Faculty of Arts and Education  
Higher Degree by Research

PhD Folio – School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Award of the PhD by Folio qualification is by examination of a written thesis in the form of a folio that consists of two related components:

a) a selection of Candidate’s reports, papers and publications in media appropriate for the professional context of the defence of Australia and its national interests as well as acquired learning through professional experience that is related to the dissertation

b) a substantial 25–30,000 word dissertation including a literature review

Professional Practice and Writing Component
Candidates must demonstrate a substantial original contribution to the knowledge and practice of the defence of Australia and its national interests through their professional practice (career performance) and writing. The professional practice and writing component should be a coherent selection of work carried out by the candidate, not simply a collection of unrelated pieces.

Dissertation Component
Candidates are required in their dissertation to present, develop and argue a position that they support by empirical study and locate in a clearly expressed understanding of the relevant literature and specific issues in theory, policy and professional practice of the defence of Australia and its national interests.

The reports, papers and publications
For this component may be papers delivered at conferences or published in academic or professional journals; they may be reports on discrete projects relevant to the dissertation; they may be exemplars, evaluation reports or critical policy documents; they may be produced collaboratively with others, providing due acknowledgement of the contributions of others is made.

The professional practice and writing component normally includes:

a) original evidence of performance and impact, e.g. annual report extracts, commendations etc.

b) a critical account of the methodology that links the professional practice and writing component with the dissertation component

c) a selective and critical review of relevant published research, i.e. literature review

d) evidence of relevance to professional practice in the field, e.g. written testimony of learning and career experience that contributes evidence to the dissertation hypothesis
The professional practice and writing component

May consist of one document or several, consisting of a selection of the products of research/investigation that establish the candidate's claim to have carried out research/investigation at doctoral standard. The various parts of this component should be integrated through a commentary (either within the dissertation or as a separate document) that explains the relationship between the thesis components.

Candidates submit their thesis for examination to qualify. It is comprised of:

a) **Introduction.** A framework in which the theoretical and practical underpinnings of the thesis are explained (indicative 5–10 000 words)

b) **Dissertation Component.** (Indicative 25–30 000 words as well as a literature review)

c) **Professional Writing and Practice Component.** Consists of two to four pieces of writing that represent communications and/or actions that relate the candidate's dissertation research to their professional practice (indicative 20-30 000 words)

d) **Conclusion.** An outline of the theoretical and practical implications of the work (indicative 10 000 words)

Defence Confirmatory Confirmation

Security Aspects

Research for a PhD by Folio may require access to classified material. While classified sources may be consulted and attributed in footnotes, all written material comprising the PhD by Folio thesis that is discussed at the confirmation and submitted for examination must be unclassified.

Candidates are required to demonstrate that the initial phase of research 'apprenticeship' is complete and the candidacy should be confirmed. The confirmation allows candidates to show how far they have progressed and to confirm the duration of their candidacy based on this progress. For the Master by Research pathway, the confirmation provides an opportunity for candidates who are making excellent progress to 'upgrade' to PhD by Folio candidacy with no detriment to the duration of their candidature.

The dates for confirmation are based on an alignment to enrolment dates and are scheduled around the 9- month mark (full-time enrolment) after formal advice of candidature to ensure that confirmation is prior to the maximum time allowed of 12 months of candidature.

Last updated September 2019