Thesis Access

Restrictions on Access to Your Thesis

It is the University’s expectation that the full text of the vast majority of theses will be made available for unrestricted worldwide access. Accordingly, it is compulsory for all postgraduate research students to provide both hard-bound and electronic copies of their final (post-examination) thesis to the Adelaide Graduate Centre.

Unless there is an embargo (ie. a restriction on public access to your thesis) in place, the hard-bound copy will be made available in the University Library and the electronic copy on the web, via Adelaide Research & Scholarship (AR&S) Digital Repository and the National Library of Australia’s Trove Service.

The University acknowledges that there are some circumstances under which it may be appropriate to limit access to your thesis, through the granting of an embargo for a specified period of time. These include:

1. Where you are pursuing publication of material in your thesis, or you have a patent pending. Making your thesis available on the web might be considered equivalent to publishing it. Some publishers (notably book publishers) may regard inclusion of a thesis on the AR&S as a ‘prior publication’ and consequently may not wish to publish the work themselves. Some major journal publishers accept electronic publication of theses and are happy to publish articles based on these theses. If you have a relevant pre-existing contract with a publisher (or some other third party who funded, or collaborated with your research) in regard to your thesis, you are advised to seek further advice on this matter from the publishers concerned.

2. Where your thesis contains commercially, criminally, culturally, politically, or other sensitive data which you have given an undertaking to the sources not to disclose or make public for a limited period of time.

3. Where there are confidentiality requirements (for example if the project involves human participants and it is necessary to protect their anonymity).

4. Where a thesis contains research subjected to a security restriction. In limited situations where a thesis contains research subjected to a security restriction, the Dean of Graduate Studies will authorise permanent restrictions to both the digital and printed versions of the thesis. This restriction will be automatically assigned by the Graduate Centre and no application is necessary.

Only an approved title of the thesis will appear in the citation to be placed on the Web and the printed thesis will not be made available for public access.

5. Where the University owns the intellectual property on which your project builds (“Special Case A”) and/or your project is being carried out for, or in conjunction with, an external third party (e.g. a Co-operative Research Centre, a company, etc.) (“Special Case B”).

All students who are working on Special Case A and/or Special Case B projects (as well as those that signed a Student Project Participation Agreement before 2014), will automatically have a two year embargo placed over their electronic and hard copy thesis, which runs from the date of submission. At the end of the two year period the embargo will automatically expire (and will be lifted), unless other prior arrangements have been made in advance. Until the embargo is lifted only the citation of the thesis will be available on the Web. The Library will ensure that the printed thesis will not be made available for public access while it is under embargo.

How do I apply for access to my thesis to be restricted?

If you do not meet the criteria for Special Case A or Special Case B but you wish to apply to restrict access to your electronic and or printed thesis (for example, refer to points 1 to 3 above), you must do so well in advance of the submission of your thesis to avoid any delays in the examination process.
All applications should be made on the [Embargo Application Form](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/) and submitted to the Adelaide Graduate Centre.

**Where can I get more information?**

For information on the AR&S Digital Repository, Trove, publishing and copyright issues, please contact the [relevant staff member in the University Library](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/).

All other enquiries may be addressed to the [Adelaide Graduate Centre](https://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/).

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Further Information

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