

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES FOR THE UPGRADE OF MASTER'S PROGRAMME TO DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (CONVERSION OF CANDIDATURE) RESEARCH MODE



INTRODUCTION

- Upgrade from a Master's programme to a Doctor of Philosophy is open to local and international full-time students only. Students may switch to part-time status after passing the Candidature Defense assessment.
- This method is opened to prospective students within and outside the field of research. Candidates without qualifications in the field must complete prerequisite courses before commencing their studies.
- The Senate has autonomy to approve the Conversion of Candidature for eligible candidates based on established criteria and the assessment results of the Candidature Defense.



REQUIREMENTS

1. Upgrade from a Master's programme to a Doctor of Philosophy is only allowed for Master's students in Research Mode at UMPASA.
2. Master's students who obtain a Bachelor's degree or a related field with:
 - a) CGPA \geq 3.00; OR
 - b) $2.75 \leq$ CGPA $<$ 3.00 with 10 years of working experience in the related field
3. Prospective students must meet the following requirements:
 - a) Online applications must be submitted within twelve (12) months for full-time students and within twenty-four (24) months for part-time students; AND
 - b) Have published two (2) articles in conference proceedings indexed with SCOPUS/WOS/ERA OR published one (1) article in a SCOPUS/WOS/ERA indexed journal; AND
 - c) Have demonstrated research excellence, certified by the internal evaluation panel during the proposal defense; AND
 - d) The program upgrade application must be approved by the Senate.
4. Students are only allowed to submit the application **once** during the study period.
5. Student applications for Conversion of Candidature must obtain Faculty/Center approval, and the Candidature Defense must take place in the first year of study. Conversion of Candidature applications must receive Senate approval no later than the third semester (3).
6. Students must pass three (3) Competency Courses within two (2) years after passing the Candidature Defense for full-time students and three (3) years for part-time students as a condition for graduation.
7. Submission of the thesis defense notice can only be made as early as six (6) months from the minimum study period.