

THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW SOUTH WALES



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Mr Stephen Crothers
476 Lyons Road West
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Re: Extension of enrolment for the purposes of thesis submission

Dear Mr Crothers,

My apologies for the misspelling of your name in the last letter.

Regarding the points raised in your letter of 25 August:

1. The "period of study" for the purpose of determining the time of candidature is calculated as the number of sessions. You have completed 5 sessions (2.5 years) part-time which equates to less than 1.5 years full-time.
2. Professor Gal simply raised the issue of your request for permission to submit your thesis early to HDC for a preliminary consideration, including reference to the rules governing the length of candidature. I then set about to determine whether a *prima facie* case exist for your early submission.
3. I see no conflict of interest for Prof Gal – he has simply raised the issue of your early submission with HDC for their consideration, and indicated to you that if the request was not supported, you would need to continue your candidacy and for which you would need to have a supervisor. These are the simple facts of the matter.

As indicated in my letter, you needed to demonstrate exceptional performance during such a brief candidacy to permit early submission. The evidence you provided amounts largely to a suite of papers in *Progress in Physics* and one or two papers in the process of review by *Bulletin of Pure and Applied Science*. It is difficult to determine, however, what "weight" that might be given by HDC to such publications. Neither of these journals appear amongst the extensive Science Citation Index "Web of Science". I cannot find a proper list of editors. If publications are to be used as the main basis for evidence of exceptional performance, HDC would reasonably expect some papers to have been published (or at least accepted) by more prominent academic journals whose level of critical review is better recognised. It would also be appropriate to indicate whether any reviews of your work to date have found areas of deficiency that might indicate early submission of the thesis to be ill-advised.

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It would be unlikely for HDC to approve early submission on the basis of the letter you provided to me (assuming I am able to table a letter headed "Without Prejudice").

However, while the question of early submission is resolved (November HDC) , there is still the need to obtain a supervisor, given your apparent decision to reject Prof Webb's continuance as supervisor. University rules require a supervisor from within the current academic staff, but there are various options concerning selection of a co-supervisor, who can provide technical support, which should be discussed with your head of school and postgraduate coordinator.

Yours sincerely



Dr David Cohen

Presiding Member, Faculty of Science

cc HOS Physics