of the paper. The use of the Graduate Centre's [Statement of Authorship](#) form allows for the contributions to be longer than the default size of the boxes.
- Except in extenuating circumstances, the student's contribution to the paper should be at least 50% for inclusion in the body of the thesis.
- The University's [Authorship Policy](#) must be complied with, based on the [Vancouver Protocol](#).
- The candidate is responsible to make sure that the journal allows the paper(s) to be included in a thesis and discuss copyright matters with the publisher(s).