Department of Screen and Media  
Flinders University  
Information for Postgraduate Students and Examiners  
Creative MA and PhD Degrees

Admission Requirements

1. Applicants must fulfill the general university requirements for entry to higher degree study. The university’s website address is [www.flinders.edu.au](http://www.flinders.edu.au)

2. Students must submit a portfolio of creative work (length to be negotiated with the Postgraduate Coordinator) which indicates the standards of creative work of the applicant.

*Please note that acceptance will also depend on the university’s belief that it can provide appropriate supervision for the project.

As with other MA and PhD degrees, students pursuing research higher degrees with a significant creative component will demonstrate that they can undertake a project at an advanced level and will meet the general requirements for a research higher degree. See the Flinders University *Research Higher Degree Student Information Manual* and the *Research Higher Degrees Policies and Procedures: Information for Examiners of Higher Degrees*. In addition, students should consider the following information provided below.

Assessment by Exegesis and Creative Product

Students will submit for examination a thesis consisting of a creative product and an exegesis. Depending on the nature of the creative product (e.g. a documentary about a social issue, a fiction film, a film script, a multimedia production on a topic such as natural history), the student will undertake a program of appropriate research demonstrating a knowledge of creative texts in the field (e.g. documentaries which deal with social issues, fiction films, multimedia productions on natural history) as well as critical material which deals with this topic (e.g. appropriate critical, historical and theoretical texts). The results of this research will be embodied in both the creative product and the exegesis. Interdisciplinary projects are also welcome where students produce and/or examine works in more than one art form.

1. **Exegesis**

Students submit an exegesis supported by an appropriate bibliography. All deadlines and other requirements conform to standard University practice.

The critical research is meant to inform the student's individual creative product, providing a conceptual framework and usually setting it in a contemporary artistic, cultural and/or historical context by examining exemplary texts. The exegesis might consider how the student's the creative product has been informed by research, and thus, how the student has incorporated theory and a knowledge of historical practices into the creative work produced for the degree. The exegesis will also investigate the development of the product in a way that usefully explains the processes by which the creative work was produced. Students must, in some way demonstrate that they have become experts in their field of inquiry and (for the PhD) have made an original contribution to knowledge. Students will formulate a clear research question or questions and will annotate their sources as in other postgraduate theses.
2. Creative Product

The creative product gives students the opportunity to work closely with a member of staff on an extended project.

LENGTH: This depends upon the type of art form and will be negotiated with the supervisor. In general, the work should represent a substantial effort in the chosen art form. A rough rule of thumb is that the creative work should represent about 50% of the entire project with the exegesis constituting about 50%.

For the MA: A substantial creative product and an exegesis of 15,000 - 20,000 words.

For the PhD: A major creative product and an exegesis of 25,000 - 30,000 words.


As a guide, these creative products are acceptable within the department:

- a feature-length film or feature-length documentary;
- a feature film or feature length documentary film script;
- a series of linked film or video productions which constitute a coherent body of work;
- interactive or mixed media works such as games or websites that are substantial efforts in their field.

For the MA, the creative product’s length can be adjusted. For example, a substantial short film or video might be acceptable.

The creative product demonstrates the student’s ability to perform professionally and competently in a chosen medium. It will embody the results of research into an aspect of that medium and will display mastery of the appropriate craft that reaches the level of current art form and/or industry standards. In other words, the creative product can sustain critical examination in the same way that exemplary texts can. Work submitted for the PhD must attain a high standard.

External assessors will examine the thesis, both exegesis and creative product, in the same way as other theses: e.g. as a whole product. Although it is normally made up of two elements, the thesis as a whole must fulfill the requirements for an MA or PhD by research as laid down in the Flinders University Research Higher Degrees Policies and Procedures.

Please note: Students can make a case that part of the original contribution to knowledge of the PhD comes from the relationship between the two parts of the thesis. Alternatively, they can integrate the creative and critical portions of the thesis into a coherent whole and present it bound as one work.

For further information about Research Higher Degrees with Creative Component in Screen & Media, please contact:

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