

**Master’s Thesis Examination Form** *(To be completed by all examiners)*

**Masters by thesis is a research degree normally undertaken in the relevant discipline**

* Internal Examiner
* External Examiner

**Part A. Student Details**

*To be completed by School Research, Innovation & Postgraduate Affairs Office*

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Particulars | | Official Use  Verification Only |
| Name of Examiner |  |  |
| Name of Student |  |  |
| Student ID. No. |  |  |
| School |  |  |
| Discipline |  |  |
| Thesis Title |  |  |
| Date of thesis submission |  |  |
| Date submitted to the examiner |  |  |
| Date returned by examiner |  |  |

**Previous courses taken by the Student**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Course No** | **Course Title** | **Grade** |
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**Part B: SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS** *(Please tick* ☑ as *appropriate)*

**1**. I recommend that:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. the degree be awarded to the student | □ |
| 1. the degree not be awarded (fail grade) | □ |
| 1. the student undertake minor revisions and corrections to the thesis and these changes be approved internally | □ |
| 1. the student undertakes substantial revisions and corrections to the thesis and these be re-examined by all examiners | □ |

**2**. Please indicate whether you wish the candidate to undergo:

1. an oral 🞏
2. a written or practical examination 🞏

(c) no further requirement 🞏

\* *This is not a mandatory requirement for Master’s candidates. Please provide your reasoning in the box below if you have chosen (a) or (b) in question 2.*

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**3. Thesis Assessment**

**Part A: Assessment Rubric**

*Please use the following tabulated assessment guide to provide a grade marking for the thesis where applicable. This is a guide for the marker to outline an opinion consistent with work at this level. Your final report will detail the relevant intellectual and scholarship issues that determine the validity of a Masters's thesis.*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **RESEARCH FOCUS & ORIGINALITY** | * Clear thesis statement, research questions and development of the work showing further advancement or original contribution to the knowledge. * Effective planning, execution and completion of an original, independent research project. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **BACKGROUND, CONTEXT & LITERATURE REVIEW** | * A clear and succinct overview of the research background and context of the study. * Critique current knowledge, theories and practices at the forefront of a discipline and any appropriate theoretical framework. * Appropriate Scope and critical analysis of literature, selection of sources and final list of works cited. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **METHODOLOGY** | * Clear research methodology consistent with the aim and objectives of the project. * Appropriateness of methods of data collection and analysis. * Reliability and validity checks of data collected. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **RESEARCH RIGOR** | * Quality and evidence of research skills demonstrated by intellectual analysis, critique, problem solving and manage uncertainty * Demonstrate specialised knowledge of a field and the associated skills and methods of research for the advancement of scholarship and/or professional practice. * Engage critically with scholarly and professional subject matters, demonstrating the capacity to solve problems | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS** | * Demonstrate data analysis techniques consistent with objectives * Appropriate quantitative, qualitative or narrative analysis applied * Quality of data interpretation and effective presentation of results. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **SITUATING FINDINGS**  **AND COMMUNICATIONS** | * Positioning of findings within the broader literature/ discipline/ field of study * Articulate complex ideas effectively in written professionally and scholarly   manner.   * Effective organization of thesis demonstrating specialized knowledge and   further advancement of scholarship. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **INNOVATION & CREATIVITY** | * Demonstrates innovation and creativity of approach in new techniques, idea, performance, product or outcome. * The research outcome is positioned at the forefront of the discipline, field or profession. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | Rating | | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | 7 | 8 | | | 9 | 10 | |
| **ETHICS & PACIFIC CONSCIOUSNESS** | * Adherence to research ethics in fieldwork and write-up of the thesis. * Demonstrate the ethical standards of the professional code of practice in their discipline, taking responsibility for decisions and their implications. * Critique the discipline in the context of the resources of the diverse cultural heritages of Pacific communities, to support sustainable development in a global environment. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **CONCLUSION & IMPLICATIONS** | * Concise and clear summary, conclusions, recommendations indicating important and new findings. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| **PRESENTATION OF THESIS** | * Quality of editing, proof-reading and adherence to USP thesis requirements of final presentation. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rating | 1 | | 2 | | 3 | | 4 | | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | 9 | | | 10 |
| ***Please total and grade out of 100*** TOTAL Rating /100  FINAL USP GRADE *(Please circle the appropriate grade based on the total rating)*   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Mark Range** | **Grade** | | 85-100 | A+ | | 78 -84 | A | | 71 - 77 | B+ | | 64 - 70 | B | | 57 - 63 | C+ | | 50-56 | C | | 40-49 | D | | 0-39 | E |   *.* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **3. Part B: Assessment Report**  Please submit a separate report with in 6 weeks highlighting the following but not limited to:   1. A detailed report of the examination providing reasoned arguments of Rubric Guidelines utilized. 2. Commentary on the strengths and weaknesses of the overall thesis as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the individual chapters. 3. Specify in the report corrections which must be communicated to the candidate before the final hard-bound copy is accepted by the library.   Name of the Examiner: …………………………………….………Signature: …………………………………  Date: ………………… | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**4.** Examiners must not consult with each other before the submission of their reports, but they may wish to recommend subsequent consultation.

1. I recommend consultation 🞏
2. I do not recommend consultation 🞏

**5.** Release information. My report may be released to the candidate:

1. with my identity 🞏
2. without my identity 🞏

**Appendix 1: The University of the South Pacific: Handbook and Calendar**

The current University of the South Pacific guidelines and awarding of postgraduate degrees are found in the relevant chapters of the Handbook and Calendar:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/fileadmin/2021/2021_Handbook_and_Calendar__as_at_17_May__ONLINE_VERSION.PDF>

**Appendix 1: The USP Thesis Presentation Guidelines**

The document in the link below details the guidelines on the format and style for the final copy of theses submitted at the University of the South Pacific:

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/fileadmin/files/services/library/Working_in_libraries/Theses/2020Theses_Presentation_Guidelines.pdf>

**Appendix 3: USP Postgraduate Outcomes and Research Skills Development (RSD) Framework**

The resources below were used in the development of the thesis evaluation rubrics:

***USP Postgraduate Outcomes****:* <https://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=22902>

***Research Skills Development (RSD) Framework:*** <http://research.usp.ac.fj/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/RSD_RSD7_22OCT_2013.pdf>

***USP Graduate Outcomes & Research Skills Development Framework Overlap:***

<https://www.usp.ac.fj/fileadmin/files/dvcltss/LTSS_Report/USP_Graduate_Outcomes_and_RSD_Framework_v2.pdf>

*(In the interest of saving paper please utilize this link for information and print only if necessary)*