

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES



Dr DAVID COHEN

Presiding Member  
Faculty of Science

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18 August 2005

Mr Stephen Crowthers  
c/o School of Physics

**Re: Extension of enrolment for the purposes of thesis submission**

Dear Mr Crowthers,

The Faculty Higher Degree Committee (HDC) has considered your request for early submission of your PhD thesis. The committee noted the following points:

- (i) The UNSW Calendar (Conditions for the Award of Degrees) states that the minimum time for award of a PhD degree is 3.0 years and for an MSc 1.5 years with the normal time (and RTS entitlement) for candidates being 4.0 years (PhD) and 2.0 years (MSc). Whereas the HDC may consider exceptions to the regulations, submission of a PhD thesis after less than 2.0 years of full time study has never been approved in the existing Faculty of Science and submission of a PhD thesis on the basis of just 0.75 year of full-time equivalent study (1.5 years part time) is unprecedented at UNSW.
- (ii) Submission of a PhD thesis in under 3.0 years requires the demonstration of exceptional performance to the satisfaction of HDC. This is extremely rare and would normally include support such as: publication of a substantial body of work in leading international journals; the obtaining of patents; exemplary annual progress reviews that document both high level and an accelerated rate of achievement throughout the degree; supporting documents from the supervisor, Head of School and Dean, that benchmark performance against other graduates in the field at a similar stage of their careers.

Accordingly, the HDC requests that you explicitly address the criteria above. Please note that both the quality and quantity of publications are important. The disagreement between yourself and your supervisors and other experts in the field regarding the merit of your work is noted. You may also submit the document you have produced to date for consideration by the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr David Cohen

*Presiding Member, Faculty of Science*

cc Prof W. Couch, head, School of Physics  
Prof M. Gal, postgraduate coordinator, School of Physics

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