OUTSTANDING DOCTORAL THESIS AWARDS

Guidelines

The QUT Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Awards established in 2006, acknowledge the need to encourage the promotion of excellence in postgraduate research in Australia. These awards are intended to develop and support Australia’s vibrant research culture by profiling:

- Outstanding contribution to knowledge, and/or
- Demonstration of excellence in postgraduate research.

It is expected that awards will be made to not more than 5% of the theses completed in the award year.

Nominations

1) Each faculty may nominate to Research Degrees Committee student theses completed in the award year. The effective completion date of a doctoral degree as recorded on ResearchMaster must lie in the period of 1 January to 31 December, inclusive of the award year (ie. for 2016 the award year is 2015).

2) Normally, a baseline requirement for nomination would be that both examiners recommend the thesis for an award. Where only one examiner recommends, the faculty would need to make a case in support of the nomination (no more than 500 words).

3) Each faculty forms a panel nominated by the Executive Dean or nominee to consider:
   a. Examiners’ feedback, and
   b. The theses’ abstracts or whole theses if required.
   c. Other factors as determined by the faculty.

   The Executive Dean or nominee will forward faculty nominations to Research Degrees Committee (normally not more than 5% of their doctoral completions).

4) Research Degrees Committee may form a working party to consider faculty nominations and use faculty comments, term of candidature and the thesis abstract to identify those eligible for:
   o Executive Dean’s Commendations (unlimited – ratifying Faculty advice for any research thesis); and
   o Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Awards.

Materials

- The nomination is based on the thesis submitted for examination;
- The Faculty Panel will consider the thesis and examiner reports in preparing nominations;
- The nomination should indicate the value of the thesis in terms of its significance and quality.
**Deadline**

- A report of potentially eligible candidates will be generated from ResearchMaster and made available to the Executive Dean or nominee (usually Research Degree Committee members). The report will detail the number of examiners who have recommended the thesis.
- The Faculty should make nominations to the Research Degrees Committee by the cutoff date for submissions for the April meeting of the Committee.
- RDC will determine the awards at the next meeting.

**Award**

- Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Awards will consist of an honorarium of $1,000, an award trophy and a certificate of citation. Funds for these awards will be provided centrally.

- Dean’s Commendations will be granted an award specified and provided by the faculty - as a minimum the faculty will provide a certificate and a gift voucher to the value of at least $100.

**Criteria**

Criteria for selection are:

- Outstanding potential contribution to the discipline – contribution to knowledge;
- and/or
- Excellence in higher degree doctoral research practice.

**Submission**

Faculty nominations should be forwarded to the Secretary, Research Degrees Committee (RDC) (email l.clay@qut.edu.au) on or prior to the cut-off date for submissions as per the established RDC Workplan.

**Communication Plan**

The Awards can only be announced by the Dean of Research and Research Training (RDC Chair) following approval by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Commercialisation).

Following this official announcement, both the Dean of Research and Research Training and the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Commercialisation) will write to the successful recipients and their supervisory team congratulating them on their student’s award. The Research Degrees Committee Secretary is responsible for communicating with the successful Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award recipients.

Following the official announcement, the Executive Dean of each faculty will be provided with a list of successful Executive Dean Commendation awardees. The Executive Dean or their nominee is then responsible for communicating with the successful recipients.
The Library are also advised of the successful ODTA recipients and their theses in ePrints (if available) are noted appropriately. An example is below:

An historical record of past recipients is available on QUT’s website.

Publicity for the awards will be sought through QUT’s Marketing and Communication department and Alumni.