

Art History Thesis Format

Offered by: [School of English, Media Studies and Art History](#)

Objective: To provide a program of academic research that incorporates an industry-related exhibition.

Rationale: The art history by exhibition program offers candidates the opportunity to curate an exhibition based on thorough academic research at PhD level. The program is applicable to research proposals relating to all areas of the visual arts, but please note proposals dealing with the candidate's own artwork cannot be accepted.

Structure: Candidates are required to complete a course of study that includes seminars. The seminars are:

- Advanced Research Methods (compulsory): this is the standard compulsory course for all research higher degree candidates in the School.
- at least one Advanced Study Option (compulsory): This can be chosen from research seminars on offer in the existing postgraduate program. Candidates without a master's level qualification in the area of study may be required to complete up to three Advanced Study Options.

These seminars are not available to remote candidates: candidates must attend the St Lucia campus to undertake and complete these seminars. In addition, candidates must attend 6 Faculty of Arts RHD Seminars during their candidature. Candidates are also required to curate an exhibition and write the exhibition catalogue.

The exhibition is staged under the direction of the appropriate personnel in the relevant art gallery and in consultation with the candidate's advisory team. Candidates are responsible for selection of artworks, supervision of exhibition design and installation, and production of all didactic material. At least one, and preferably both of the thesis examiners must attend the exhibition and later examine the exhibition and catalogue as it relates to the thesis.

Examination of the exhibition is based on:

- Translation of research methodology into exhibition rationale
- Explication of research topic
- Critical framework grounding selection of works and didactic material
- Innovative and professional curatorial practice

The catalogue should be 8,000-10,000 words in length and should adequately describe the exhibition. It should take the form of a fully argued introductory essay to the exhibition, drawing on key points of the thesis component, and making them available to the reader in a summary and accessible form. Its primary task is to provide the conceptual link between the thesis component and the exhibition and includes detailed catalogue entries, a full list of works exhibited, photographic credits, and details of lenders. The candidate is responsible for overseeing the catalogue to its completion.

Examination of the exhibition catalogue is based on:

- Conceptual link between thesis and exhibition
- Articulation of critical issues and research outcomes
- Elucidation of the exhibition
- Contribution to Art History
- Appropriate written expression for intended audience