Charles Darwin University

{Thesis Title}

{First name Family name}
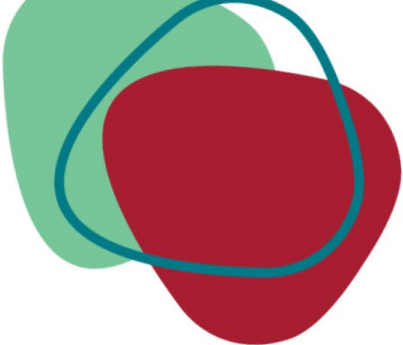
{Candidate's academic degrees}

A thesis submitted for the degree of {Doctor of Philosophy | Master by Research}
at
Charles Darwin University in {year}

CHARLES DARWIN UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

CDU HDR Thesis Template Disclaimer

This template is provided as a guide only for CDU Higher Degree by Research (Doctor of Philosophy and Master by Research) students.

It is the responsibility of each HDR student to ensure that their thesis meets the formal requirements of their degree and the conventions of their discipline.

Use of this template is not mandatory for CDU HDR students. It is offered as an example for those who find a structured format helpful, particularly when drafting their thesis for progress reviews. The structure aligns with the common expectations of reviewers and can assist in identifying what has been completed and what remains to be done.

Please consult your supervision team about the appropriate thesis structure for your discipline. They are best placed to guide you and may recommend looking at examples of other CDU theses in your discipline via the university's library repository.
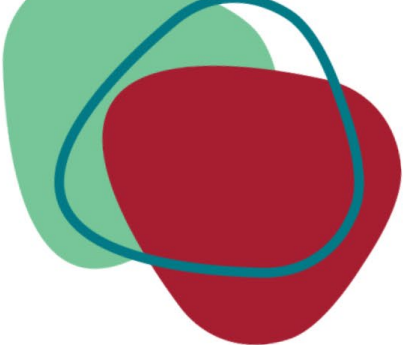
This template is based on CDU's branded report format. It is generic and not tailored to any specific discipline.

Thesis formatting can be complex. While this template provides a starting point, it does not guarantee compliance with all formatting requirements. Students are encouraged to check formatting carefully and seek assistance where needed. Students may consider engaging a professional editor noting:

- the relevant Australian Standards (see Clause 28 below)
- the costs involved, which are the responsibility of the student unless covered by their faculty research allocation or other faculty funding (check with your Faculty HDR Administrator for details)
- that the editing process should be discussed with the editor in advance and factored into the thesis submission timeline.

Presentation requirements

As per the CDU Higher Degree by Research - Preparation, Submission and Examinations Procedure :

Presentation of Theses

(22) The thesis should conform to the following format and length:
   a. a PhD thesis cannot exceed 100,000 words, excluding appendices;
   b. a Masters by Research thesis cannot exceed 50,000 words, excluding appendices; and
   c. an exegesis, as part of the artefact and exegesis doctorate, should not exceed 50,000 words.

(23) The format of the thesis will be determined by the platforms deployed in the artefact and the requirements of the exegesis to confirm an original contribution to knowledge.

(24) The thesis and/or other approved work must contain the results of the candidate's study and research.

(25) Candidates may choose to use a range of media platforms to further their research project.

(26) Candidates should include in their thesis:
   a. a suitable **title page, abstract, acknowledgements, and table of contents**; and
   b. **a declaration stating** that none of the material has been submitted as part of another degree or diploma, none of the material has been published before, except when acknowledged, and that a copy of this thesis will be available to access online, if applicable.

(27) Candidates including any of their published works in their thesis should specify where this material has been previously published, including precise citation details and co-authorship information with regard to research design, data collection and analysis and substantive writing and editing. Candidates submitting an artefact and exegesis thesis must demonstrate how the two components of the research have configured a significant original contribution to knowledge.
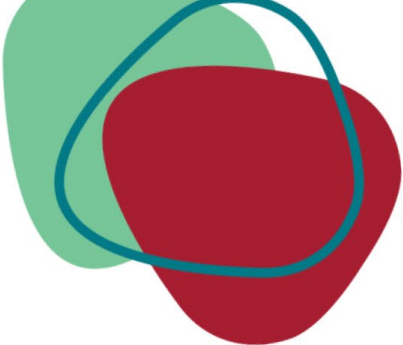
Editing of Theses

(28) Supervisors, professional editors, and other individuals can offer feedback to improve and to edit theses, providing the level of advice conforms to the Australian Standards for Editing Practice.

(29) Candidates must acknowledge all editorial advice in the "Acknowledgements" section of their thesis."

Note: all domestic HDR students and any International HDR students that were in receipt of a Research Training Program (RTP) Stipend or RTP offset must include an acknowledgement of the support and the RTP DOI such as:

This research was supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship doi.org/10.82133/C42F-K220.

Suggested thesis headings

(starred items are mandatory as per the procedure)

Preliminary Pages:
- Title Page (must include candidate name, title of thesis, degree, year, university) *
- Statement of Originality *
- Acknowledgements* (including supervisors, friends, family etc, funding and other support (including RTP if applicable – see above for details), editorial assistance and use of generative AI)
- Abstract*
- Table of Contents*
- List of Figures
- List of Tables
- Abbreviations and Acronyms
- Glossary
- Ethical Clearance Statement (*if relevant)
- Data Availability Statement (especially in STEM disciplines)
- List of Publications or Contributions During Candidature (*if applicable)

Main Body of Thesis

(Structured according to discipline norms, but generally includes the following)

For Traditional Thesis Format:
- Introduction
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Results / Findings
- Discussion
- Conclusion (including implications, limitations, and future work)

For Thesis by Publication:
(As per section 3.2.3 of the CDU policy)
- Preface / Exegesis (includes overall introduction, synthesis, and linking commentary)
- Published / Submitted Papers (each as a chapter with an added summary for the thesis)
- Conclusion / Synthesis Chapter (integrating insights across all papers)

End Matter
- References / Bibliography
- Appendices