



RHODES UNIVERSITY

Grahamstown • 6140 • South Africa

GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINERS OF MASTER OF MUSIC DEGREES (COMPOSITION PORTFOLIO)

1 REGULATIONS

G.56

The Faculty shall appoint a supervisor, or supervisors, to advise the candidate. At least one of the supervisors so appointed must be a member of staff. For the purposes of this Rule, members of associated institutions who are also members of a Faculty of the University are regarded as members of staff.

G.63

Degree may be awarded with distinction.

2. GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES

These Guidelines are additional to Rules governing the degree as laid down in the Rhodes University Calendar.

The composition portfolio submitted for the degree of Master of Music (either a full portfolio, or constituting 40% or 33% of the degree as defined in the Rhodes University Calendar) must show that the candidate has:

- (a) explored a coherent set of musical ideas
- (b) produced works which are in essence original even though they may to some degree be influenced by the compositional style or expressive idiom of others
- (c) produced works which have contemporary relevance, i.e. which show alertness to some aspect(s) of contemporary compositional musical discourse and expression
- (d) acquired sufficient technical skills to realise his or her ideas satisfactorily
- (e) presented his/her work satisfactorily in a professional format.

The accompanying reflexive document should show awareness of:

- (a) theories and works by other composers which have guided his or her thinking
- (b) appropriate methods and techniques of research and academic writing
- (c) literary style, and that his or her reflexive commentary is free from grammatical and typographical errors
- (d) Has included appropriate and complete references
- (e) Has included satisfactory notational illustrations from the literature and the portfolio to showcase important points within the portfolio.

3. REPORTS

The external examiner is required to write a report which focuses on both the submission as an entity: compositions and reflexive commentary, and should offer a single recommendation for the portfolio. Each examiner must indicate whether, in his or her view, the portfolio:

- (1) should be accepted in its present form
- (2) should be accepted in its present form with minor changes (These must be clearly documented by the examiner, and are to be implemented at the discretion of the supervisor.)
- (3) should not be rejected but referred back to the candidate for revision and reworking before resubmission; or
- (4) should be rejected

On receipt of both examiners' reports, the Academic Administration Office will forward the relevant documentation to the Head of Department, who will collate all the reports and return them with his/her recommendation to the Academic Administration office. In the event of a significant disagreement between the reports, the Dean will in the first instance attempt to gain consensus by giving each examiner sight of the other examiner's report. Should no consensus be reached, the Dean shall, on the recommendation of the Head of Department, appoint an arbiter who shall be given sight of the initial examiners' reports of the portfolio, any further correspondence from the examiners, and the Head of Department's collation and recommendation. Upon receipt of the arbiter's report, the Dean will make a decision on behalf of the Faculty.

4 CONFIDENTIALITY

From the outset the external examiner is asked:

- (a) Whether he/she is prepared to be identified to a successful candidate.
- (b) To indicate which section(s) of his/her report, if any, may be revealed to the candidate. Normally information permitted to be disclosed will be communicated to the candidate, but with the approval of the Dean. The Head of Department may, at his/her discretion, withhold part of the information sanctioned by the examiners.

5 AWARD OF THE DEGREE WITH DISTINCTION

a. Specified criteria for the award of distinction

The University reserves the award of a distinction for work of outstanding merit. Examiners are asked to look for evidence of real creative, musically imaginative and conceptual skills. The portfolio should be of a highly professional standard, and should demonstrate excellence in terms of its concept and realisation.

b. Processes of making the award

If both examiners agree that the degree be awarded with distinction, the Head of Department shall normally recommend accordingly. If after consultation referred to in 3 above, one examiner should still remain opposed to the distinction, the Head of Department may, after consultation with the Dean, recommend the award of the degree with distinction. The Dean may accept such recommendation or may refer the issue to an arbiter.