



Guidelines for the Submission of Theses and Dissertations

[Calendar Part III](#) regulates the requirements for the submission of theses and dissertations.

THE SUBMISSION OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

GENERAL

81. Candidates and Supervisors should note that these requirements are mandatory and they are asked to familiarise themselves with the information below. Theses must meet all the requirements set out below. Please note: from time to time the Dean of Graduate Studies may approve other formats on an individual basis.

LANGUAGE

82. A thesis or dissertation should be written in English or Irish unless prior permission has been granted for the use of another language by the Dean of Graduate Studies. A candidate who wishes to write a thesis or dissertation in a language other than English or Irish should initially contact his/her Supervisor/Programme Co-ordinator. The Supervisor/Programme Coordinator will then consult with his/her Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate). If the latter can satisfy him/herself that a) there are sound academic reasons for the thesis or dissertation to be written in a language other than English or Irish and b) that the candidate has the necessary skills/fluency in the relevant language, then the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate) should send a summary of the case under the two headings outlined above to the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Dean of Graduate Studies will normally be guided by the recommendation of the Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), but may refer the matter to the Graduate Studies Committee if they deem it necessary.

PUBLISHED WORK

83. A thesis submitted for a higher degree may be based on, or include single authored or multi-authored/collaborative papers and writings already published by the candidate, if the studies from which they derive have been carried out during the period of registration on the higher degree register. Such writings must be fully integrated into the body of the thesis.

Where chapter(s) are jointly authored, the student must outline at the beginning of the chapter the exact nature of his or her contribution to the chapter.

For avoidance of doubt, a thesis containing a published work is examined according to the standard rules for examination of any thesis submitted for a higher degree. In particular, the criteria in Paragraphs 46 and 47 of Section II, Part III of the University Calendar apply irrespective of whether the thesis contains single authored or multi-authored/collaborative papers.

LENGTH

84. A thesis must be written concisely. Dissertations submitted in part-fulfilment of the requirements of a postgraduate taught programme are limited to the length prescribed in the individual programme regulations. Normally a Ph.D. thesis should not exceed 100,000 words of text (exclusive of footnotes and bibliography) and a M.Litt. or M.Sc. (by research) thesis, 60,000 words of text (exclusive of footnotes and bibliography), and for scientific or technical subjects will normally be shorter. If a thesis is likely to exceed these limits, the Dean of



Graduate Studies must be advised of its estimated length and her/his permission obtained at an early stage in the writing. Additional material, such as numerical appendices, listings of computer programs and textual footnotes, may be bound in a separate volume. Where the combined length of text, footnotes and appendices, etc. exceeds 400 pages the thesis must be bound in two volumes.

TYPESCRIPT AND ILLUSTRATIONS

85. Theses, submitted electronically, must have A4 (297 mm x 210 mm) sized pages and a black typescript of not less than 10 point. Line-spacing must be at one and a half or double spacing between lines. The gutter margin of both text and diagrams must not be less than 35 mm and that on the other three sides not less than 20 mm.

86. Printed copies of a thesis must be printed on good quality, A4 (297 x 210mm) white paper. The type must be fully formed as in the output of a laser or ink jet printer. The output of dot matrix printers is not acceptable.

87. Where printed copies of the thesis for examination are submitted, it is required that these are soft-bound (not ring-bound) and printed on one side of the page only.

88. It is required that any hard-bound copy of a thesis will be printed on both sides of the page on paper of a weight of at least 90 gsm (exceptions are at the discretion of the Dean of Graduate Studies).

89. A thesis which has been examined and in which all necessary corrections have been completed must be securely bound in hard covers with dark blue cloth. The final size when bound must not exceed 320 x 240 mm.

TITLE

90. The title of the thesis must be written in full on the title page of each volume of the thesis. The degree for which the thesis has been submitted, the year, and the name of the candidate, in that order, should be lettered in gold, in 24 pt or larger type, down the spine, so as to be readable when the volume is lying flat with the front cover uppermost. The title must also appear in gold lettering on the front cover of the thesis. The year on the spine and title page must be the year that the thesis was approved by Council (not the year of initial submission).

DECLARATION, ONLINE ACCESS and the GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

91. The thesis must contain immediately after the title page the following declaration signed by the author:

I declare that this thesis has not been submitted as an exercise for a degree at this or any other university and it is entirely my own work. I confirm that the work has been completed in full compliance with relevant university policies, including the Academic Integrity policy, the Trinity Policy on Good Research Practice, and the guidance on AI and GenAI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Research.

I agree to deposit this thesis in the University's open access institutional repository or allow the Library to do so on my behalf, subject to Irish Copyright Legislation and Trinity College Library conditions of use and acknowledgement.

I consent / do not consent to the examiner retaining a copy of the thesis beyond the examining period, should they so wish (EU GDPR May 2018).



a) In the case of a thesis for which the work has been carried out jointly; the declaration must have a statement that it includes the unpublished and/or published work of others, duly acknowledged in the text wherever included.

a. Open access electronic theses are freely available over the World Wide Web for users to read, copy, download, and distribute subject to Irish Copyright Legislation and Trinity College Library conditions of use and acknowledgement. Withheld access will be implemented, as applicable, according to the terms in Calendar Part III section 1, paragraph 116.

b. A digital repository is an online, searchable, web-accessible database containing works of research deposited by scholars, the purpose of which is both increased access to scholarship and long-term preservation.

SUMMARY

92. A succinct summary of the methods used and the major findings of the thesis must be bound into each copy of the thesis following the declaration page. It must not exceed two pages of typescript.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

93. A formal statement of acknowledgements must be included in the thesis.

REFERENCES

94. Systematic and complete reference to sources used and a classified list of all sources used must be included in the thesis. The titles of journals preferably should not be abbreviated; if they are, abbreviations must comply with an internationally recognised system (the format may vary according to the precedents and customs of the subject area; graduate students should consult with their Supervisor as to appropriate presentation).

ABSTRACT

95. One copy of an abstract, with A4 formatting, must be submitted as a separate PDF file with the electronic theses. One copy of an abstract, printed on a single sheet of A4 paper, must be submitted loose with each copy of the soft-bound thesis. The abstract must contain the title of the thesis and the author's full names as a heading and may be single spaced.

Two copies of an abstract must be submitted loose with the final hard-bound copy.

SUBMISSION OF EXAMINABLE THESIS

96. Students will submit an electronic copy of their thesis for examination in one PDF file to the link provided by the Academic Registry.

97. On occasion a student may prefer to submit their thesis for examination in print. In this case, two copies of the thesis, which may not be returned, and which for the first submission should be soft-bound, should be presented at the Academic Registry Service Desk, accompanied by two loose copies of the abstract.

98. The thesis will not be formally accepted, electronically or otherwise, until it has been established that the candidate is currently registered on the higher degree register and that any outstanding fees have been paid.



ACCESS TO THESES

99. One bound copy of every thesis approved for a higher degree is lodged in the custody of the Librarian in the University Library². An electronic copy is deposited in the University's open access institutional repository. A thesis so approved may be made available by the Library under terms and conditions relating to appropriate use subject to Irish Copyright Legislation and Trinity College Library conditions of use and acknowledgement either through the University's institutional repository or by way of the printed copy.

WITHHELD ACCESS (A "STAY")

100. Should an author of a thesis wish to withhold permission for the use of her/his work, a written application must be made to the Dean of Graduate Studies at the time of submission of the thesis for examination. Such applications must have the written support of the graduate student's Supervisor or Director of Teaching and Learning (Postgraduate), must state the reasons for the request for a stay on access and must provide a contact address. The maximum length of a stay is five years. During this period of withheld permission the thesis may be consulted, lent or copied only by written permission of the author who is under an obligation to reply to all enquiries within a reasonable time.

Please contact gsothese@tcd.ie with any queries relating to Thesis Submissions.