



POLICY: PROMOTION FROM A MASTER TO A DOCTORAL QUALIFICATION

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Related documents			
Da Vinci documents (e.g. Policies, Regulations, Guidelines, Contracts)	Other (e.g. Legislation, DHET and CHE directives and guidelines)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospectus • Policy: Certification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution of the Republic of South Africa: 1996 • Higher Education Act (Act 101 of 1997) • CHE: Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) Criteria for Programme Accreditation: November, 2004 • SAQA: National Policy and Criteria for Designing and Implementing Assessment for NQF Qualifications and Part Qualifications and Professional Designations in South Africa 		
Website address of this document:	www.davinci.ac.za/da-vinci-policies-and-procedures/		

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1 Preamble

This policy forms part of the set of quality management policies of The Da Vinci Institute for Technology Management.

Da Vinci offers outcomes based, distance education opportunities. This policy details the principles and processes that will ensure that learning programme offerings are aligned to the principles of a Mode 2 higher education institution, whilst adhering to the required academic standards and empowering students with the knowledge, skills and values to contribute to their communities, society and economy of the future.

The point of departure concerning the research journey of a student at The Da Vinci Institute is that a student should be registered for a qualification appropriate to his/her professional and personal interests in compliance with the entrance requirements applicable to the qualification. The registration of a student for a master qualification could in exceptional cases be changed to that of a doctoral qualification if specific conditions are met.

2 Scope

This policy deals with those exceptional cases where students display extraordinary mastery of both the discipline of research and the core elements of the Master programme. In such cases, the academic supervisor can motivate for a promotion from a Master to a Doctoral qualification.

3 Aim

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide a clear outline and conditions for the promotion from a Master programme to a Doctoral programme.

4 Principles

According to the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (2013:7), "the general principle must be that the admitting institution is satisfied that the applicant has competence in the appropriate field of intended study at the appropriate entry level of the target qualification. The point of entry in the target programme must be such that candidates complete at least all the required credits at the exit level of the target qualification. For example, a student may be admitted to the second year of a cognate Bachelor's degree programme after completing the first year of study of a Diploma programme, or a student who has completed academic credits towards one qualification may be exempted from certain requirements in a cognate qualification, or a Master's student's candidature may be upgraded to a Doctoral programme."

The registration status of a master's programme could be changed to that of a doctoral programme if the student:

- ☞ Has successfully submitted a research proposal to the Research Office of such academic quality that it can be aligned to research conducted at a doctoral qualification level (NQF 10 level descriptors)
- ☞ Can show that the thrust of the study is likely to lead to the generation of new theory and the application thereof in an international organisation, a community or a society at large
- ☞ Displays an exceptional understanding of the ontological and the epistemological developments related to an academic research document
- ☞ Has achieved an average mark of 85% for the compulsory master modules, excluding the dissertation, with a sub-minimum of 75% for each module.

5 High Level Processes



Figure 1: Promotion from a Master to a Doctoral Qualification

6 Responsibilities

6.1 Academic supervisor

The motivation to promote a student from a Master to a Doctoral programme is initiated by the academic supervisor (in agreement with the Subject Matter Expert (SME) supervisor and student) and should be directed to the Research Committee via the Research Office.

6.2 Research Office

The Research Office submits the motivation to the Research Committee.

6.3 Research Committee

The Research Committee makes recommendations to the Academic Board for approval.

6.4 Academic Board

The Academic Board approves or rejects the motivation to promote a Master student for promotion of to a Doctoral Programme.

6.5 Council

The Council ratifies the approval or rejection by the Academic Board.

7 References

Council on Higher Education. 2013. The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework as revised January 2013. CHE, Pretoria.

8 Version Control

Author	Revision
Research Manager: Dr Marthie de Kock	2014/21/30
Research Manager: Mr Simon Gathua	2017/11/21
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