**Ph.D. Thesis Examination Form** *(To be completed by all examiners)*

**The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is a research degree normally undertaken after having completed the Master’s degree by research in the relevant discipline.**

* Internal Examiner
* External Examiner

**Part A. Student Details**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Particulars  | Official UseVerification 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.** Oral Defence

All Ph.D. candidates are required to undertake an oral defence consisting of a about a 45 minute formal presentation summarizing the research and outcomes followed by questions. This will be organized by the School once the final examination report has been received and the revised thesis has been submitted. All examiners are invited to attend (Face-to face or online) the presentation, ask questions and decide the result of public defense and communicate in writing the results to the Research Committee.

Are you as the examiner willing to participate in the oral defense? Yes □ No □

**3. Thesis Assessment**

**Assessment Rubric Guidelines**

*Following tabulated assessment guide may be used where applicable. Your final report will detail the relevant intellectual and scholarship issues that determine the validity of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) thesis.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  **RESEARCH FOCUS & ORIGINALITY** | * Clear thesis statement, research questions and development of the work showing new advancement or original contribution to the knowledge.
* Extend the boundaries of current knowledge, theories and practices at the forefront of a discipline.
* Effective planning, execution and completion of an original, independent research project.
 |
|  |
| **BACKGROUND, CONTEXT & LITERATURE REVIEW** | * A clear and succinct overview of the research background and context of the study
* Critical review of relevant literature and any appropriate theoretical framework.
* Appropriate Scope and critical analysis of literature, selection of sources and final list of works cited.
 |
|  |
| **METHODOLOGY**  | * Clear research methodology consistent with the aim and objectives of the project.
* Engage critically with scholarly and professional issues, demonstrating the capacity to formulate and/or solve complex problems and manage uncertainty
* Reliability and validity checks of data collected.
 |
|  |
| **RESEARCH RIGOR** | * Quality and evidence of research skills demonstrated by intellectual analysis, critique and problem-solving.
* Demonstrate comprehensive 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.
 |
|  |
| **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.
 |
|
| **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. |
|
| **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.
 |
|  |
| **ETHICS & PACIFIC CONSCIOUSNESS** | * Adherence to research ethics in fieldwork and write-up of the thesis.
* Apply critically the ethical standards of the professional code of practice in their discipline, taking responsibility for their decisions and 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.
 |
|
| **CONCLUSION & IMPLICATIONS** | * Concise and clear summary, conclusions, recommendations indicating new findings and original contribution to the subject.
 |
|
| **PRESENTATION OF THESIS** | * Quality of editing, proof-reading and adherence to USP Thesis requirements of final presentation
 |
|  |
| **3. Assessment Report** Please submit a separate report within three months highlighting the following but not limited to:1. A detailed report of the examination providing reasoned arguments for any 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
4. Please state if the thesis deserves a commendation.

**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)*