



## Faculty of Arts and Education Higher Degree by Research

---

### PhD by Folio

---

In contrast to the conventional PhD thesis, the Folio pathway will normally comprise two components; a *thesis writing* component as well as representations of *Professional Writing and Practice*. These two components are based on a coherent research framework that addresses a significant matter of professional or workplace practice. As a professionally-orientated PhD the Folio pathway takes a broad view of research and across a wide range of professional settings. In presenting their Folio for examination candidates will normally provide an *Introduction*, a *literature review* (a framework in which the theoretical and practical underpinnings of the work are explained), and a *Conclusion* (outlining the theoretical and practical implications of the work). As the only assessment required for the completion of the Folio, the content should represent a significant original and scholarly contribution to the nominated field of professional or workplace practice. Thus, it has to be communicated as an accessible, coherent and scholarly account of the candidate's research and its professional and scholarly implications. By way of summary, the Folio is normally comprised of the following:

1. **Introduction:** Candidates need to introduce the issue/theme that will unite the components of their Folio. In so doing, they should provide a warrant for the research topic/problem and describe its relevance to their professional existence. Further to this, the Folio introduction should provide a clear and coherent account of the significance and originality of the work.
2. **Thesis Writing Component:** is a substantial document that has a coherent scholarly argument supported by research and citation. It presents coherent research and a scholarly enterprise that is presented for examination. As a professionally-orientated program the thesis component of the PhD by folio usually draws on the assumptions, strategies and techniques associated with *insider* research.
3. **Professional Writing and Practice Component:** This component of the Folio consists of two to four pieces of writing that represent communications and/or actions that relate the candidate's research to their professional practice or their workplace. The Professional Writing and Practice presented here should relate to and advance the general thesis being forwarded in the Folio. Under the guidance of their Supervisor(s), and within the guidelines established to direct this component of the Folio, the two to four pieces of professional writing and practice presented here can include such things as, scholarly or professional articles, descriptions and analyses of workplace changes or innovations, evaluation reports, policy documents, etc.
4. **Conclusion:** At the conclusion of the Folio the candidate should bring the various components of the Folio into relation (i.e., thesis, Professional Writing and Practice) with each other and describe their (potential) impact on, or contribution to, the profession.

## PRESENTING A PhD FOLIO FOR EXAMINATION

Before a PhD Folio is deemed to be ready for examination, it should contain the following content (but not necessarily in this order).

### INTRODUCTION TO THE FOLIO (5-10K)

Candidates should introduce the issue/theme that will unite all components of the Folio. In doing so it should provide a warrant for the research topic and/or problem and its relevance to their professional existence. Candidates should introduce themselves as well as their professional background and current standing and provide a road map to how the Folio is presented and how it should be read.

### The Thesis writing component (40K)

The thesis writing component of the folio will usually contain the following:

**1. An introduction**

The focus of the dissertation should be introduced in a way that enables examiners to see the logic and relevance of the study.

**2. Literature Review: Locate the study in the literature of the professional field**

Connects the topic/focus and aspirations of the inquiry to the broader professional and/or scholarly literature.

**3. Statement of Methodology**

Describes the core principles, assumptions and ethics underpinning the research and how these inform its design, implementation and analyses.

**4. Presentation and Analysis of data**

The presentation of some sort of empirical evidence for analysis and discussion around the research topic.

**5. Discussion and Conclusion**

Describes and defends the core arguments/issues that can be reasonably deduced from the study.

### PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND PRACTICE (2-4 separate activity pieces) (30K)

Each Professional Activity should be able to be read both as part of the wider Folio and in isolation. The Professional Writing and Practice should reflect/represent the candidate's professional engagement with the Folio theme. The Professional Writing and Practice can take many forms but should be notable by their contribution, impact or endorsement within their professional community.

*Candidates are encouraged to present these in a way that allows them to be disseminated among their wider professional/academic communities.*

### CONCLUSION TO THE FOLIO (5K)

Brings the various components of the Folio into relation with each other and the wider profession. A *Statement of Impact* should be included here. This should describe the impact of the work in the workplace or to the profession.

**\* Note:** *Word allocations are indicative, not prescriptive*

### PROFESSIONAL WRITING AND PRACTICE (Some further explanation)

The Professional Writing and Practice component of the PhD (Folio) represent opportunities for candidates to present aspects of their professional practice as part of their research program. Each of the Professional Activities should relate to and/or advance the general thesis being forwarded in their Folio. Broadly speaking the principles of *scholarship*, *originality* and *relevance* are what determine what pieces can be submitted as representations of professional writing and practice.

The Professional Writing and Practice component of the PhD Folio can include;

- published or presented works
- policy development and analysis
- planning and management practices
- professional development practices
- curriculum initiatives/developments
- theorisation and critique
- research undertakings/insights
- methodological explorations
- reflections on practice
- evaluation and review
- other

Under the guidance of their Supervisor(s) and Program Co-ordinators, and within the guidelines established for the Professional Writing for Practice, candidates are invited to explore/advance/represent aspects of their professional practice in a variety of ways.

Candidates are generally expected to present the Professional Writing and Practice in around 30,000 words within their PhD (Folio). Beyond that, normal University and Faculty guidelines apply for the presentation of PhD submissions, which recommended a PhD submission to be around 80,000 words but not more than 100,000. Word limits include references and appendices.

Last updated September 2019