

Arbiter’s Decision on Pass/Failure of Masters Dissertation/Doctoral Thesis

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| --- | --- |
| Faculty |  |
| Department |  |
| Degree  |  |
|  |
| Student Surname |  | **Student No** |  |
| First Names |  | **Title (Mr, Ms)** |  |
| **Title of Dissertation/ Thesis**  |  |
| 100% research thesis |  | **50% course-work dissertation** |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Supervisor  |  | Title |  |
| Co- Supervisor |  | Title |  |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Arbiter  |  | Title |  |
| Position |  | Qualifications |  |
| **Affiliation of Arbiter**  |  |

**SUMMARY OF EXAMINERS’ REPORTS*:* TO BE COMPLETED BY HOD/CHAIRPERSON OF FRC *BEFORE THE FORM IS SENT TO THE ARBITER***

|  |  |  |  |
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| **EXAMINERS’ RECOMMENDATIONS (as on PG 8)** | **1** | **2** | **3** |
| **Yes/No** | **Yes/No** | **Yes/No** |
| Did the Examiners state that the dissertation/thesis shows knowledge and understanding of the subject? |  |  |  |
| Did the Examiners find the the presentation and the literary style adequate? |  |  |  |
| Did the Examiners find the work adequate for the award of the qualification? |  |  |  |
| **COMPLETE SECTIONS A, B AND/OR C (according to what each Examiner recommended):** |  |  |  |
| A. | Did the Examiners unreservedly recommend the award of the Master’s Degree or a Doctor’s Degree? |  |  |  |
| B. | Did the Examiners recommend the award subject to: |  |  |  |
| (i) Editorial corrections (style/format/grammar/spelling)? |  |  |  |
| (ii) Minor revision of reporting/claims/findings/ recommendations? |  |  |  |
| (iii) Minor expansion of arguments/analysis? |  |  |  |
| C. | Did the Examiners recommend outright rejection? |  |  |  |

**ARBITER’S RECOMMENDATION TO FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE/HIGHER DEGREES COMMITTEE**

**(Please tick)**

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| I recommend that the student should: | **PASS** |  |
| **FAIL** |  |
| In the case of a pass, I recommend the award subject to:undertaken to the satisfaction of the: | Editorial corrections  |  |
| Minor revision of reporting/claims/findings/ recommendations |  |
| Minor expansion of arguments/analysis |  |
| Supervisor  |  |
| HoD |  |
| Executive Dean |  |

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| **Rationale for recommending a failure (if applicable):** | **Please tick** |
|  A. | The thesis/dissertation fails to meet the University’s criteria for a pass as indicated by the Guidelines for Examiners (below). |  |
| and/orB. | The thesis/dissertation fails to meet the standard generally expected of a masters/doctorate. |  |
| and or/C. | The examiners’ reports show compelling reasons for failure. |  |
| and/orD.(other) | [*Kindly provide* *a* ***brief*** *explanation: this can be expanded in the Arbiter’s written report*.] |  |

***Each Arbiter is required to attach a written report motivating the decision reached (i.e. pass/fail) based on the following evidence:***

* the DUT criteria for assessment (see p. 3 below)
* the examination copy of the thesis/dissertation
* the examiners’ reports

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Arbiter)

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

(Chairperson: Faculty Research Committee)

**DUT CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF THESIS/DISSERTATION**

**Requirements in respect of a Masters dissertation and a Doctoral thesis:**

The difference between a Masters dissertation and a Doctoral thesis is mainly in the size, scope, sophistication and originality of the research.

**GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS**

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| --- |
| **Content:**1. Title
* Clear, concise, contains all necessary key words.
1. Research problems and aims
* Clear, specific, relevant to the topic.
1. Literature review
* Comprehensiveness and relevance of the literature review.
1. Research methodology/design
* Appropriateness, explanation and application of the research design used to investigate the problem; correlation with the research question (or problem).
1. Analysis and interpretation
* Data analysis methods, arguments presented logically and relevant
1. Relevance of the research area and delimitation of the field investigated.
2. Conclusions that suggest satisfactory personal insights in the field.

**Technical aspects:*** Layout (chapters) and flow of information.
* Language (syntax, writing style) and presentation (language editing, layout, use of appendices).
* Consistency of referencing style (in-text and bibliography).
* Functionality of figures and tables.
* Specific matters (if any) which, in your opinion require correction, revision or further development. Please furnish a list on an additional page/s or indicate in the ring bound examiner’s copy and return to the Supervisor/HoD.

***Note to Arbiter:*****Overall impression:** *A clear motivation should be supplied here, to support the Arbiter’s decision of* ***EITHER*** *a pass* ***OR*** *a failure. Please note that no other options are permissible.* |

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| **Routing**  | **HoD** |  | **FRC** |  | **HDC** |  |

***KINDLY ATTACH THE ARBITER’S WRITTEN REPORT TO THIS FORM.***