Conversion from Master’s to PhD Degree Programme

A student may apply for conversion from a Master’s Degree by Research to a PhD degree programme. If the application is successful, the student is required to comply with all requirements for a PhD degree.

An independent committee shall be appointed by the Faculty/Institute/School to evaluate the application for conversion and this committee shall make its recommendations to the Dean through the Faculty/Institute/School for approval by the University Graduate Studies Committee or its equivalent, and endorsement by the Senate. The following rules apply.

(i) The student must:

(a) have completed at least two (2) semesters or one (1) year but not more than four (4) semesters or two (2) years of the Master’s degree programme;

(b) have completed the coursework requirements of the Faculty/Institute and obtained a minimum CGPA of 3.670 (if applicable).

(c) have published or show proof of acceptance of an article in a refereed journal or its equivalent (e.g. book chapter) based on research done during candidacy;

(d) submit an extended research proposal that meets the scope of a PhD degree; and

(e) have passed the conversion examination.

(ii) The Chairman of the Supervisory Committee shall verify in writing in the form of a report that the student:

(a) has the ability to integrate knowledge of research and/or theories pertaining to issues that are fundamental to the field of study;

(b) demonstrates critical, analytical and independent thinking skills; and

(c) has a good understanding of relevant research design and methodology.

(iii) The Faculty/Institute/School shall appoint an independent committee, comprising a minimum of three members with the Coordinator of Graduate Studies of the Faculty/Institute/School, or his representative as the Chairman.

(iv) The independent committee shall:

(a) evaluate the extent to which the Master’s research has progressed, and the proposal for the doctoral research via a seminar presentation;

(b) advise the student of areas to be examined;

(c) conduct the conversion examination (which will consist of written as well as oral examinations); and

(d) submit a comprehensive report to the School through the Faculty/Institute highlighting the merits and achievements that will support or justify the conversion.

(v) If the conversion is approved within the first seven (7) weeks of the semester, it shall take effect immediately. Otherwise, the conversion shall take effect the following semester.