December 17, 2018

The PhD Thesis --- Enabling Flexibility (FOR PROGRAMS)

Over the past two years the School of Graduate Studies has engaged the graduate community in discussions about the format and structure of the PhD thesis. These consultations occurred within the larger context of the changing landscape of graduate education in Canada and led to key recommendations about the structure of the thesis and changes in SGS Regulations governing the format of the thesis.

<u>Thesis format:</u>

- The School of Graduate Studies requires that the thesis conform to one of two

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  thesis%20completion/SGS_General_Forms_of_Theses_%20March%202017.pdf)

Programs may require specific elements beyond those described in the General Forms of Theses or may wish to describe what components are acceptable for inclusion. If programs exercise this option, it is imperative that the program-specific requirements are clearly conveyed to all graduate students at the start of their program and be visible on the program website. (In all cases, program-specific requirements must be compatible with the School of Graduate Studies Regulation.)

<u>Key recommendations:</u>

- The dissertation may include a section on how the research could be used in sectors outside academia.
- The research project can include a written dissertation alongside creative or practical output.
- Elements of the dissertation could be prepared for different or multiple audiences as appropriate, such as social or news media, academic conferences or journals, government or oth

<u>Resources:</u>

Canadian Association for Graduate Studies. (2018). *Final Report of the Task Force on the Dissertation – Purpose, content, structure* (https://cags.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/CAGS-Dissertation-Task-Force-Report-1.pdf)

Council of Graduate Schools. (2005). *The Doctor of Philosophy Degree: A Policy Statement* (https://cgsnet.org/login-for-access-to-publications/1350) [How to provide access to the Queen's community??]

Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Humanities, McGill University. (2013). *White Paper on the Future of the PhD in the Humanities.* (http://iplai.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/white_paper_on_the_future_of_the_phd_in_the_humanities_dec_2013_1.pdf)

Modern Language Association of America. (2014). *Report of the MLA Task Force on Doctoral Study in Modern Language and Literature.* (https://apps.mla.org/pdf/taskforcedocstudy2014.pdf)

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2018). *Graduate STEM Education for the 21st Century.* (https://www.nsf.gov/attachments/245525/public/Graduate_STEM_Education_21st_Century_Rudin.pdf)

Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. (2005). *The Responsive PhD: Innovations in US Doctoral Education.* (https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED536859.pdf)