INFORMATION FOR THE EXAMINER
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS

GENERAL

a) The Doctor of Applied Linguistics (DAppLing) is a three year research degree and has been designed and provided as a professional degree. It is additional and complementary to the PhD, and of equivalent status, involving advanced coursework, substantial supervised research (involving research training delivered via web-based interaction) and investigation in the context of their workplace in the area of advanced level study of applied linguistics and language education. It is designed to meet the needs of those who work in the area of language teaching and language teaching program administration. The major orientation is the improvement of professional practice and the provision of advanced knowledge, skills and techniques by investigations employing high quality research aimed at extending and using knowledge to serve and develop workplace practice and policy.

b) The award of the DAppLing degree is approved by Academic Senate on the recommendation of the Higher Degree Research Committee which has taken account of the results of ten coursework units, four web mediated seminar units and the examination of the thesis by three examiners. The units count for one third of the assessment and the thesis two thirds. A candidate cannot submit the thesis until the units have been completed satisfactorily at the level of Credit or above.

   i. The University would be interested in comments from examiners on originality and critical judgment displayed in the thesis.

   ii. In special cases work done conjointly with other persons may be accepted, provided that the candidate's part in the conjoint research is clearly stipulated in the thesis.

c) A candidate is required to indicate clearly any work which formed part of another degree completed at this University or elsewhere, and such contribution will not be assessed.

d) The Dean of Division has determined that the length of the thesis shall be limited to 80,000 words, excluding appendices. The thesis is at the level of a PhD but is smaller in scope. The thesis may consist of several separate but related studies linked together by a connecting commentary. Theses may include relevant papers published or accepted for publication during the period of candidature.

e) The University requires that postgraduate research be supervised and the name of the candidate’s supervisor appears at the top of the examiner’s report form. Supervisors do not act as examiners. A candidate may submit a thesis against a supervisor’s advice.

f) Professional contact between candidates and examiners might be expected, but examiners should not have been involved in a supervisory role in the preparation of the thesis, as in the reading of draft thesis material. Examiners may consult other examiners about a thesis should they consider it desirable. Examiners may make a conjoint report if they wish; however this occurs rarely.

g) Examiners are invited to retain the thesis for their personal use unless otherwise advised by the Higher Degree Research Unit. A claim for postage may be submitted.

h) It is expected that examiners will be able to complete their examination and submit reports within six weeks of receipt of the thesis. Reports may be faxed (+61 2 9850 6198), e-mailed (hdrexam@vc.mq.edu.au) or posted to the Higher Degree Research Office. To minimise delays, it is most helpful if examiners fax or e-mail their report and return the original documents in the mail.

A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Applied Linguistics is to be evaluated according to the following criteria:

a) that it forms a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject area, and/or to professional practice

b) that it affords evidence of originality shown either by the discovery of new facts or by the exercise of independent critical power;

c) that it is satisfactory as regards its literary presentation.

Comment is sought from the examiner as to publishable content of the thesis. This is for information only and should not affect the decision on the award of the degree.
Examiner's report forms contain two parts.

**Part I** provides for a summary judgement on the project and requests one of a number of possible recommendations. Part I of the report is normally confidential to the Higher Degree Research Committee. Any comments intended as advice to the Higher Degree Research Committee, rather than the candidate, should be provided on a separate sheet and attached to Part I of your report. Examiners should be aware that it is likely that this part of the report would be released to the candidate if requested in a Freedom of Information application.

**Part II** is your report to the candidate. Please state concisely but explicitly the grounds on which the recommendation is based, indicating the strengths and weaknesses of the project. This should be in sufficient detail for candidates to gain a clear understanding of your opinion of their work and the means by which your conclusions were reached.

Where further work is required, please indicate clearly those revisions and/or corrections which you wish to see made. Supplementary sheets may be attached. On completion of the examination, a copy of Part II of your report identifying you as the author will be released to the candidate.

**REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Before making a recommendation, an examiner may request further information from the candidate. This can be arranged by contacting the Higher Degree Research Unit.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendations, as summarised on Part I of the Examiner Report Form

**RESULT OF EXAMINATION**

- When all examiners' reports are to hand, comments are sought from the candidate's supervisor for the information of Higher Degree Research Committee.
- After considering all reports the Higher Degree Research Committee may, in general:
  - recommend the award of the degree;
  - require that corrections to the thesis to the satisfaction of the University be carried out by the candidate before the award of the degree;
  - require that the candidate undertakes further study and research, and resubmits the thesis for re-examination by one or more examiners;
  - in the event of marked disagreement amongst examiners, appoint a further examiner, moderator or adjudicator or request that an oral examination be held;
  - recommend that the degree be not awarded.
- Under the University rules, it is the Academic Senate which determines that a candidate has satisfied requirements for award of the degree.

Higher Degree Research Office

June 2008