



## Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance Studies UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

### **Guidelines for Supervisors and Second Readers of MA Thesis Projects at the CDTPS**

Every MA student who has been admitted to the MA Thesis Stream will be assigned a Supervisory Team, which consists of a Primary Supervisor and a Second Reader from our Graduate Faculty. The Team will provide guidance through the project and a final assessment when the project has been completed.

There is an expectation that CDTPS faculty members will serve as either a Supervisor or a Second Reader on a MA-Thesis project each year as needed. The primary function of the Supervisory Team is to provide training and support to the student-researcher through the completion of the project.

Ideally, a faculty member should support one MA thesis stream student per year. In exceptional circumstances, more than one student may be supported. Additionally, there may be years when you are not supervising any MA thesis students.

### **Supervisory Duties**

#### **Supervisory Meetings**

While 6-8 meetings between MA Supervisors and their supervisees are recommended, it is expected that MA-Thesis Supervisors will meet with their supervisees 4 times (at minimum) between September and June to ensure that the student-researchers are hitting their milestones and to provide guidance and feedback.

*Please note, it is the responsibility of the student (and not the Supervisor) to initiate supervisory meetings and/or meetings with their Second Reader.* This will be communicated to MA-Thesis Stream students orally at the CDTPS's Orientation event and within a written manual, which will be distributed to all students in the MA-Thesis Stream. It will be helpful to set up a schedule with your supervisee at the start of the year, so dates are agreed upon in advance given the short nature of the one-year thesis stream. If you experience challenges with scheduling, please reach out to the Associate Director, Graduate.

## Reporting

To facilitate effective monitoring of student progress in the MA Thesis Option, we include here *two checklist-reports to be submitted to the Associate Director Graduate and the Director of the CDTPS*. These checklists will signal the satisfactory progress of the MA Thesis supervisee and alert the department to any problems or obstacles to progress. *The first of these checklist-reports should be submitted by the Supervisor in the first week of December. At this time, at least 2 Supervisory meetings should have occurred.*

*MA Thesis supervisors will next submit a second checklist-report to the Associate Director, Graduate and the Director of the CDTPS at the end of April.*

If any obstacles to completion or problems that impede satisfactory progress have been noted in either of the checklist-reports, the Associate Director, Graduate will work with the student and establish supports before the end of this one-year program. Such supports might take the form of writing supports and/or moving the student into the MRP option (*this move must occur prior to January*) or the course-only option.

## Monitoring Progress

*The Supervisor will guide MA-Thesis writers towards their completion of these project-specific milestones.*

- fine-tuning and sharpening the focus of the central research question;
- creating a reading list that speaks to the central question, sub-questions, and informs the larger project;
- preparing a review of the literature;
- selecting research methods appropriate to the project and devising a research framework;
- preparing and submitting an Ethics protocol to this University's Research Ethics Board if necessary;
- drafting and re-drafting Thesis-chapters; and
- Submitting the completed project.

## **Duties of the Second Reader**

### Supporting the Project

*While the Second Reader stands at a greater remove from the MA-Thesis project than does the Supervisor, the Second Reader is charged with the duty to support the student, the project, and the Supervisor when called upon to do so.*

The Second Reader may from time to time be approached by either the Supervisor or the Supervisee to offer specific supports associated with key project milestones. The Second Reader may, for instance, assist in the curation of a reading list for the project; read an early chapter

draft and offer suggestions; attend the occasional Supervisory meeting; or offer support in the creation of an Ethics Protocol where required.

## Assessing the MA Thesis (Supervisor and Second Reader)

*The final thesis should be submitted by June 10th and will be read and approved by **both the Thesis Supervisor and Second Reader** who will each report their assessment to the Associate Director, Graduate by the end of June.*

## Criteria for Assessment

The MA Thesis (**a 15,000-20,000-word document excluding endnotes, appendices, and Works Cited pages**) is a vehicle through which its writers demonstrate the breadth of their academic knowledge within the field the Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies (DTPS).

The crafting of an MA-Thesis is undertaken within a process that takes student-researchers through the milestones of developing a research question; engaging with relevant (and often, diverse) epistemological and interdisciplinary theories specific to their field; analyzing and communicating their findings; and contributing to the continued development of a scholarly discourse within the discipline of DTPS.

*All MA Theses at the Centre for Drama, Theatre, and Performance Studies will be assessed according to the following criteria. Each is worth 20 points out of 100.*

<p><b>Clear Centre (20 points):</b> A clearly articulated research question that contributes to an existing disciplinary conversation.</p> <p>The research question will be situated within published scholarship and set out a project with appropriate scope, with clearly defined concepts, arriving at cogent conclusions.</p>	<p>16-20 points indicates excellence in this area.</p> <p>14-16 points indicates good work in this area.</p> <p>0-13 points indicates unsatisfactory work in this area.</p>
--	---

<p><b>Organized Expression:</b> The thesis presents a clear articulation of the research journey and conclusions.</p> <p>A foundation in canonical and contemporary literature will ground the initial research question and orient the thesis's positive contribution. Sections will build on each other to support a developed argument. Professional and thoroughly edited prose, with consistent and accurate citational apparatus, is a basic expectation.</p>	<p>16-20 points indicates excellence in this area.</p> <p>14-16 points indicates good work in this area.</p> <p>0-13 points indicates unsatisfactory work in this area.</p>
<p><b>Methodology:</b> The research methods chosen or devised to pursue the thesis project are comprehensive, appropriate, and defended within the text of the thesis. The research activity and, where appropriate, mode of dissemination rest upon strong ethical pillars. Human subjects are regarded as research partners, and cited scholarship is treated with respect and honesty.</p> <p>All MA Theses should devote some text to the methods of inquiry, their support in literature, and why they are appropriate for this research question. All supporting literature will be diligently and transparently presented to the reader. Any research activity with human partners will pass the University's REB and model ethical praxis.</p>	<p>16-20 points indicates excellence in this area.</p> <p>14-16 points indicates good work in this area.</p> <p>0-13 points indicates unsatisfactory work in this area.</p>
<p><b>Lit Review:</b> Demonstrates range and diversity of contributors and content; engages with theory and practice from theatre and performance contexts across temporal, geographic, and/or cultural borders. Frames research within canonical touchstones as well as contemporary research discourse through a breadth of secondary sources.</p> <p>The MA Thesis will build its academic literature review not just into situating its research question, but into a narrative argument as to why this thesis provides a necessary contribution to the literature.</p>	<p>16-20 points indicates excellence in this area.</p> <p>14-16 points indicates good work in this area.</p> <p>0-13 points indicates unsatisfactory work in this area.</p>
<p><b>Potential for further development:</b> Readers will be considering the potential of the MA thesis research to be developed for further scholarly work (i.e., an academic journal article or PhD research) or for continuing work within an artistic community.</p>	<p>16-20 points indicates excellence in this area.</p>

MA Theses will note where and how the thesis project could expand, whether through the personal efforts of the writer or those of a broader intellectual-creative community.

14-16 points  
indicates good  
work in this area.

0-13 points  
indicates  
unsatisfactory work  
in this area.