

MD by Published Work: Explanatory Notes

Provision for the award of Doctor of Medicine (MD) “by published work” is made by the University to accommodate particular circumstances. Essentially, the University has provided for award of the degree of Doctor of Medicine to senior investigators whose record of achievement, after appropriate examination, is readily perceived to eclipse the requirement to submit a thesis. Such senior status is implicit in the provision for candidates in this category to identify and submit their “published work” in the absence of an appointed supervisor. It is anticipated that publications submitted in support of candidature for a MD by “published work” will, both by their number and standard of publication, demonstrate a meritorious and individual contribution to knowledge.

Publications normally forthcoming from 3-4 years full time study (or the part-time equivalent) would not fulfil this requirement apart from the most exceptional circumstances. Provision for award of MD by “published work” is not an avenue by which the requirement for discipline and knowledge normally demonstrated through thesis preparation may be circumvented. It is not recommended that award of MD by “published work” be sought by tendering publications which might be characterised as being restricted to a single project or short period of study.

In preparing the accompanying discourse, candidates are reminded that they need to emphasise

1. their individual role in any collaborative work, including hypothesis generation, design and execution of experiments, supervision of others doing experiments, analysis of results, and contribution to meetings of the research team,
2. the ways in which the work relates to a central theme or themes,
3. the significance of the work, both at the time of initial publication and subsequently, and
4. the evidence of impact of their work on the field using measures such as h-index, the number of citations of their publications and/or other relevant indices