Introduction
Macquarie University enables doctoral and Master of Philosophy students to submit research theses which include published and co-published material prepared during candidature. This provision for incorporation of published work is recognised in the Higher Degree Research Committee paper on *HDR Thesis Preparation and Submission* (Appendix extract below).

The advantages of theses in journal article format and by publication for research students are so substantial that the University aims to extend this model to all Divisions of the University; and to encourage research students and supervisors to design HDR projects from the start to maximise the preparation of publishable papers in journal article format as well as high quality publications during and following candidature.

Advantage of journal article format and publication for research students
The main advantages for research students in preparing theses in journal article format and by publication are:

- **Research students are increasingly disadvantaged in postdoctoral, academic and other professional job applications if they haven’t published or prepared to publish during candidature**
- **Research students, especially part-time research students, benefit substantially from a thesis milestone plan which enables annual progress to be achieved through publishable papers and submissions to journals/conferences**
- **Research student’s theses benefit substantially from referees’ as well as supervisors’ comments on thesis papers in journal article format before thesis submission**
- **Research students have increased confidence in the quality of their research work as early career researchers following supervisor and external referee comments on journal article format papers**
- **Research student’s published research findings are available and contribute to their research communities at the earliest possible opportunity (rather than only being available under restricted access and delayed conditions in the University library after award of degree)**.

Extension of MQ HDR theses in journal article format and by publication policy
Given that best practice models of preparation of theses in journal article format and thesis by publication have been developed at MQ over a number of years, extension to all Divisions can be grounded in local as well as international experience. For example, MACCS has an outstanding record in the design and completion of doctoral projects through preparation of papers in journal article format. MACCS has developed a clear online statement for research students to encourage thesis design in journal article format  [http://www.maccs.mq.edu.au/information/student/journalformat.htm](http://www.maccs.mq.edu.au/information/student/journalformat.htm)

A useful practical guide to “How to write a scientific research paper” by Professor Peter Wenderoth is available online from [http://vision.psy.mq.edu.au/~peterw/](http://vision.psy.mq.edu.au/~peterw/)
Individual academic areas will have their own favourite guides for writing papers in journal article format for research students.

**Inhibitors to MQ HDR theses in journal article format and by publication**

There are three main inhibitors to extension of theses in journal article format and by publication:

- the historical culture in those disciplines which have not previously encouraged research student theses in journal article format and by publication
- the reluctance of journals in some disciplines to encourage publications by research students
- the “perfect thesis” model in which any consideration of papers in journal article format and by publication is reserved for post-thesis discussion.

Research supervisors, as academics in the disciplinary field, are the key agents for change in overcoming these inhibitions where it’s appropriate. Enterprising MQ research supervisors are already changing disciplinary cultures in relation to research student publication, and creating new publication opportunities for research students (e.g. through electronic journals and conference proceedings). The prospective introduction of the Research Quality Framework creates an increased urgency in maximising high quality research publications from Macquarie.

The extension of theses in journal article format and by publication to most academic areas is a real opportunity to add further value to the research student experience at Macquarie, to encourage timely completions, to enhance the job prospects of our research students, and to improve the publication outputs and research ranking of the University.

*Higher Degree Research Committee*

*2 June 2006.*

**Appendix: Definition and content of an “Higher Degree Thesis”**

“The University recognises that theses or parts of theses may be presented in a variety of formats and media, but would normally incorporate a written component...Theses may include relevant papers (including conference presentations) published, accepted or submitted for publication during the period of candidature, together with a comprehensive and critical introduction and an integrative conclusion. These papers should form a coherent and integrated body of work, which should be focused on a single project or set of related questions or propositions. These papers may be single author or co-author – for co-authored papers the candidate must specify his/her specific contribution. The contribution of others to the preparation of the thesis or to individual parts of the thesis should be specified in the thesis Acknowledgments and/or in relevant footnotes/endnotes. It isn’t necessary to reformat published works in a thesis.”