

## **Conflict of interest – Guide**

The thesis examination at UQ aligns with the Australian Graduate Research Good Practice Principles ([AGRGPP](#)). Thesis examinations are conducted by experts who are external to the University, independent of the conduct of the research, and without conflict of interest in reaching their decision. Potential Conflicts of Interest (COI) between the supervisors, candidate and potential examiners should be declared to the Graduate School at the time of nomination of examiners so that they can be assessed. A potential conflict of interest does not automatically preclude a nominee being approved by the Dean of the UQ Graduate School as a thesis examiner if it is considered that the declared relationship will not compromise the independence of the examiner in reaching his/her decision.

If a potential conflict of interest is not declared by the School, the candidate or the examiner but discovered during or after the examination, the Graduate School may annul one or both examiners reports and a replacement examiner/s will be appointed.

Please note the following points as a guide to conflicts that should be declared:

### **Relationships that would normally exclude a potential examiner include:**

#### **Working**

- Examiner is in negotiation to directly employ or be employed by the candidate or advisor
- Examiner was a candidate of the advisor within the past 5 years;
- Examiner has directly employed or been employed by the advisor or candidate within the past 5 years

#### **Personal/Legal:**

- Examiner is legally family or known relative to the advisor or candidate or is a legal guardian or has power of attorney for the advisor or candidate

#### **Business/Professional:**

- Examiner is currently in or has had a business relationship with the candidate or advisor in the last 5 years (for example, partner in a

business or employment):

- Examiner has a direct commercial interest in the outcomes of the research.

**Other:**

- Examiner has a formal grievance with UQ
- Examiner is a current academic member of staff at UQ or has a current Honorary, Adjunct or Emeritus position or is an Academic Title holder (Medicine) with UQ.

**Working relationships with the examiner to be declared on the Nomination of Thesis Examiners form for assessment and which may in some cases lead to exclusion as an examiner include:**

- Examiner has co-authored a paper with the candidate or advisor within the last 5 years;
- Examiner has worked with the candidate on matters regarding the thesis e.g. previous member of the advisory team;
- Examiner has employed the candidate or advisor or been employed by the candidate or advisor within the last 5 years;
- Examiner has acted as referee for the candidate or advisor for employment
- Examiner has co-supervised with the advisor in the past five years;
- Examiner holds a patent with the advisor granted no more than 8 years ago and which is still in force;
- Examiner holds a current grant with the advisor

The examples provided above are indicative and are not considered exhaustive.

For more information please contact the UQ Graduate School Thesis Examinations team at [thesis@gradschool.uq.edu.au](mailto:thesis@gradschool.uq.edu.au)