

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES CONCERNING SELECTION OF AN  
EXTERNAL EXAMINER FOR A THESIS OR DISSERTATION**

Student Name:

Graduate Academic Unit:

In general, there is a conflict of interest when a proposed external examiner has a personal or professional relationship with the degree candidate, the Supervisor, other members of their Department or Faculty, or other members of the Examining Board. Examples would include:

- Being a relative or close friend, or former student or supervisor
- Being connected to the same university, or affiliated organizations or research units.
- Being involved in collaborative activities, including but not limited to publishing or participating together on grants or contracts.
- Having long-standing scientific or personal differences.
- Being uncomfortable due to past personal or professional relationships or for any reason feeling unable to provide an impartial review.
- Having other substantive connections that risk the possible perception of a conflict.

If there may be a potential conflict of interest, please provide details below:

I confirm that no potential conflicts of interest exist (outside of what has been detailed above).

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Role on Committee:

Graduate Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: This form should be submitted by the Director of Graduate Studies at the time that the GAU forwards nominations for Examining Board membership to the Dean of Graduate Studies. Also, once submitted to the Graduate School, neither the Supervisor nor the members of the committee should have any contact with the External Examiner. The student is not to have any contact with the Members on the Examining Board (with the exception of the Supervisor).**