The ACPHIS PhD Medal

ACPHIS Information Systems Doctoral Thesis Award Competition

Application Process Guidelines

Round 2021 and 2022

Purpose

The ACPHIS PhD Medal is awarded each year for the best Australian PhD thesis in the discipline of Information Systems.

Sponsors

The ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis Award Competition is sponsored by ACPHIS.

Eligibility

This time the competition will run for two awards: 2021 and 2022 ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis awards.

To be eligible for the current competition, theses must have been **completed** (i.e. passed requirements for graduation) in the period between **July 1, 2020** and **June 30, 2022**. The thesis must, in the opinion of the ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis Award Selection Committee, address an important issue in the Information Systems field, and exhibit the potential for a paper to be published in a high-quality journal. Thesis authors must be appropriately enrolled in, or have completed, their doctoral programs, which should either be Information Systems programs or programs that are strongly related to the Information Systems field (as approved by the ACPHIS Executive).

Prize

A medal and $2,000 cash prize will be awarded by the ACPHIS Executive. The winner will be notified in advance of ACIS 2022. The prize will be presented at ACIS 2022, and the winner will be expected to give a short presentation to the ACIS 2022 Doctoral Consortium. Please note that the winner's attendance expenses are expected to be covered by the successful School/Department.

All other nominees for the ACPHIS PhD Medal will receive a certificate. The winner of the award will be listed on the ACPHIS website (http://www.acphis.org.au).

Review Process

Each submitted thesis will be reviewed by the ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis Award Selection Committee to determine the award winner. The Selection Committee will comprise two leading Australian Information Systems researchers and the ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis Award Convenor (nominated by the ACPHIS President and approved by the Executive for a period of three years[1]).

A set of assessment criteria based on the world best practice standards is provided in the Appendix of this document. The ACPHIS Medal winning PhD should conform to all and excel in many of these criteria. The main emphasis will be placed on Section 7 which evaluates the contribution that the

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[1] Professor Frada Burstein and Professor Tanya McGill have been nominated as a Co-Convenors for 2021-2022.

doctoral research made to theoretical, practical and methodological advancement of the discipline of Information Systems.

Submission Criteria and Process

All requirements must be emailed (as outlined below) to the address below and be received by **5:00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time)** on **Monday 1st August 2022**.

Any documents received after that date and/or submissions without all of the appropriate documentation will not be considered.

ACPHIS solicits submissions from any university in Australia. **Only one thesis per School/Department/Discipline for each of the periods ending 30 June 2021 and 30 June 2022 may be submitted from the same university**.

The theses and accompanying information must be written in English. The following information is required:

- A copy of the thesis
- A letter of nomination **written by the Head of School/Department or an Associate Dean Graduate Research (or equivalent)**, attesting that:
    - The thesis has met all requirements for graduation with a doctoral degree in information systems or a strongly related area, during the time period of **July 1, 2020** to **June 30, 2021 (for the award of 2021 ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis medal) or July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 (for the award of the 2022 ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis medal)**;
    - The thesis is regarded by the Head of School/Department as representing the best level of the department's doctoral work;
    - The thesis meets the following major criteria:

        - It represents high research standards in dealing with Information Systems theory;

        - It is rigorous and original in its method; and

        - It makes an original and substantive contribution to the understanding, development, or use of Information Systems.
    - The letter is to be co-signed by the student, indicating willingness to be nominated.

A copy of the thesis and the letter should be emailed by **5:00pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time)** on **Monday 1 August 2022** to the following address: acphis.medal.competition@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: The Gmail email address will accept documents up to 25 MB in size. If the thesis is larger than this (even after zipping), please contact the medal convenors (email

Receipt of the emailed letter and thesis will be acknowledged via email within 72 hours.

Submissions that are incomplete or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.

Queries

Questions about this competition may be addressed to: Professor Frada Burstein and Professor Tanya McGill (email acphis.medal.competition@gmail.com).

Appendix: Assessment Criteria for the ACPHIS Doctoral Thesis Award

1. Overall thesis structure
- Clear
- Logical
- Consistent in development and presentation
- Professionally presented with excellent graphics, excellent use of white space

2. Research question
- Research gap identified and its significance clearly articulated
- Research question addresses a significant problem
- Clear articulation of question and issues made sensible
- Subsidiary questions clearly related to the main one and related to the research gap
- Novelty of problem, context or approach identified and defended
- Originality identified and defended

3. Methodology
- A range of suitable methods identified
- Justification of the selected methodology and its suitability for the chosen research question defended and appropriate
- Plan of application of methodology to problem clearly articulated
- Methodology executed well and in harmony with its tenets or, modifications to the methodology appropriate and a significant contribution to the discipline

4. Literature review
- Covers the seminal literature
- Broad and non-biased selection of the references
- Analytical and reflective review rather than just description
- Critical thinking clearly represented
- The review is well structured
- The review clearly articulates the need for this research

5. Quality of data gathering

- The process and rigour of the instrument for data gathering clearly evidenced
- Sampling process and justification clearly articulated and appropriate
- Sufficient evidence being collected to support answering or addressing the research question

6. Quality of data analysis

- Selection and articulation of the rationale for selection of the tools for the data at hand presented and clearly articulated
- Appropriate use of methodology
- Convincing results
- Results clearly presented

7. Contribution

- Theoretical contribution identified and its significance clearly articulated; the ACPHIS Medal winning PhD will make a significant contribution to the research body of knowledge
- Novel approach to solving significant problem OR contribution to methodology identified and its significance clearly articulated; the ACPHIS Medal winning PhD will make a contribution to the application or refinement of the methodology
- Contribution to practice identified and its significance clearly articulated

8. Written expression

- Well-developed vocabulary and expressive sentences, which assist the reader to understand the thesis
- Comprehensible to a wider audience than specialists in the field
- Properly constructed sentences & paragraphs
- Correct grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Fluent and engaging style
- Critical and reflective work clearly evidenced

9. Publications

- A history of good quality publications in each phase of work will be looked at favourably