

Article based PhD / MD

Background

The article-based PhD / MD is based on a collection of papers (including published papers or papers submitted or accepted for publication) which describe a coherent programme of research undertaken by the student while registered for the PhD. It also contains a short introductory chapter, explanation of the research question, relevant literature and methodology and a concluding chapter. The student's contribution to each article must be made explicit.

The article-based PhD / MD format has both advantages and disadvantages. The advantages include wider and earlier dissemination of research results, the experience gained by the student in writing research articles and for students who have a number of papers already published it avoids reformatting of the output. The disadvantages include the time delay in acceptance of articles in some research fields and the strict restrictions on the length of research articles which may lead to the omission of methodologies normally included in a monograph. A monograph has the advantage of more readily supporting the development of a sustained argument, with the synthesis of the relevant literature and an integrated discussion of the methodology. The critical and theoretical review of the papers in an article-based PhD / MD must achieve this end. All other guidelines apply to students irrespective of the format of the thesis that is submitted.

University General guidelines (Graduate Studies)

As a general guideline, a minimum of three peer-reviewed articles should be included with the PhD /MD candidate normally being first author on the major part of the work. Joint publications may be included, but the candidate must make explicit their contribution to the work. Candidates must agree the final content of the thesis, including the number of published papers with their supervisor(s). The article based PhD must also include a comprehensive introduction to the overall research topic with the appropriate bibliography. The discussion should refer to how the objectives of the research were met in each of the articles included. Supplementary appendices of the methodologies used may be necessary if sufficient detail is not included in the thesis to allow repetition of the research.

Specific guidelines : The College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Science

Students wishing to undertake and submit an article based PhD or MD must adhere to the University guidelines and in addition those set out by the CMNHS detailed below.

Entry requirements	As per College Calendar for Structured PhD and MD degrees
Admission process	As per College Calendar for Structured PhD and MD degrees
Submission process	As per University Guidelines for Structured PhD and MD degrees
Examination process	As per University Guidelines for Structured PhD and MD degrees

Selection of PhD / MD programme

Available to registered students on full or part time, structured PhD and MD programmes within the CMNHS.

Subject matter of published articles

It is expected that the articles presented shall deal with the same research question or set of questions.

Number of peer-reviewed articles required

A minimum of three original, published (peer reviewed) research papers in international leading journals of appropriate impact factor for the area of research. If no methodological papers are part of the submission, the student must include a detailed methodological chapter. In line with University guidelines, only articles which are based on research which has been undertaken by the student while registered for the PhD or MD are admissible. In addition, the PhD or MD candidate would normally be the first or leading author on the major part of the work. Joint publications may be included but the candidate must make explicit, their contribution to the work.

Process and time limit on PhD format selection

Format of thesis presentation will be decided jointly between the primary supervisor and student. Selection of format can be at any stage of the PhD or MD and the student can revert back to the traditional monograph at any time.

Role of the GRC

To advise

Format and layout

The thesis (article based format) is expected to be a more complete scholarly work than manuscripts for publication in journals alone, and must conform to general thesis requirements (please refer to section 6.2 of the [University Guidelines](#)).

Note: These papers cannot alone constitute the thesis; the thesis must connect them, producing a cohesive, unitary focus, documenting a single program of research. The structure for the article-based thesis must conform to the following:

- Just as in the traditional format, the thesis must be presented as a unified whole with respect to font size, line spacing and margin sizes
- The thesis must conform to all other requirements (and in line with University Guidelines)



- The thesis must be more than a collection of manuscripts. All components must be integrated into a cohesive unit with a logical progression from one chapter to the next, providing a cohesive, unitary focus, documenting a single program of research.
- The thesis must include a comprehensive introduction to the overall research topic with the appropriate bibliography.
- The discussion should refer to how the objectives of the research were met in each of the articles included.
- Supplementary appendices of the methodologies used may be necessary if sufficient detail is not included in the thesis to allow repetition of the research.
- There must be a rationale for choice of approach.
- The article based thesis will be judged by the examiners as a unified, logically-coherent document in the same way a traditional thesis is judged.

Publication or acceptance for publication of research results before presentation of the thesis in no way supersedes the University's evaluation and judgment of the work during the thesis examination process (i.e., it does not guarantee that the thesis will be found acceptable for the degree).

Third-Party Copyright

Students must identify all material in their thesis that is subject to third party copyright. Material subject to third-party copyright includes, for example, diagrams, tables, figures created by another author and inserted in the thesis to illustrate an argument. Students will need to obtain permission from the copyright owner to include this material in their thesis before it is published online. Students should seek such permissions in good time, and well in advance of final submission.