

Thesis Availability Policy

Introduction

This document describes the conditions under which theses are made available, and the conditions and procedures by which they may be embargoed.

Policy Statement

The University endorses the principle that research theses are generally available for public inspection and consultation for research and study purposes, and that reasonable quotations may be made from such theses, provided that proper acknowledgement is made.

The University generally requires that the contents of its research theses should be publicly available. However it recognises that, from time to time, restrictions on availability may be necessary where intellectual property ("IP") is at stake, commercial contracts must be honoured, public sensitivity and national security must be protected, or cultural or personal privacy must be respected.

Theses are usually held

with the consent, in writing, of the author (which is normally granted at the time the thesis is submitted).

Access to theses is normally through the electronic copy. However, where there is no electronic copy available a print copy will be provided for use in the Library only.

Embargo of Theses

The University recognises that the author of a thesis has a right to request that conditions be imposed restricting access to that thesis. Decisions on embargoes will be made by the Dean of Postgraduate Research, except in the case of a sensitive thesis, which will be considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (DVC). Students should consult their supervisors before deciding whether or not to request embargoes on their thesis.

Circumstances in which a thesis might be embargoed include:

- i. There is a prior agreement with a sponsoring entity or research collaborator connected with the research that publication should be delayed for the purpose of protecting information of commercial value.
- ii. Either the applicant or the University is making, or intends to make, a patent application concerning the subject of the research.
- iii. The applicant plans to publish all or some of the thesis and believes public access will jeopardise IP rights. Students should establish whether the thesis reports IP that is jointly held with other parties, and whether they have permission to share that IP.
- iv. The subject of the thesis is a person who is alive or recently deceased, and whose right to privacy or cultural respect is in danger of being infringed.
- v. An embargo is necessary to ensure compliance with the law or to protect public safety (e.g., where it refers to objectionable material, issues of national security or contains materials that might be considered offensive).

The maximum period of an embargo shall not exceed 12 months from the date of submission of the thesis to the University.

accompany copies of the thesis deposited in the Library or held by an academic department or school.

UC Research Repository records for embargoed theses will only include the thesis title, author and classification metadata. The thesis will not be available, the abstract will not be displayed, and there will be no opportunity to request a copy of the thesis.

Definitions

Embargo – a restriction placed on access to, and availability of, a thesis for a defined period of time.

