eThesis Research: Joint Degree Report structure and guidance

> **eThesis Joint Degree Report**
>
> - *Minimum 500 words for Doctoral, level 10 degrees; Minimum 200 words for Research Masters, level 9 degrees*
> - *All sections of the report form must be completed.*
> - *The report must be submitted as a **joint report** – written in the plural without 'I' – and refer to the collective analysis of the examination committee.*
> - *Each section has a 4000 character count limit in eThesis Exam system*
> - *The corrections section should be a high-level summary (detailed list is shared directly with the candidate separately from the eThesis system)*
> - *If a viva voce was not required e.g. most Masters' degrees: please enter the report date where the system asks for the viva voce date and write N/A in the viva voce performance section*

1. **Brief summary of the thesis** (4000 character count limit). Please only include a brief summary, in non-technical terms, of the thesis and an outline of its principal conclusions.
2. **Have any Academic Papers been published? Yes   No**
3. **Strengths of the thesis** (4000 character count limit). Please outline any strengths of the thesis and indicate if it merits award of the degree based upon an analysis of the strengths and academic qualities of the thesis.
4. **Weaknesses of the thesis** (4000 character count limit). Please outline any weaknesses of the thesis.
5. **Corrections required** (4000 character count limit). Please outline a high-level summary of any corrections that may be required by the candidate. Please do not itemize detailed corrections in this report, but indicate if and how these have been communicated to the candidate separately from the eThesis system.
6. **Recommendation**

   Award Degree – *no revisions required*

   Award Degree – *revisions required*

   Revise thesis and submit for re-examination

   Do not award Degree – *recommendation that the candidate transfers to an appropriate graduate programme*

   Do not award Degree

7. **Rationale for recommendation** (4000 character count limit). Please provide a clear rationale for the outcome of the examination and recommendation to award the degree or otherwise.
8. **Publication outcome**. Please indicate if the thesis is worthy of publication. Please note: Doctoral level 10 degrees must be at least partly worthy of publication if the degree is to be awarded; Masters level 9 degrees need not be worthy of publication.

   [Is the thesis worthy of publication as a work of serious scholarship? Yes, in whole / Yes, in part only / No]

9. **Analysis of the performance** (4000 character count limit). Please provide a summary of how the student performed in the viva voce, For degrees where a viva voce was not required, please enter N/A into this section.

Examination Committee Recommendation Definitions (see section 6)

Award degree – *no corrections required*: this option should only be selected when the thesis can immediately be printed as the final hard-bound copy.

Award degree – *corrections required*: this option should be selected when only typographical, grammatical or formatting changes are required. This option should also be chosen when changes are required to the thesis which involve additions to, or re-writing of the text. The Chair or the nominee should confirm that the corrections have been carried out when they have been completed to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Revise thesis and submit for re-examination - this option should be chosen when the examination committee agrees that the examiners must examine the revised thesis and make a judgement as to whether the thesis is worthy of the award of the degree or otherwise.

Do not award degree – *recommendation that the candidate transfer to an appropriate graduate programme*: this option is chosen when the examiners are agreed that the thesis is not eligible for the award but that another graduate award may be more appropriate. It is important that the joint report of the examiners clearly justifies a recommendation not to award the degree. This option requires that the Graduate School considers the recommendation to transfer to another programme and implements this decision where appropriate.

Do not award degree - this option should be chosen when the examination committee is agreed that the research is not worthy of the award. It is important that the joint report of the examiners clearly justifies the recommendation not to award the degree

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eThesis support**:** ethesis@ucd.ie

eThesis webpage

ACCE support: acce@ucd.ie or ACCE, Assessment Unit, Tierney Building, UCD Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Policy on Theses in Graduate Research Programmes