

Medical Sciences Divisional Board

Approved: Deborah Gill on behalf of MSD Graduate School Committee (11/05/2017) and Education Committee (June 2017)

Title of Programme: Research Degrees in the Medical Sciences Division

Brief note about nature of change: Special provisions for admitting part-time students and progression milestones for part-time candidates

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2016*, Research Degrees in the Medical Sciences Division (<https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2016-17/rditmedisciedivi/>)

Effective date

With immediate effect

Detail of change

1) Amend citation reference 1.1 as follows (new text underlined):

'All research students will be admitted to the status of Probationer Research Student in the first instance.

Special provisions for part-time students

In assessing applications from candidates seeking to undertake a research degree through part-time study, the responsible admitting body shall have regard to evidence that:

- (i) the candidate is suitable to undertake research at doctoral level;
- (ii) the candidate's proposed topic of research is suitable for part-time study;
- (iii) the candidate's personal and professional circumstances are such that it is both practicable for him or her to fulfil the requirements of the course, and necessary for him or her to study on a part-time basis;
- (iv) if appropriate, the candidate has the written support of their present employer for their proposed course of study and its obligations;
- (v) the candidate can meet the following attendance requirements for their period of part-time study: attendance for a minimum of thirty days of university-based work each year, to be arranged with the agreement of their supervisor, for the period that their names remain on the Register of Graduate Students unless individually dispensed by the Board. During a candidate's probationary period the attendance arrangements must take account of relevant induction and training events scheduled by the Board.'

2) Amend citation reference 1.2 as follows (new text underlined):

'Students may hold the status of Probationer Research Students for a maximum of four terms (or eight terms in the case of a part-time student). Candidates should discuss with their supervisors whether to apply for transfer to M.Sc. status or D.Phil. status, and the most appropriate time at which to apply. In exceptional circumstances the Board may grant up to two terms' extension to this deadline (or one to four terms' extension for a part-time student).'

3) Amend citation reference 1.22 as follows (new text underlined):

'Candidates shall normally apply for confirmation of status in the eighth term from their admission as a research student, and no later than the ninth term from their admission as a research student (or the sixteenth and eighteenth terms respectively for a part-time student). The Board strongly advises candidates to apply for confirmation of status a minimum of one term before they intend to submit their thesis (two terms for a part-time student).'

Explanatory Notes

The Medical Sciences Division has recently created a number of part-time research programmes (in Clinical Medicine, Population Health, Primary Care Health Sciences and Psychiatry), which these regulations will cover. The changes describe the evidence to be considered when assessing applications for part-time study, and introduce progression milestones for students on approved part-time doctoral programmes in the Division.