

Changes in Examination Regulations to the University Gazette – Social Sciences Division

SSD/2/2/4

Education Committee of Council

MPhil in Criminology and Criminal Justice closure approved on behalf of Education Committee on 20 June 2024.

MPhil in Nature, Society and Environmental Governance closure approved on behalf of Education Committee on 18 July 2024.

Title of Programme

General Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Philosophy or Master of Philosophy

Brief note about nature of change:

Closure of the MPhil in Criminology and Criminal Justice and MPhil in Nature, Society and Environmental Governance.

Effective date

For students starting from Michaelmas term 2025.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2024-25, General Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Philosophy or Master of Philosophy*

Details of Change:

Strike citations 1.13, 1.37 and re-number as follows:

^{1.7}3. Subject to such regulations as the University may make under the provisions of cl. 2, any person who has obtained permission from the board concerned (or other authority as hereinafter specified) may enter for the examinations as follows. The bodies specified below shall be responsible for the examinations as listed.

^{1.8}Archaeology—Social Sciences

^{1.9}Biodiversity, Conservation, and Management—Social Sciences

^{1.10}Celtic Studies—Modern Languages

^{1.11}Classical Archaeology—Social Sciences

1.12 Comparative Social Policy—Social Sciences

~~1.13 Criminology and Criminal Justice—Social Sciences~~

1.14 Development Studies—International Development, Queen Elizabeth House

1.15 Economic and Social History—History

1.16 Economics—Social Sciences

1.17 English Studies (Medieval Period)—English Language and Literature

1.18

1.19 Environmental Change and Management—Social Sciences

1.20 Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation—Social Sciences

Global and Area Studies—Social Sciences

1.21 Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature—Classics

1.22 Greek and/or Roman History—Classics

1.23 History—History

1.24 History of Science, Medicine, and Technology—History

1.25 International Relations—Social Sciences

1.26 Japanese Studies—Social Sciences

1.27 Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World—Oriental Studies and Theology

1.28 Late Antique and Byzantine Studies—Classics and History

1.29 Latin American Studies—Social Sciences

1.30 Law—Law (see *Regulations for the Degrees of Master of Philosophy in Law and Master of Philosophy in Socio-Legal Research*)

1.31 Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics—Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics

1.32 Medical Anthropology—Social Sciences

1.33 Modern Chinese Studies—Social Sciences

1.34 Modern Languages—Modern Languages

1.35 Modern South Asian Studies—Social Sciences

1.36 Music—Music

~~1.37 Nature, Society, and Environmental Governance—Social Sciences~~

- 1.38 Oriental Studies—Oriental Studies
- 1.39 Philosophical Theology—Theology
- 1.40 Philosophy (Bachelor of Philosophy)—Philosophy
- 1.41 Politics (Comparative Government, Political Theory, European Politics and Society)—Social Sciences
- 1.42 Russian and East European Studies—Social Sciences
- 1.43 Slavonic Studies—Modern Languages
- 1.44 Social Anthropology—Social Sciences
- 1.45 Socio-Legal Research – Law (see *Regulations for the Degrees of Master of Philosophy in Law and Master of Philosophy in Socio-Legal Research*)
- 1.46 Sociology and Demography—Social Sciences
- 1.47 Theology—Theology
- 1.48 Visual, Material and Museum Anthropology—Social Sciences
- 1.49 Water Science, Policy and Management—Social Sciences
- 1.50 The subjects of each examination shall be determined by regulation of the board or other authority concerned, which shall have power to include therein a thesis written by the candidate on a subject approved by the board or other authority or by a person or persons to whom the board or other authority may delegate the function of giving such approval. The thesis submitted shall be wholly or substantially the result of work undertaken while a candidate is studying for the Degree of Bachelor or Master of Philosophy, except that a candidate may make application for dispensation from this requirement to the Education Committee not later than the fourth term after his or her admission to the Register of Bachelor and Master of Philosophy Students.

Explanatory Notes

Permission has been granted on behalf of Education Committee for these programmes to be closed with effect from Michaelmas term 2025, i.e. students may be admitted in Michaelmas term 2024 but will not be admitted from Michaelmas term 2025. The Department/Faculty will 'teach out' any students who start this course before Michaelmas term 2025 but as a result of suspension or for other reasons remain on course beyond the end of the 2024-25 academic year.

RDP(TT18)24/
RDP(MT19)19/
RDP(TT24)06/
009-RDP-24/10/21-P

Education Committee

Originally approved at the Research Degrees Panel meeting in Michaelmas term 2019 and reconfirmed at the week 2 meeting in Michaelmas term 2024

Name of Regulation

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Brief note about nature of change: Revised outcomes for DPhil examinations; update of reporting requirements; reorganisation of regulations to improve ease of reference with associated minor edits; removal of binary gender references.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023* [2023-24, General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

For students submitting their thesis for the first time from Michaelmas term 2025

Detail of change

Throughout, completely new text is underlined and deleted text struck through.

1. On the current page for the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy replace existing text with the following hyperlinked list

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 1 Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 2 Status

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 3 Admission of Candidates

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 4 Confirmation of Status

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 5 Supervision of Students

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 6 Residence and other Requirements

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 7 Examination

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 8 Supervision, extension and suspension following examination

2. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§1. Degree of Doctor of Philosophy~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 1 Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

1. Any member of the University who has been admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and who has satisfied the conditions prescribed by ~~this decree~~ the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy may supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
2. The Education Committee shall have power to make and vary such regulations as may be necessary for carrying out the duties laid upon it and upon the Registrar by this section.
3. For the purposes of this section the words 'board', 'faculty board', 'board of the faculty', or 'divisional board' shall include any body which has power to admit students to read for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
4. Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy who are not graduates of the University may wear a long gown of black stuff, whose shape and ornaments shall be in accordance with a pattern approved by the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors and preserved in the University Offices, Wellington Square.

3. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§2. Status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 2 Status

1. The following may be admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy:
 - (i) a member of the University who, having held the status of Probationer Research Student under the provisions of the appropriate regulation, or having held the status of student for another higher degree within the University, or having completed the

requirements for another higher degree within the University, has successfully completed the relevant qualifying test for entry to D.Phil. status prescribed in ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this section;

(ii) a member of the University who has been given leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master or Bachelor of Philosophy, or of Master of Science by Research, or of Master of Letters, provided that the subject of the thesis offered by the candidate in the examination for that degree shall be in the broad field of research proposed for the D.Phil.

2. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to keep a Register of those admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

3. A board may grant a student suspension from the Register or deprive a student of their status; and in such cases it shall at all times follow procedures determined by the Education Committee by regulation.

4. It shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should be paid. Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board provided that:

(i) no more than twenty-four months have passed since the student's name was removed from the Register; and

(ii) the number of terms the candidate spent with the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy did not exceed eighteen terms in the case of a full-time student, or twenty-seven terms in the case of a part-time student. (This limit includes any time spent with the status of Probationer Research Student or other relevant status before admission to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.)

5. Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the provisions above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the candidate's name was on the Register of Students, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the candidate's department/faculty, supervisor and college.

4. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§3. Admission of Candidates to the Status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 3 Admission of Candidates

1. Candidates qualified under §2 Part 2 of this section may apply for admission as Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy to the board concerned through the Registrar. Such applications shall be accompanied by:

(i) a statement from the supervisor containing their view of the proposed subject for a thesis and of the readiness of the candidate to undertake advanced research (here and hereafter in these regulations, in the case of Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission, and in the case of Music candidates offering a portfolio of musical compositions as part of their submission, 'thesis' shall be understood to include the totality of the candidate's submission). A supervisor may delay an early application in the interests of the student, but must enable students to apply for their assessment within the prescribed time limits;

(ii) a statement of support for the application from the candidate's society;

(iii) a statement of the subject of the proposed thesis and details of the manner in which the candidate proposes to treat it.

2. Save for those applying under the provisions of §2 Part 2, cl. 1 (ii) of this section, applicants shall in addition be required to submit written work to the board, which work shall be assessed by two assessors appointed by the board, neither of whom shall normally be the candidate's supervisor. The precise manner and form of the written work shall be determined by regulation by each board. In the case of Fine Art candidates offering studio practice, and in the case of Music candidates offering a portfolio of musical compositions as part of their submissions, this will include such studio or compositional work as the board requires. The process of assessment must always include an interview with the applicant. Upon completion of their assessment of the candidate's work, the assessors shall make a recommendation as to whether the application for transfer to D.Phil. status should be granted. In each case the assessors shall make a reasoned written report to the board in support of their recommendation.

3. The board shall consider the candidate's application together with the material supplied in accordance with clauses 1 and 2 above. No application for transfer shall be granted unless the assessors shall have certified and the board is satisfied that the candidate is capable of carrying out advanced research, and that the subject of the thesis and the manner of its treatment proposed by the candidate are acceptable; and unless the board or department under whose aegis the research is to be conducted has adequate facilities to enable the research to be undertaken.

4. Subject to the approval of the Education Committee, each board shall have power to determine by regulation what other test or condition, if any, it may require before approving admission to D.Phil. status. Each board shall be empowered, without further

authority, to require from the supervisor any further confidential report on an applicant's suitability to pursue research towards the D.Phil.

5. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to submit any application made under these provisions to the board concerned, and to inform the candidate of the outcome as soon as may be.

6. A candidate whose first application for transfer to D.Phil. status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application, following the procedures laid down in clauses 1–4 above, and shall be granted an extension of time for one term if this is necessary for the purposes of making the application.

7. An applicant who transfers to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall be reckoned as having held that status from the time ~~he or she was~~ they were admitted to ~~his or her~~ their previous status unless the board shall determine otherwise.

8. The interview required under cl.2 of this ~~section~~ Part shall be held in Oxford in a suitable university or college building, unless in exceptional circumstances the board concerned gives special permission for it to be held at some other place. Such permission shall only be granted where the applicant and both the assessors have agreed in writing to the proposed arrangements.

9. In exceptional circumstances, application may be made to the relevant board for special permission to hold the interview required under cl.2 of this ~~section~~ Part using audiovisual electronic communication. Special permission may be granted for any or all of the applicant and assessors to take part in the interview using audiovisual electronic communication. The board concerned may approve the application where:

- (i) it accepts that no alternative and timely arrangements may reasonably be put in place;
- (ii) the proposed arrangements are acceptable to both assessors and to the applicant, all of whom have agreed to them in writing;
- (iii) it is content to bear the additional cost of the necessary arrangements;
- (iv) the interview takes place according to the protocol approved by the Education Committee;
- (v) in the event of any technical or other problems, the validity of the process used to conduct the interview and to determine the outcome will be decided by the Proctors.

5. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§4. Confirmation of Status as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 4 Confirmation of Status

1. A candidate who has been admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy must, not later than the ninth term or normally earlier than the sixth term after that in which ~~he or she was~~ they were initially admitted to the status of a Probationer Research Student or to the status of a student for another higher degree of the University, or the eighteenth and twelfth terms respectively in the case of a part-time student, complete the assessment process prescribed by the relevant board for confirmation of ~~his or her~~ their status as a D.Phil. Student. A board or committee may, for good reason, and with the support of the student's college, permit a candidate to defer for a maximum of three terms ~~his or her~~ their application for confirmation of status. A student who has been admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy after successfully completing the requirements for the Degree of Master (or Bachelor) of Philosophy, or having held the status of Student for the M.Litt. or M.Sc. by Research, may be exempted by the board or committee concerned from the requirement for confirmation of status. With the exception of students who have been exempted under this provision, all Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy must have their status confirmed before making an application for the appointment of examiners.

2. Candidates applying for confirmation of their status shall submit their application to the board concerned, through the Registrar; and such applications shall be accompanied by:

(i) a statement from the supervisor containing their view of the candidate's progress towards confirmation of status. A supervisor may delay an early application in the interests of the student, but must enable students to apply for their assessment within the prescribed time limits;

(ii) a statement of support for the application from the candidate's society;

(iii) a statement confirming that the student has successfully completed any required research integrity training.

3. Each faculty board shall, subject to the approval of the Education Committee, determine by regulation any other conditions which a student must fulfil before ~~his or her~~ their status may be confirmed. The process of assessment must always include an interview with the candidate.

4. A candidate whose first application for confirmation of their status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application following the procedures laid down in this section normally within one term of the original application, and shall be granted an extension of time for one term if this is necessary for the purposes of making the application.

5. A Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall cease to hold such status unless it has been confirmed within nine terms of ~~his or her~~ their admission to that status (or within a maximum of twelve terms where deferral has been approved in accordance with ~~paragraph 4.1 cl. 1 above~~) in the case of a full-time student, or eighteen terms (or a maximum of twenty-four terms where deferral has been approved in accordance with

~~paragraph 4.1 cl. 1 above~~) in the case of a part-time student, in accordance with the provisions of this section.

6. If, after considering a candidate's second application for confirmation of status, a board concludes that the student's progress does not warrant this, the board may approve ~~his or her~~ the candidate's transfer to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research or of Master of Letters, as appropriate.

7. The interview required under cl.3 of this section shall be held in Oxford in a suitable university or college building, unless in exceptional circumstances the board concerned gives special permission for it to be held at some other place. Such permission shall only be granted where the candidate and the assessors have agreed in writing to the proposed arrangements.

8. In exceptional circumstances, application may be made to the relevant board for special permission to hold the interview required under cl.3 of this section using audiovisual electronic communication. Special permission may be granted for any or all of the candidate and assessors to take part in the interview using audiovisual electronic communication. The board concerned may approve the application where:

- (i) it accepts that no alternative and timely arrangements may reasonably be put in place;
- (ii) the proposed arrangements are acceptable to the assessors and to the candidate, all of whom have agreed to them in writing;
- (iii) it is content to bear the additional cost of the necessary arrangements;
- (iv) the interview takes place according to the protocol approved by the Education Committee;
- (v) in the event of any technical or other problems, the validity of the process used to conduct the interview and to determine the outcome will be decided by the Proctors.

6. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§5. Supervision of Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 5 Supervision of Students

1. Every candidate on admission as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall be placed by the board which approved ~~his or her~~ the candidate's application under the supervision of a member of the University or other competent person selected by the board, and the board shall have power for sufficient reason to change the supervisor of any student or to arrange for joint supervision by more than one supervisor, if it deems it necessary.

2. It shall be the duty of a supervisor to direct and superintend the work of the student, to meet the student regularly, and to undertake such duties as shall be from time to time set out in Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee. The supervisor shall submit a report on the progress of the student to the board ~~three~~ four times a year as required, and at any other time when the board so requests or the supervisor deems it expedient; and shall carry out such other duties as are set out in Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee. The supervisor shall communicate the contents of the report to the student on each occasion that a report is made, so that the student is aware of the supervisor's assessment of ~~his or her~~ the candidate's work during the period in question. In addition, the supervisor shall inform the board at once if ~~he or she is~~ they are of the opinion the student is unlikely to reach the standard required for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

The Registrar shall send a copy of each report by the supervisor to the student's college, and to the Director of Graduate Studies or other nominated person under the board concerned.

3. It shall be the duty of every Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy to undertake such guided work as ~~his or her~~ their supervisor requests; to attend such meetings with ~~his or her~~ their supervisor as the latter reasonably arranges; and to fulfil any other requirements of the Education Committee set out in its memorandum of guidance for students and supervisors.

7. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§6. Residence and other Requirements for Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 6 Residence and other Requirements

1. Except as provided in clause 2 of this ~~subsection~~ Part, a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall after admission for full-time study keep statutory residence and pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study at Oxford for at least six terms, provided that a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy who is also a Bachelor or Master of Philosophy or Master of Science or Master of Letters or Master of Studies or Bachelor of Civil Law or Magister Juris or Master of Theology (except for those who hold the degree having studied for it at Westminster College) shall keep statutory residence and pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study at Oxford for at least three terms after admission as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Time spent outside Oxford during term as part of an academic programme approved by Council shall count towards residence for the purpose of this clause.

2. The board concerned may dispense a student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, on application through ~~his or her~~ the student's society and with the support of ~~his or her~~ the student's supervisor, from not more than three terms of residence and study in

Oxford either on the ground that it is necessary to the student's work that ~~he or she~~ they should be allowed to pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study at some other place than Oxford, or for other good cause.

3. Students exceptionally permitted to undertake their research in a well-found laboratory outside Oxford shall not be required to keep statutory residence, but must attend for such instruction as the board shall require.

4. Any student who, after admission under ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this section, has kept statutory residence and studied at Oxford for a period of forty-two days, not necessarily consecutive, but falling within the same academic year, may apply to the board concerned for leave to reckon such period as one term towards the total required under the preceding clause. The board shall have power to grant such leave provided that:

(i) no day so reckoned which falls within any term shall also be reckoned for the purpose of keeping that term;

(ii) no student who has kept the Michaelmas, or the Hilary, or the Trinity Term shall be allowed to reckon in this manner any day that falls within the eight weeks beginning on the first day of Full Term in Michaelmas, or Hilary, or Trinity Term, as the case may be;

(iii) no student shall be allowed to reckon in this manner more than one such period in the same academic year;

(iv) no student shall be allowed to reckon more than three terms in the same academic year.

For the purposes of this clause, the academic year shall begin on the first day of Michaelmas Term and end on the day preceding the first day of Michaelmas Term in the following calendar year.

Applications for leave to reckon any period as a term under the provisions of this clause shall be made to the board, through the Registrar, by the student's society.

5. Part-time students holding the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall in each case be required to pursue their course of study for a minimum of twelve terms, subject to the provisions of ~~§3~~ Part 3, cl. 6. Part-time students shall not be required to keep statutory residence, but must attend for such instruction as the board or other relevant body shall require, subject to the approval of the Education Committee. No student may apply to the relevant faculty board or other body for the appointment of examiners unless ~~his or her~~ their supervisor has certified that the student has fulfilled the requirements for part-time students laid down by the faculty board or other relevant body.

6. For a student who changes from full-time to part-time study or vice-versa, the period of study will be calculated on the basis that each term of full-time study counts as 1 FTE, and each term of part-time study counts as 0.5 FTE, and the student must pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study for a minimum of 6 FTE terms.

7. Any student may, with the permission of the board alter the subject of the research originally approved provided that the conditions of suitability set out in ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this

section continue to be met. In such cases the date of the student's admission for all the purposes of this section shall remain unchanged, unless the board shall order otherwise.

8. If a full-time Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy has held that status for twelve terms, or a part-time student for twenty-four terms, but has been prevented by exceptional circumstances from completing ~~his or her~~ their thesis, the board shall have power to grant an extension of time for a period or periods, not exceeding six terms in all for a full-time student, or three terms in all for a part-time student, to be determined by the board. Applications for such extension of time shall be made through the Registrar not later than the term in which the student is due to apply for permission to supplicate.

9. A Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy shall cease to hold that status if:

(i) ~~he or she~~ they shall have been refused permission to supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy; or

(ii) the board concerned shall in accordance with ~~§2~~ Part 2, cl. 3 of this section, and with the provisions set down by regulation by the Education Committee and after consultation with the student's college and supervisor, have deprived the student of such status;

(iii) ~~he or she~~ they shall have been transferred under the relevant provisions to another status;

(iv) ~~he or she~~ they shall have failed to complete ~~his or her~~ their thesis within twelve terms for a full-time student, or twenty-four terms for a part-time student or within such further extension of time as may have been granted by the board concerned.

8. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§7. Examination of Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 7 Examination

- 1. A Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy who has fulfilled the applicable residence and other requirements set out in ~~§6~~ Part 6 of this section and whose status has not expired, may apply to the board concerned for the appointment of examiners and for leave to supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
- 2. Such applications should be made to the board concerned through the Registrar. They shall include:
 - o (i) a certificate from the supervisor that the student has pursued their course of study in Oxford in accordance with the provisions of ~~§6~~ Part 6 of this section;
 - o (ii) a statement by the candidate of what part, if any, of the thesis has already been accepted, or is concurrently being submitted, for any degree or diploma or certificate or other qualification in this University or elsewhere;
 - o (iii) a statement by the candidate that the thesis is their own work, except where otherwise indicated.
- 3. The supervisor shall consult with the candidate concerning possible examiners, and forward to the board the names of suggested examiners together with details of

any special considerations which the candidate wishes to make known about any potential examiners.

- 4. The candidate shall also submit for examination, at such time and in such format as the Education Committee shall by regulation ~~permit~~ require:
 - ~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time before MT 2019: (i) two printed or typewritten copies of a thesis; or (in the case of Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission) two printed or typewritten copies of the written portion of the thesis, and a portfolio or exhibition of work, together with documentation of that work;~~
 - ~~(ii) two printed or typewritten copies of an abstract of the thesis, which shall not normally exceed 300 words.]~~
 - ~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019: (i) a digital pdf copy of their thesis via the Research Thesis Digital Submissions (RTDS) application; or, in the case of Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission, a digital pdf copy of the written portion of the thesis via the Research Thesis Digital Submissions (RTDS) application, and a portfolio or exhibition of work, together with documentation of that work;~~
 - (ii) an abstract of the thesis which should concisely summarise its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words. The abstract should be placed within the thesis, generally immediately following the Table of Contents.]
- 5. On receipt of an application the board concerned shall appoint two examiners, neither of whom shall be the candidate's supervisor, and whose duties shall be:
 - (i) to consider the thesis and the abstract of it submitted by the student, provided that they shall exclude from consideration in making their report any part of the thesis which has already been accepted, or is being concurrently submitted, for any degree or other qualification in this University or elsewhere otherwise than as part of the requirements of this University for the Degree of Bachelor of Philosophy or of Master of Philosophy or of Bachelor of Civil Law, or as part of the dissertation submitted by a Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Coursework or of Master of Studies, and shall have the power to require the candidate to produce for their inspection the complete thesis so accepted or concurrently submitted;
 - (ii) (in the case of Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission) to consider the portfolio or exhibition of work documented under section 4 (i) of these regulations, and presented or mounted by the candidate in partial satisfaction of the examination requirements;
 - (iii) to examine the student orally in the subject of their thesis;
 - (iv) to satisfy themselves by examination (oral, written, or both) whether the student possesses a good general knowledge of the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
 - (v) to report to the board through the Registrar on the scope, character, and quality of the work submitted;
 - ~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time before MT 2019: (vi) to return to the student the copies of the thesis and the abstracts thereof.]~~
 - ~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019: (vi) to delete all digital copies of the thesis and return to the student any soft-bound copies of the thesis received from Student Registry.]~~

The Education Committee shall have power to make regulations concerning the notice to be given of the oral examination, and of the time and place at which it may be held.

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 of MT 2025:]

6. In granting leave to supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the examiners must be satisfied, and include statements in their report that:

- (i) the student possesses a good general knowledge of the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
- (ii) the student has made a significant and substantial contribution in the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
- (iii) the thesis is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner;
- (iv) in their opinion the thesis merits the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy;
- (v) the student has presented a satisfactory abstract of the thesis.

Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the substantial significance of the work should take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after three or at most four years of full-time study in the case of a full-time student, or at most eight years in the case of a part-time student.

7. The following are the permissible outcomes that the examiners may recommend having completed the examination. Certain outcomes are only permissible after a specified examination attempt. The examiners may recommend:

Outcome A: That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy without any further amendments to the thesis;

Outcome B: That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy following minor corrections of the thesis;

Outcome C: That the candidate should make major corrections to the thesis;

Outcome D: That the candidate should make major corrections of the thesis, followed by a mandatory viva;

Outcome E: Student choice of EITHER reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy OR accepting leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research;

Outcome F: Student choice of EITHER reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy OR reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research;

Outcome G: Reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research;

Outcome H: That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research;

Outcome I: That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research following minor corrections to the thesis;

Outcome J: That the candidate's application for leave to supplicate should be refused (fail).

8. Having completed the examination of a candidate for the first time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A-F given in clause 7 above and described in detail in clause 9.

Having completed the examination of a candidate for a second time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A-J given in clause 7 above, subject to the previous decisions made, and described in detail in clause 9.

Having completed the examination of a candidate for a third time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A, B, or H-J given in clause 7 above, as described in detail in clause 9.

Where a candidate is required to revise and re-submit their thesis, the revised thesis and, where required, a report indicating the specific changes made must be submitted via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application.

9. The recommendations available to the examiners are as follows. Further guidance including indicative criteria for all outcomes is available in the [Policy and Guidance on Research Degrees](#).

Outcome A: Leave to supplicate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy without any further amendments to the thesis.

In making this recommendation, the examiners must be satisfied, and include statements in their report, that the student fulfils the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy as set out in clause 6 above.

Outcome B: Leave to supplicate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy following minor corrections

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the

thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections. The examiners must require the candidate to correct the thesis to their satisfaction before they submit their report.

A period of two months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary corrections.

Examiners may make a decision to require minor corrections without first recommending this to the relevant Board for approval. The examiners should agree between themselves which of them will consider and sign-off the corrected thesis.

In the unlikely event that an examiner is unhappy to sign-off the corrections and a student is unable or unwilling to make further corrections, the matter will be referred to the other examiner involved in the examination. If the examiners cannot agree on a course of action, the matter should be referred to the relevant Board for a decision. If the Board determines that a student should make the corrections but they are unwilling or unable to do so, then leave to supplicate cannot be granted. Students who are unhappy with such a decision may submit an appeal or complaint if they meet the criteria for consideration as outlined in the respective procedures.

Outcome C: That the candidate should re-submit following major corrections to the thesis

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient potential merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make major corrections. They should report this preliminary recommendation to the Board with a description of the major corrections which they require the candidate to make before the Board confirms its recommendation.

Where the examiners make this recommendation, and the Board, considering the extent and nature of the major corrections, takes the view that the recommendation ought to be reference of the thesis back to the candidate in order that the candidate may revise it for re-examination, the Board may, exceptionally, ask the examiners to review their recommendation.

This Outcome C of leave to supplicate following major corrections to the thesis will not normally require a further viva examination (circumstances where a further examination may be required are outlined below and note the differences with Outcome D below).

A period of six months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary changes. The examiners should be provided with the corrected thesis and a summary list of responses to their points from the candidate (if appropriate). Both examiners should confirm that they are satisfied with the changes before recommendations are made to the appropriate Board. If both examiners are content that the required corrections have been satisfactorily addressed, leave to supplicate may be granted without a further oral examination.

In cases where the examiners consider that they are unlikely to recommend leave to supplicate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy to the relevant Board, a viva examination must be held. The examiners should notify the Board of their intent to hold a viva. The same outcomes as for Outcome D below are available as a consequence of the viva.

Outcome D: That the candidate should undertake major corrections of the thesis, followed by a mandatory viva

If the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient potential merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make major corrections and be re-examined, they should report this preliminary recommendation to the Board with a description of the major corrections which they require the candidate to make before they confirm their recommendation.

Where the examiners make this recommendation, and the Board, considering the extent and nature of the major corrections, takes the view that the recommendation ought to be reference of the thesis back to the candidate, the Board may, exceptionally, ask the examiners to review their recommendation.

A period of six months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary changes. In advance of the re-examination, the examiners should be provided with the corrected thesis and a summary list of responses to their points from the candidate (if appropriate). Following re-examination, no further outcome of major corrections (either Outcome C or Outcome D) is permitted.

Outcome E: Student choice of EITHER reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy OR accepting leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research

If choosing this outcome, the Board should offer the candidate a choice between (i) reference of the thesis back to them in order that they may revise it for re-examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and (ii) leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science by Research, as appropriate, if the thesis has not reached the standard required for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy but has nevertheless reached that required for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science. In cases where both the Master of Letters and Master of Science by Research are available, the examiners should state which should be offered to the student.

If the student chooses recommendation (i), to revise the thesis for re-examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in accordance with the procedure laid down in this sub-section, the revised thesis must be submitted not later than 12 months after the candidate was notified of the Board's agreement of the candidate's decision to choose recommendation (i). Accompanying the revised thesis at re-submission should be a separate, concise report indicating the specific changes made. If recommendation (i) is chosen, the student will be permitted to apply again for the appointment of examiners.

If the student chooses recommendation (ii) and requests leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research, the examiners may still determine that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections in accordance with the regulations under Outcome B above. A period of two months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary corrections.

If supplication for a Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research is to be offered, the examiners should be satisfied that the thesis meets the required standard to permit the student to supplicate for those qualifications with no more than minor corrections to the thesis. If the examiners are not satisfied that this is presently the case, but consider that the thesis may meet that standard following further work, Outcome F or Outcome G (for a second examination only) below should be selected.

If the examiners recommend reference back of the student's application, they shall annex to their report to the Board a statement (for transmission to the candidate) setting out the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree in question, and what changes are necessary for it to reach that standard. In exceptional cases, if the examiners are unable to state how, within the time allowed, the thesis can be altered to

reach the standard of a Doctor of Philosophy, they should make this statement and the relevant Board should be notified.

Following re-examination, no further outcome of reference back (Outcome E or F) is permitted.

Outcome F: Student choice of EITHER reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy OR reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research

If choosing this outcome, the Board should offer the candidate a choice between (i) reference of the thesis back to the candidate in order that they may revise it for re-examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and (ii) reference of the thesis back to the candidate in order that they may revise it for re-examination for the degree of Master of Letter or Master of Science by Research, as appropriate. In cases where both the Master of Letters and Master of Science by Research are available, the examiners should state which should be offered to the student.

The revised thesis must be submitted not later than 12 months after the candidate was notified of the Board's agreement of the candidate's choice. Accompanying the revised thesis at re-submission should be a separate, concise report indicating the specific changes made.

If the student chooses recommendation (i), to revise the thesis for re-examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the student shall be permitted to apply again for the appointment of examiners, in accordance with the procedure laid down in this sub-section.

If the student chooses recommendation (ii), to revise the thesis for re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters or for the degree of Master of Science by Research, the student shall be transferred to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters or Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research as the case may be, and shall be permitted to apply for leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research in accordance with the provisions of the appropriate regulation. The word limit for a thesis resubmitted under this provision shall be that specified for the

degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the special regulations under which it was originally submitted.

This outcome should be selected if the examiners are not satisfied that the thesis currently meets the standard required to permit the student to supplicate for either the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, or for the degree of Master of Letters or the degree of Master of Science by Research, but consider that it may meet either standard following further work.

Following re-examination, no further outcome of reference back (Outcome E or F) is permitted.

Outcome G: Reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research

This outcome should be selected if the Board considers it necessary to refer the student's thesis back in order that the student may present it for re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science by Research, (as determined by the examiners if appropriate), only. If the Board adopts this recommendation the student shall be transferred to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters or Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research as the case may be, and shall be permitted to apply for leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research in accordance with the provisions of the appropriate regulation. The word limit for a thesis resubmitted under this provision shall be that specified for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the subject regulations under which it was originally submitted.

The revised thesis must be submitted not later than 12 months after the candidate was notified of the outcome of the examination.

If the examiners recommend reference back of the student's thesis, they shall annex to their report to the Board a statement (for transmission to the candidate) setting out the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree in question, and what changes are necessary for it to reach the standard for Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research. In exceptional cases, if the examiners are unable to state how, within the time allowed, the thesis can be altered to reach the standard of a

Master of Letters or a Master of Science, they should make this statement and the relevant Board should be notified.

Outcome H: That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners consider that the candidate meets the requirements for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research (as appropriate) as defined in Part 6 of the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters or Part 6 of the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research respectively.

Outcome I: That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research following minor corrections to the thesis

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient merit to meet the requirements for the degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research (as appropriate) as defined in Part 6 the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters or Part 6 of the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research respectively but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections. They must require the candidate to correct the thesis to their satisfaction before they submit their report.

A period of two months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary corrections.

Outcome J: That the candidate's application for leave to supplicate should be refused (fail)

The examiners may determine that the standard of the thesis is such that a candidate should be refused leave to supplicate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and that, even following further work, it is unlikely that the candidate will reach the standard of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research within the time permitted by this regulation. In such instances, the examiners should set out their reasons for reaching this conclusion within the report.

10. On receipt of the examiners' report the Board shall reach a decision on whether to accept the examiners' recommendation, provided that no candidate shall be given leave to supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy unless the examiners have made the statements required in clause 6 above.]

- **[For students submitting their thesis for the first time before Sunday of Week 1 of MT 2025: 6- 11.** Having completed the examination of a candidate for the first time, the examiners may make any one of recommendations (i), (ii), or (iv) below only. Having completed the examination of a candidate who has revised and re-submitted their thesis, the examiners may make any one of recommendations (i)-(vi). ~~**[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019:**~~ Where a candidate is required to revise and re-submit their thesis, the revised thesis and, where required, a report indicating the specific changes made must also be submitted via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application.]
- The recommendations are:
 - o (i) that the board should grant the candidate leave to supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In making this recommendation, the examiners must include in their report statements that:
 - 1. the student possesses a good general knowledge of the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
 - 2. the student has made a significant and substantial contribution in the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
 - 3. the thesis is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner;
 - 4. in their opinion the thesis merits the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy;
 - 5. the student has presented a satisfactory abstract of the thesis.
 - o Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the substantial significance of the work should take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after three or at most four years of full-time study in the case of a full-time student, or eight years in the case of a part-time student.
 - o (i) (a) **Minor corrections**
If the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections (which are not sufficiently substantial to justify reference back for re-examination and which should be capable of completion within one month), they must require the candidate to correct the thesis to their satisfaction before they submit their report. If the candidate has not completed these corrections within one calendar month of the date of receipt of the list of minor corrections from the examiners, their name shall be removed by the Registrar from the Register of Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, provided that the board may, on good cause shown by the candidate, grant an extension of time of one further calendar month in which the candidate may fulfil this requirement before the removal of their name from the Register. No subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required corrections should have been submitted to the relevant Board, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.
 - o Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within six months of the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within that timeframe may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the notification of the outcome of the examination.

o (i) (b) **Major corrections**

If the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient potential merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make major corrections (which are not sufficiently substantial to justify reference back for re-examination and which should be capable of completion within six months), they should report this preliminary recommendation to the board with a description of the major corrections which they require the candidate to make before they confirm their recommendation.

Where the examiners make this recommendation, and the board, considering the extent and nature of the major corrections, takes the view that the recommendation ought to be reference of the thesis back to the candidate in order that the candidate may revise it for re-examination, the board may, exceptionally, ask the examiners to review their recommendation.

If the candidate has not completed these corrections within six calendar months of the date of receipt of the list of major corrections from the examiners, their name shall be removed by the Registrar from the Register of Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, provided that the board may, on good cause shown by the candidate, grant an extension of time of up to three further calendar months in which the candidate may fulfil this requirement before the removal of their name from the Register. No subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required corrections should have been submitted to the relevant Board along with a separate report indicating the specific changes made, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within twelve months of the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within that timeframe may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit

their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the notification of the outcome of the examination.

Where a recommendation of approval subject to major corrections has been made, the examiners, on receipt of the corrected thesis on the first occasion, may conclude and report one of the following:

- (a) the original recommendation is now fully substantiated;
- (b) the work as submitted still requires minor corrections prior to confirmation of the original recommendation and a further one month may be allowed for this from that date;
- (c) the work as now submitted still requires major corrections prior to confirmation of the original recommendation and a further six months may be allowed for this from that date.
- o Recommendation (a) or (b) may be made without a further oral examination on condition that both examiners have reviewed and approved the major corrections. A further oral examination must be held if either of the examiners requires it or if the recommendation is likely to be (c).
In the exceptional instance where (c) applied and the outcome of the second and final submission of corrections still remained unsatisfactory, the examiners will amend their original recommendation to (ii) below.
- o (ii) that the board should offer the candidate a choice between (a) reference of the thesis back to the candidate in order that they may revise it for re-examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and (b) leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science, as appropriate, on the basis that the thesis has not reached the standard required for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy but has nevertheless reached that required for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science.
 - (a) If the board adopts this recommendation, and the student chooses to revise the thesis for re-examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the student shall retain the status and obligations of a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and shall be permitted to apply again for the appointment of examiners, in accordance with the procedure laid down in this sub-section, not later than the sixth term after that in which the board gave permission so to reapply. If such permission shall have been given by a board during a vacation, it shall be deemed to have been given in the term preceding that vacation. Accompanying the revised thesis at re-submission should be a separate report indicating the specific changes made. For students in the Humanities, Medical Sciences and Social Sciences Divisions and the Department for Continuing Education, the word limit for the accompanying report shall be 1,000 words; for students in the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the word limit shall be 2,000 words.
 - If the student is unable to apply again for the appointment of examiners within six terms, no subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the

required changes should have been submitted to the relevant Board along with a separate report indicating the specific changes made, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within twenty-four months of the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within that timeframe may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the notification of the outcome of the examination;

- (b) If the board adopts this recommendation and the student chooses leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science by Research, the examiners may still determine that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections in accordance with the regulations under (i) above.
- o (iii) that the board should refer the student's thesis back in order that the student may present it for re-examination for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science, as determined by the examiners (if appropriate), only. If the board adopts the recommendation the student shall be transferred forthwith to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters or Student for the Degree of Master of Science as the case may be, and shall be permitted to apply for permission to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters or Master of Science in accordance with the provisions of the appropriate regulation. If such permission shall have been given by a board during a vacation, it shall be deemed to have been given in the term preceding that vacation. The word limit for a thesis resubmitted under this provision shall be that specified by the DPhil regulations under which it was originally submitted;
- o (iv) that the board should refer the student's thesis back in order that the student may present it for re-examination either under (ii) above for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy or, if the student chooses, under (iii) above for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science only. The board shall adopt such a recommendation only if it is fully satisfied that the thesis as it stands is not of the standard required for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, nor for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science as the case may be, but that the candidate could reach the standard required for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. If such permission shall have been given by a board during a vacation, it shall be deemed to have been given in the term preceding that vacation;
- o (v) that the thesis has not reached the standard required for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy but has nevertheless reached that required of the

Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science, and that the candidate may be granted leave to supplicate for one of the latter degrees on the basis of the thesis as it stands; the examiners may still determine that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections in accordance with the regulations under (i) above.

- o (vi) that the student's application for leave to supplicate should be refused.
- **7-12.** If the examiners recommend reference back of the student's application under clause **6-11** (ii) or (iii) or (iv) above, they shall annex to their report to the board a statement (for transmission to the candidate) setting out the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree in question, and what changes are necessary for it to reach that standard, save that examiners of a thesis submitted for the first time may, in exceptional circumstances, and notwithstanding a recommendation under clause **6-11** (ii) or (iv) above, certify that they are unable to indicate how the thesis might be changed, within the time allowed, in order to reach the required standard for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.
- **8-13.** On receipt of the examiners' report the board shall reach a decision on whether to accept the examiners' recommendation, provided that no candidate shall be given leave to supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy unless the examiners have made the statements required in clause **6-11** (i) above.]
- **9-14.** A candidate who has been granted leave to supplicate by a board must submit a finalised electronic copy of the thesis, as approved by the examiners, to the Oxford Research Archive in line with the requirements of the General Regulations governing Research Degrees. This copy must be submitted no later than the end of the fifth day before the date of the degree ceremony booked by the candidate for conferral of their degree. Permission to supplicate shall in all cases be conditional upon fulfilment of these requirements. No corrections, changes or additions of any kind shall be made to the thesis after the board has granted a candidate leave to supplicate.
- **10-15.** In an exceptional case in which a board is unable to accept the examiners' recommendation, or in which the examiners cannot reach an agreed recommendation, the board shall have power to appoint one or two new examiners as it deems necessary, to conduct such further examination of the candidate as the board may require. This additional examination is a continuation of the examination process and the outcomes that were available to the original examiners, as defined in clause 8 above (clause 11 for students submitting before MT 2025) are available to the new examiners. The board shall make a report on any such case to the Education Committee.

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time before Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

- **11-16.** The board may exempt a candidate who is being re-examined under the provisions of clause **6-11** (ii)–(v) above from the oral examination, provided that the examiners are able to certify that they are satisfied without examining the candidate orally that they can recommend to the board in the terms required by clause **6-11** (i) above that ~~he or she~~ the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.]

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

17. If the candidate has not completed the required corrections or amendments to the thesis within the timeframe specified, their name shall be removed by the Registrar from

the Register of Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. It shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required corrections should have been submitted to the relevant Board, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council by regulation should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid. In addition, those students who were required to make major corrections or whose thesis was referred back shall be required to submit a separate report, via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application, indicating the specific changes made.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within the timeframes given in the table below. In each case, the period should be calculated from the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

<u>Outcome of the examination</u>	<u>Time permitted for resubmission</u>	<u>Reinstatement permitted by the Board within</u>
<u>Minor corrections</u>	<u>2 months</u>	<u>6 months</u>
<u>Major corrections</u>	<u>6 months</u>	<u>12 months</u>
<u>Reference back</u>	<u>12 months</u>	<u>24 months</u>

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the timeframes given in the table above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the most recent notification of the outcome of the examination.]

- 12. 18. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to notify the candidate of the board's decision as soon as may be. The Registrar shall also be responsible for publishing at the end of each academic year the names of those candidates to whom

permission to supplicate has been granted during that year, together with a statement of the subject of the thesis written by each.

- ~~13.~~ 19. When, on the conclusion of the investigation of a complaint made by a candidate, the Proctors recommend that a candidate be re-examined, the board shall have power to hold a new examination.

9. Create new webpage and Part. All new text

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 8 Supervision, extension and suspension following examination

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

1. Following examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the right to further supervision will depend on the outcome of the examination. The outcome will also affect requests for extensions of time and suspensions from the Register of Students as outlined below.

Supervision

2. Candidates whose outcome is minor corrections should receive supervisory guidance on the changes required to facilitate a successful resubmission.

3. Candidates whose outcome is major corrections either with or without a mandatory viva (Outcome C or Outcome D) are entitled to supervision in accordance with Part 5 of this section.

4. Candidates who have received an outcome of reference back of the thesis (Outcomes E, F or G) are entitled to supervision in accordance with Part 5 of this section.

Suspensions

5. Any period of suspension taken prior to first examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy will not be counted against any period of suspension taken following examination. Any period of suspension taken as maternity, extended paternity or adoption leave, whether taken before or after examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, will not be counted against the periods of suspension available following examination set out below.

6. Requests for suspension from candidates whose outcome is minor corrections (Outcome B) will be considered by Council's Education Committee

7. Candidates whose outcome is major corrections either with or without a mandatory viva (Outcome C or Outcome D) may submit a request to the Board for no less than four

weeks and no more than twelve months of suspension. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may request further periods of suspension; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

8. Candidates who have received an outcome of reference back of the thesis (Outcomes E, F or G) may submit a request to the Board for no less than four weeks and no more than twelve months of suspension. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may request further periods of suspension; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

Extensions of time

9. Candidates may only submit a request for an extension of time, following examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, in exceptional circumstances; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

Submission of a revised thesis

10. Candidates who do not submit their revised thesis within the timeframe set out in Part 7, cl. 9., are no longer entitled to supervision except for any exceptional period of extension that has been approved by Council's Education Committee.]

Explanatory Notes

These changes to regulations support the implementation of revised outcomes for PGR students that were originally agreed by RDP in MT19 and which RDP has previously agreed should come into force for students submitting their PGR thesis for the first time in MT25 or later, i.e. theses submitted on or after Sunday 12 October 2025. These regulations cover submissions for DPhil, MSc(Res) and MLitt examinations.

The Research Degrees Management System Board has continued to have regular meetings about the project which includes the systems implementation of the revised outcomes for PGR students and is satisfied that the project will be able to deliver the necessary system updates to support the implementation of these regulation changes for students submitting from MT25.

The opportunity has also been taken to change the presentation of the regulations relating to PGR awards in the Examination Regulations so that they are easier to search and to link to. The model for presentation is that currently used for the [Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations](#) and introduced in 2024 for the [Regulations on Financial Matters](#). Each of the four current regulations relating to PGR awards will be split into eight or nine separate pages, with a separate page for each of the current sections which will be renamed Parts. In addition to minor changes to support the new regulatory structure, the regulations have been updated to remove binary gender references and to reflect that there are now four rather than three reporting periods each year.

039-RDP-
25/06/03-I

Research Degrees Panel of Education Committee

Approved at the meeting of Research Degrees Panel on 3 June 2025

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 3 Admission of Candidates

Brief note about nature of change: Minor addition to regulations to clarify that part-time Probationer Research Students have twice as long as full-time students to complete any second attempt at Transfer of Status.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2024,

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=grftdodopp3admiocand>

Effective date

For all students from Michaelmas term 2025 onwards

Detail of change

Amend cit. ref 1.9 as indicated, deleted text is ~~struck through~~; inserted text is underlined:

6. A candidate whose first application for transfer to D.Phil. status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application, following the procedures laid down in clauses 1–4 above, ~~and shall be granted an extension of time for one term~~ If this is necessary for the purposes of making the application, a full-time candidate shall be granted an extension of time for one term, and a part-time candidate shall be granted an extension of time for up to two terms.

Explanatory Notes

At its meeting in Trinity term 2025, Research Degrees Panel agreed that minor revisions should be made to regulations to clarify that part-time postgraduate research students have twice as many terms of deferral of Transfer and Confirmation of Status as full-time students, and twice as long to submit a second attempt at Transfer or Confirmation if

necessary. This is consistent with the fact that they have twice as long to complete Transfer, Confirmation and thesis submission.

039-RDP-
25/06/03-I

Research Degrees Panel of Education Committee

Approved at the meeting of Research Degrees Panel on 3 June 2025

General Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy: Part 4 Confirmation of Status

Brief note about nature of change: Minor addition to regulations to clarify that part-time postgraduate research students have twice as many terms of deferral of Confirmation of Status as full-time students, and twice as long to submit a second attempt at Confirmation of Status.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2024,

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=grftdodopp4confstat&srchYear=2024&srchTerm=1&year=2024&term=1>

Effective date

For all students from Michaelmas term 2025 onwards

Detail of change

1. Amend cit. ref 1.1 as indicated, deleted text is ~~struck through~~; inserted text is underlined:

1. A candidate who has been admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy must, not later than the ninth term or normally earlier than the sixth term after that in which they were initially admitted to the status of a Probationer Research Student or to the status of a student for another higher degree of the University, or the eighteenth and twelfth terms respectively in the case of a part-time student, complete the assessment process prescribed by the relevant board for confirmation of their status as a D.Phil. Student. A board or committee may, for good reason, and with the support of the student's college, permit a candidate to defer ~~for a maximum of three terms~~ their application for confirmation of status for a maximum of three terms for a full-time student or a maximum of six terms for a part-time student. A student who has been admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy after successfully

completing the requirements for the Degree of Master (or Bachelor) of Philosophy, or having held the status of Student for the M.Litt. or M.Sc. by Research, may be exempted by the board or committee concerned from the requirement for confirmation of status. With the exception of students who have been exempted under this provision, all Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy must have their status confirmed before making an application for the appointment of examiners.

2. Amend cit. ref 1.7 as indicated, deleted text is ~~struck through~~; inserted text is underlined:

4. A candidate whose first application for confirmation of their status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application following the procedures laid down in this section normally within one term of the original application, ~~and shall be granted an extension of time for one term~~ if this is necessary for the purposes of making the application, a full-time candidate shall be granted an extension of time for one term, and a part-time candidate shall be granted an extension of time for up to two terms.

Explanatory Notes

At its meeting in Trinity term 2025, Research Degrees Panel agreed that minor revisions should be made to regulations to clarify that part-time postgraduate research students have twice as many terms of deferral of Transfer and Confirmation of Status as full-time students, and twice as long to submit a second attempt at Transfer or Confirmation if necessary. This is consistent with the fact that they have twice as long to complete Transfer, Confirmation and thesis submission.

Continuing Education Strategic Management Board

Approved by Education Committee 20.08.24

Title of programme

Undergraduate Diploma in History of Art

Brief note about nature of change: Major changes to content, delivery and assessment

Location of change in Examination Regulations

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=udihistofart&srchYear=2024&srchTerm=1&year=2024&term=1>

Effective date

For students starting from 2027-28

And

For first examination from 2027-28

Detail of change

Text to be deleted struck through, new text underlined

- ~~1. The course shall consist of lectures, tutorials, seminars and classes on the subject of the History of Art. The course is available on a part-time basis only over a period of two years.~~

~~2. The subjects of the course will be taught in four one-year modules of which candidates must offer two. Two modules will be available each year. Modules currently available are:~~

~~Module 1: The Late Middle Ages and the Early Renaissance~~

~~Module 2: The High Renaissance and Baroque~~

~~Module 3: Revolution to Modernity: 1848-1914~~

~~Module 4: Modern Art and Contemporary Visual Culture~~

~~3. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following for each of the two modules to be offered:~~

~~a) Two assignments, each of which shall not exceed 3,000 words in length;~~

~~b) A research project consisting of no more than 8,000 words in length each, based on a subject of the candidate's choice relating to the course material and agreed with the Course Director;~~

~~c) A presentation on a topic covered by the course.~~

~~The assignments under a) and the project under b) will be submitted to the examiners for consideration by such dates as the examiners shall determine and shall notify candidates. The assignments and the research project shall be submitted via the University approved online assessment platform. The presentation shall be delivered at such times and locations as are provided in the course handbook.~~

~~4. Candidates may be required to attend a viva voce examination at the end of the course.~~

~~5. The examiners may award a distinction to candidates for the Diploma.~~

~~6. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in any element may be permitted to resubmit work in respect of that element on not more than one occasion which shall normally be within one year of the initial failure.~~

1. The course shall consist of lectures, tutorials, seminars and online materials on the subject of the History of Art. The course will be delivered through a combination of

face-to-face and online teaching. The course is available on a part-time basis only over a period of two years.

2. The subjects of the course will be taught through core themes, taken by all students, and two option papers, of which students shall select one from Schedule A in the first year of the course and one from Schedule B in the second year of the course.

3. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:

a) Year One

i. One written assignment of not more than 3,000 words, which may be based on material covered either in the core themes or in the option paper selected from Schedule A below

ii. One written assignment of not more than 3,000 words based on a topic covered in the core themes

iii. A presentation of not more than ten minutes based on material covered either in the core themes or in the option paper selected from Schedule A below

iv. A research project of not more than 5,000 words on a topic chosen by the student relating to the option paper selected from Schedule A below and agreed with the course director.

b) Year Two

i. One written assignment of not more than 3,000 words, which may be based on material covered either in the core themes or in the option paper selected from Schedule B below

ii. One written assignment of not more than 3,000 words based on a topic covered in the core themes

iii. A presentation of not more than five minutes of a poster designed by the candidate on one of four topics

iv. A research project of not more than 7,000 words on a topic chosen by the student relating to the option paper selected from Schedule B below and agreed with the course director.

Written work will be submitted via the University approved online assessment platform by the dates published in the course handbook at the beginning of each academic year. The presentation shall be delivered at such times and locations as are provided in the course handbook.

4. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in any element may be permitted to resubmit work in respect of that element on not more than one occasion which shall normally be within one year of the initial failure.

Schedule A

Medieval

Modern

Schedule B

Renaissance/Early Modern

Contemporary

Explanatory Notes The entirety of the regulations to be replaced with the new text.

Continuing Education Strategic Management Board

Approved by Education Committee 20.08.24

Title of programme

Undergraduate Certificate in History of Art

Brief note about nature of change: Major changes to content, delivery and assessment

Location of change in Examination Regulations :

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=uchistofart&srchYear=2024&srchTerm=1&year=2024&term=1>

Effective date

For students starting from 2025-26

And

For first examination from 2025-26

Detail of change

Text to be deleted struck through, new text underlined

1. ~~The course shall consist of lectures, tutorials, seminars and classes on the subject of the History of Art. The course is available on a part time basis only over a period of two years.~~

2. ~~Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:~~

- ~~(a) Four written assignments of not more than 1,500 words and three of not more than 2,000 words based on the subjects taught~~
~~(b) Two research projects one of 3,000 words and one of 5,000 words on a subject approved by the course director.~~

~~The written work under (a) and the research projects under (b) will be submitted via the University approved online assessment platform by the dates published in the course handbook at the start of the year.~~

~~3. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the written work under 2(a) and (b), may be permitted to resubmit work in respect of part or parts of the examination which they have failed on not more than one occasion which shall normally be within one year of the initial failure.~~

1. The course shall consist of lectures, tutorials, seminars and online materials on the subject of the History of Art. The course will be delivered through a combination of face- to-face and online teaching. The course is available on a part-time basis only over a period of two years.

2. Every candidate will be required to satisfy the examiners in the following:

a) Year One

Three written assignments, each of not more than 1,500 words;

One written assignment of not more than 2,500 words.

b) Year Two

Two written assignments of not more than 2,500 words;

One written assignment of not more than 750 words;

One research project of not more than 4,500 words on a topic selected by the student from a list of set questions.

Work will be submitted via the University approved online assessment platform by the dates published in the course handbook at the start of the year.

3. Candidates who fail to satisfy the examiners in the written work under 2. may be permitted to resubmit work in respect of part or parts of the examination which they have failed on not more than one occasion which shall normally be within one year of the initial failure.

Explanatory Notes The entirety of the regulations to be replaced with the new text

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RDP(TT18)24/
RDP(MT19)19/
RDP(TT24)06/
009-RDP-24/10/21-P

Education Committee

Originally approved at the Research Degrees Panel meeting in Michaelmas term 2019 and reconfirmed at the week 2 meeting in Michaelmas term 2024

Name of Regulation

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters

Brief note about nature of change: Revised outcomes for MLitt examinations; update of reporting requirements; reorganisation of regulations to improve ease of reference with associated minor edits; removal of binary gender references

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023* [2023-24, General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

From Michaelmas term 2024 with substantive changes to examination outcomes for students submitting their thesis for the first time from Michaelmas term 2025

Detail of change

Throughout, completely new text is underlined and deleted text struck through.

1. On the current page for the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters replace existing text with the following hyperlinked list

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 1 Degree of Master of Letters

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 2 Status

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 3 Admission of Candidates

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 4 Supervision of Students

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 5 Residence and other Requirements

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 6 Examination

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 7 Supervision, extension and suspension following examination

2. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§1. Degree of Master of Letters~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 1 Degree of Master of Letters

1. Any person who has been admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters and who has satisfied the conditions prescribed by ~~this decree~~ the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters may supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters.

2. The Education Committee shall have power to make and vary such regulations as may be necessary for carrying out the duties laid upon it and upon the Registrar by this section.

3. For the purposes of this section the words 'board', 'faculty board', 'board of the faculty', 'divisional board' shall include any body with powers to admit students to read for the Degree of Master of Letters.

4. A Student for the Degree of Master of Letters who is not a graduate of the University may wear the same gown as that worn by Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

3. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§2. Status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 2 Status

1. The following may be admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters:

(i) a member of the University who, having held the status of Probationer Research Student under the provisions of the appropriate regulation has successfully completed the relevant qualifying test or tests and fulfilled the other requirements for transfer to M.Litt. status prescribed in §3 Part 3 of this section;

(ii) a member of the University who, having held the status of student for another higher degree within the University, has successfully completed the relevant qualifying test or tests and fulfilled the other requirements for transfer to M.Litt. status prescribed in §3 Part 3 of this section;

(iii) a member of the University who has successfully completed the examination for the Degree of Bachelor or Master of Philosophy or Master of Science by Coursework or of Bachelor of Civil Law and who has fulfilled the conditions laid down in §3 Part 3 of this section for applicants in that category.

2. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to keep a register of those admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters.

3. A board may grant a student suspension from the Register or deprive a student of their status; and in such cases it shall at all times follow the procedures determined by the Education Committee by regulation.

4. It shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should be paid. Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board provided that:

(i) no more than twenty-four months have passed since the student's name was removed from the Register; and

(ii) the number of terms the candidate spent with the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters did not exceed fifteen terms in the case of a full-time student, or eighteen terms in the case of a part-time student. (This limit includes any time spent with the status of Probationer Research Student or other relevant status before admission to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters.)

5. Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the provisions above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the candidate's name was on the Register of Students, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the candidate's department/faculty, supervisor and college.

4. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§3. Admission of Candidates to the Status of Student for the Degree of Master of Letters~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 3 Admission of Candidates

1. Candidates qualified under §2 Part 2 of this section may apply for admission as a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters to the board concerned through the Registrar. Such applications shall be accompanied by:

(i) a statement from the supervisor that ~~he or she approves~~ they approve the proposed subject for a thesis and considers the candidate well qualified to undertake research in that subject;

(ii) a statement of support for the application from the candidate's college;

(iii) a statement of the subject of the thesis and of the manner in which the candidate proposes to treat it.

2. Candidates qualified under §2 Part 2, cl. 1 (i) and (ii) of this section shall in addition be required to submit written work, the precise manner and form of which shall be determined by regulation by each board. This shall be considered by two assessors appointed by the board, neither of whom shall normally be the candidate's supervisor, and who shall examine the candidate orally. Upon completion of their examination of the candidate's application, the assessors shall make a recommendation as to whether it should be granted. In each case the assessors shall make a reasoned written report to the board in support of their recommendation.

3. The board shall consider the candidate's application together with the material supplied in accordance with clauses 1 and 2 above. No application shall be granted unless the board is satisfied that the candidate is capable of carrying out research, that the subject of the thesis and the manner of its treatment proposed by the candidate are acceptable, that the subject is one which may profitably be pursued under the superintendence of the board, and that the board or department concerned is satisfied that it has adequate facilities to enable the research to be undertaken.

4. Subject to the approval of the Education Committee, each board may determine by regulation what other test or condition, if any, it requires before admitting a candidate to M.Litt. status. Each board shall be empowered, without further authority, to require from the supervisor any further confidential report on an applicant's suitability to pursue research towards the Degree of Master of Letters.

5. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to submit any application made under these provisions to the board concerned, and to notify the candidate of the outcome as soon as may be.

6. A student qualified under §2 Part 2, cl. 1 (i) or (ii) of this section whose application for transfer to M.Litt. status is successful shall be reckoned as having been admitted to the status of student for the Degree of Master of Letters with effect from the date of admission to his or her ~~their~~ previous status, unless the board determines otherwise.

7. A student qualified under §2 Part 2, cl. 1 (iii) of this section whose application for admission to M.Litt. status is successful shall be admitted as a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters from the beginning of the term in which admission takes place.

8. The oral examination required under cl.2 of this section shall be held in Oxford in a suitable university or college building, unless in exceptional circumstances the board concerned gives special permission for it to be held at some other place. Such permission shall only be granted where the candidate and both the assessors have agreed in writing to the proposed arrangements.

9. In exceptional circumstances, application may be made to the relevant board for special permission to hold the oral examination required under cl.2 of this section using audiovisual electronic communication. Special permission may be granted for any or all of the candidate and assessors to take part in the oral examination using audiovisual electronic communication. The board concerned may approve the application where:

(i) it accepts that no alternative and timely arrangements may reasonably be put in place;

(ii) the proposed arrangements are acceptable to both the assessors and to the candidate, all of whom have agreed to them in writing;

(iii) it is content to bear the additional cost of the necessary arrangements;

(iv) the oral examination takes place according to the protocol approved by the Education Committee;

(v) in the event of any technical or other problems, the validity of the process used to conduct the oral examination and to determine the outcome will be decided by the Proctors.

5. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§4. Supervision of Students for the Degree of Master of Letters~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 4 Supervision of Students

1. Every candidate on admission as a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters shall be placed by the board concerned under the supervision of a member of the University or other competent person selected by the board, and the board shall have power for sufficient reason to change the supervisor of any student or to arrange for joint supervision by more than one supervisor, if it deems it necessary.

2. It shall be the duty of a supervisor to direct and superintend the work of the student, to meet the student regularly, and to undertake such duties as shall from time to time be set out in the relevant Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee.

3. The supervisor shall submit a report on the progress of the student to the board ~~three~~ four times a year, and at any other time when the board so requests or ~~he or she~~ they ~~deems~~ deem it expedient. The supervisor shall communicate the contents of the report

to the student on each occasion that a report is made, so that the student is aware of the supervisor's assessment of ~~his or her~~ their work during the period in question. In addition, the supervisor shall inform the board at once if ~~he or she is~~ they are of the opinion that the student is unlikely to reach the standard required for the Degree of Master of Letters.

The Registrar shall send a copy of each report by the supervisor to the student's college, and to the Director or other nominated person under the faculty board concerned.

4. It shall be the duty of every Student for the Degree of Master of Letters to undertake such guided work as ~~his or her~~ their supervisor requests; to attend such meetings with ~~his or her~~ their supervisor as the latter reasonably arranges; and to fulfil any other requirements of the General Board set out from time to time in the relevant Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee.

6. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§5. Residence and other Requirements for Students for the Degree of Master of Letters~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 5 Residence and other Requirements

1. Except as provided in clause 3 of this ~~sub-section~~ Part, a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters who has been admitted for full-time study under the provisions of ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this section shall be required to be on the Register for at least six terms, and during this period shall keep statutory residence and pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study at Oxford. Time spent outside Oxford during term as part of an academic programme approved by Council shall count towards residence for the purpose of this clause.

2. The board concerned may dispense a student on application through ~~his or her~~ their college and with the support of the supervisor from not more than three terms of such residence and study in Oxford, provided that such dispensation shall be granted only on grounds that it is necessary to the student's work that ~~he or she~~ they should be allowed to study at some other place than Oxford.

3. A student who has successfully completed the examination for the Degree of Master or Bachelor of Philosophy or of Master of Studies or of Master of Science by Coursework, or a student under the supervision of the Board of the Faculty of Law admitted under the provisions of ~~§2~~ Part 2, cl. 1 (iii) of this section, shall keep statutory residence and pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study at Oxford for not less than three terms after such admission.

4. Any student who, after admission under ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this section, has kept statutory residence and studied at Oxford for a period of forty-two days, not necessarily consecutive, but falling within the same academic year, may apply to the board concerned for leave to reckon such period as one term towards the total required under clause 1 of this ~~sub-section~~ Part. The board shall have power to grant such leave provided that:

- (i) no day so reckoned which falls within any term shall also be reckoned for the purpose of keeping that term;
- (ii) no student who has kept the Michaelmas, or the Hilary, or the Trinity Term shall be allowed to reckon in this manner any day that falls within the eight weeks beginning on the first day of Full Term in Michaelmas, or Hilary, or Trinity Term, as the case may be;
- (iii) no student shall be allowed to reckon in this manner more than one such period in the same academic year;
- (iv) no student shall be allowed to reckon more than three terms in the same academic year.

For the purposes of this clause, the academic year shall begin on the first day of Michaelmas Term and end on the day preceding the first day of Michaelmas Term in the following calendar year.

Applications for leave to reckon any period as a term under the provisions of this clause shall be made to the board, through the Registrar, by the student's college.

5. Part-time students holding the status of student for the Degree of Master of Letters shall in each case be required to pursue their course of study for a minimum of twelve terms, subject to the provisions of ~~§3~~ Part 3, cl. 6. Part-time students shall not be required to keep statutory residence, but must attend for such instruction as the board or other relevant body shall require, subject to the approval of the Education Committee. No student may apply to the relevant faculty board or other body for the appointment of examiners unless ~~his or her~~ their supervisor has certified that the student has fulfilled the requirements for part-time students laid down by the board or other relevant body.

6. For a student who changes from full-time to part-time study or vice-versa, the period of study will be calculated on the basis that each term of full-time study counts as 1 FTE, and each term of part-time study counts as 0.5 FTE, and the student must pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study for a minimum equivalent to six FTE terms.

7. Any student may, with the permission of the board, alter the subject of research approved by the board, provided that the conditions of suitability set out in ~~§2~~ Part 2 above continue to be met. In such cases the date of the student's admission for all the purposes of this section shall remain unchanged, unless the board shall determine otherwise.

8. If a full-time Student for the Degree of Master of Letters has held that status for nine terms, or a part-time student for fifteen terms, but has been prevented by exceptional circumstances from completing ~~his or her~~ their thesis, the board shall have power to grant an extension of time for a period or periods not exceeding three terms in all for a full-time student, or three terms in all for a part-time student, to be determined by the board. Applications for such extension of time shall be made through the Registrar not later than the term in which the student is due to apply for permission to supplicate, and must be accompanied by statements of support from the student's society and supervisor.

9. A Student for the Degree of Master of Letters shall cease to hold such status if:

- (i) ~~he or she~~ they shall have been refused permission to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters;

(ii) the board concerned shall in accordance with §2 Part 2 cl. 3 of this section, and with the provisions set down by regulation by the Education Committee, and after consultation with the student's college and supervisor, have deprived the student of such status;

(iii) ~~he or she~~ they shall have been transferred under the relevant provisions to another status;

(iv) ~~he or she~~ they shall have failed to complete ~~his or her~~ their thesis within nine terms for a full-time student, or fifteen terms for a part-time student or within such further extension of time as may have been granted by the board concerned.

7. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

§6. Examination of Students for the Degree of Master of Letters **General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 6 Examination**

1. A Student for the Degree of Master of Letters who has fulfilled the applicable residence and other requirements set out in §5 Part 5, and whose status has not expired, may apply for the appointment of examiners and for leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters.

2. Such applications should be made to the board concerned through the Registrar. They shall include:

(i) a certificate from the supervisor that the candidate has pursued their course of study in Oxford in accordance with the provisions of §5 ~~of this section~~ Part 5;

(ii) a statement by the candidate of what part, if any, of the thesis has already been accepted, or is being concurrently submitted, for any degree or diploma or certificate or other qualification in this University or elsewhere;

(iii) a statement by the candidate that the thesis is their own work, except where otherwise indicated.

3. The supervisor shall consult with the candidate concerning possible examiners, and forward to the board the names of suggested examiners with details of any special considerations which the candidate wishes to make known about any potential examiners.

4. The student shall also submit for examination, at such time as the Education Committee shall by regulation require:

~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time before MT 2019: (i) two printed or typewritten copies of a thesis;~~

~~(ii) two printed or typewritten copies of an abstract of the thesis, which shall not normally exceed 300 words.]~~

~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019:~~ (i) a digital pdf copy of their thesis via the Research Thesis Digital Submissions (RTDS) application.

(ii) an abstract of the thesis which should concisely summarise its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words. The abstract should be placed within the thesis, generally immediately following the Table of Contents.†

5. On receipt of an application for the appointment of examiners the board concerned shall appoint two examiners, neither of whom shall be the candidate's supervisor, and whose duties shall be:

(i) to consider the thesis and the abstract of it submitted by the student under the provisions of the preceding clause, provided that they shall exclude from consideration in making their report any part of the thesis which has already been accepted, or is being concurrently submitted, for any degree or other qualification in this University or elsewhere (except for the Degree of Bachelor of Civil Law of this University) and shall have the power to require the candidate to produce for their inspection the complete thesis so accepted or concurrently submitted;

(ii) to examine the student orally, and also, if they think fit, by a written examination, in the subject of the thesis and in other relevant subjects;

(iii) to report to the board through the Registrar;

~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time before MT 2019:~~ (iv) to return to the student the copies of the thesis and of the abstract thereof submitted for examination.]

~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019:~~ (iv) to delete all digital copies of the thesis and return to the student any soft-bound copies of the thesis received from Student Registry.†

The Education Committee shall have power to make regulations concerning the notice to be given of the oral examination and of the time and place at which it may be held.

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 of MT 2025:

6. In granting leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters, the examiners must be satisfied, and include statements in their report that:

(i) the student possesses a good general knowledge of the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;

(ii) that the candidate has shown competence in investigating the chosen topic;

(iii) the student has made a worthwhile contribution in the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;

(iv) the thesis is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner;

(v) in their opinion the thesis merits the Degree of Master of Letters;

(vi) the student has presented a satisfactory abstract of the thesis.

Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the extent of the candidate's contribution to knowledge or understanding of the relevant field of learning shall take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after two years of full-time study in the case of a full-time student, or twelve terms in the case of a part-time student.

7. The following are the permissible outcomes that the examiners may recommend having completed the examination. Certain outcomes are only permissible after a specified examination attempt. The examiners may recommend:

Outcome A. That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters without any further amendments to the thesis;

Outcome B. That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters following minor corrections of the thesis;

Outcome C: That the candidate should make major corrections to the thesis;

Outcome D: That the candidate should make major corrections of the thesis, followed by a mandatory viva;

Outcome E: Reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters;

Outcome F: That the candidate's application for leave to supplicate should be refused (fail).

8. Having completed the examination of a candidate for the first time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A-E given in clause 7 above and described in detail in clause 9.

Having completed the examination of a candidate for a second time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A-F given in clause 7 above, subject to the previous decisions made, and described in detail in clause 9.

Having completed the examination of a candidate for a third time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A, B, or F given in clause 7 above, as described in detail in clause 9.

Where a candidate is required to revise and re-submit their thesis, the revised thesis and, where required, a report indicating the specific changes made must be submitted via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application.

9. The recommendations available to the examiners are as follows. Further guidance including indicative criteria for all outcomes is available in the [Policy and Guidance on Research Degrees](#).

Outcome A: Leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters without any further amendments to the thesis.

In making this recommendation, the examiners must be satisfied, and include statements in their report, that the student fulfils the requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Letters as set out in clause 6 above.

Outcome B: Leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters following minor corrections

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections. The examiners must require the candidate to correct the thesis to their satisfaction before they submit their report.

A period of two months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary corrections.

Examiners may make a decision to require minor corrections without first recommending this to the relevant Board for approval. The examiners should agree between themselves which of them will consider and sign-off the corrected thesis.

In the unlikely event that an examiner is unhappy to sign-off the corrections and a student is unable or unwilling to make further corrections, the matter will be referred to the other examiner involved in the examination. If the examiners cannot agree on a course of action, the matter should be referred to the relevant Board for a decision. If the Board determines that a student should make the corrections but they are unwilling or unable to do so, then leave to supplicate cannot be granted. Students who are unhappy with such a decision may submit an appeal or complaint if they meet the criteria for consideration as outlined in the respective procedures.

Outcome C: That the candidate should re-submit following major corrections to the thesis

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient potential merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make major corrections. They should report this preliminary recommendation to the Board with a description of the major corrections which they require the candidate to make before the Board confirms its recommendation.

Where the examiners make this recommendation, and the Board, considering the extent and nature of the major corrections, takes the view that the recommendation ought to be reference of the thesis back to the candidate in order that the candidate may revise it for re-examination, the Board may, exceptionally, ask the examiners to review their recommendation.

Leave to supplicate following major corrections to the thesis will not normally require a further viva examination (circumstances where a further examination may be required are outlined below).

A period of six months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary changes. The examiners should be provided with the corrected thesis and a summary list of responses to their points from the candidate (if appropriate). Both examiners should confirm that they are satisfied with the changes before recommendations are made to the appropriate Board. If both examiners are content that the required corrections have been satisfactorily addressed, leave to supplicate may be granted without a further oral examination.

In cases where the examiners consider that they are unlikely to recommend leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters to the relevant Board, a viva examination must be held. The examiners should notify the Board of their intent to hold a viva. The same outcomes as for Outcome D below are available as a consequence of the viva.

Outcome D: That the candidate should undertake major corrections of the thesis, followed by a mandatory viva

If the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient potential merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make major corrections and be re-examined, they should report this preliminary recommendation to the Board with a description of the major corrections which they require the candidate to make before they confirm their recommendation.

Where the examiners make this recommendation, and the Board, considering the extent and nature of the major corrections, takes the view that the recommendation ought to be reference of the thesis back to the candidate, the Board may, exceptionally, ask the examiners to review their recommendation.

A period of six months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary changes. In advance of the re-examination, the examiners should be provided with the corrected thesis and a summary list of responses to their points from the candidate (if appropriate). Following re-examination, no further outcome of major corrections (either Outcome C or Outcome D) is permitted.

Outcome E: Reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters

This outcome should be selected if the Board considers it necessary to refer the student's thesis back in order that the student may present it for re-examination for the degree of Master of Letters.

The revised thesis must be submitted not later than 12 months after the candidate was notified of the outcome of the examination.

If the examiners recommend reference back of the student's thesis, they shall annex to their report to the Board a statement (for transmission to the candidate) setting out the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree of Master of Letters. In exceptional cases, if the examiners are unable to state how, within the time allowed, the thesis can be altered to reach the standard of a Master of Letters, they should make this statement and the relevant Board should be notified.

Following re-examination, no further outcome of reference back (this Outcome) is permitted.

Outcome F: That the candidate's application for leave to supplicate should be refused (fail)

The examiners may determine that the standard of the thesis is such that a candidate should be refused leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters. In such instances, the examiners should set out their reasons for reaching this conclusion within the report.

10. On receipt of the examiners' report the Board shall reach a decision on whether to accept the examiners' recommendation, provided that no candidate shall be given leave

to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters unless the examiners have made the statements required in clause 6 above.]

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time before Sunday of Week 1 of MT 2025:

~~6.11.~~ Having completed the examination of a candidate for the first time, the examiners may make recommendation (i) or (ii) below only. Having completed the examination of a candidate who has revised and re-submitted their thesis, the examiners may make any one of recommendations (i) to (iii). ~~[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019:~~ Where a candidate is required to revise and re-submit their thesis, the revised thesis and, where required, a report indicating the specific changes made must also be submitted via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application.]

The recommendations are:

(i) that the candidate should be granted leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters. In this case the examiners must include in their report statements that:

1. the candidate possesses a good general knowledge of the field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
2. that the candidate has shown competence in investigating the chosen topic;
3. that the candidate has made a worthwhile contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
4. that the thesis is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner;
5. that it merits of the award of the Degree of Master of Letters.

Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the extent of the candidate's contribution to knowledge or understanding of the relevant field of learning shall take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after two years of full-time study in the case of a full-time student, or twelve terms in the case of a part-time student.

If the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient merit for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections (which are not sufficiently substantial to justify reference back for re-examination), they must require the candidate to correct the thesis to their satisfaction before they submit their report. If the candidate has not completed these corrections within one calendar month of the date of the oral examination, their name shall be removed by the Registrar from the Register of Students for the Degree of Master of Letters, provided that the board may, on good cause shown by the candidate, grant an extension of time of one further calendar month in which the candidate may fulfil this requirement before the removal of their name from the Register. No subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their

thesis incorporating the required corrections should have been submitted to the relevant Board, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within six months of the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within that timeframe may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the notification of the outcome of the examination.

(ii) that the board should refer the thesis back to the student in order that the student may revise it for re-examination. If the examiners so recommend they shall annex to their report to the board a statement (for transmission to the student) setting out the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree. If the board adopts this recommendation the student shall retain the status and obligations of a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters, and may apply again for the appointment of examiners, in accordance with the procedure laid down in this subsection, not later than the third term after that in which the board gave permission so to reapply. If such permission shall have been given by a board during a vacation, it shall be deemed to have been given in the term preceding that vacation. On re-submission of the thesis, students should submit a separate report indicating the specific changes made. The word limit for the accompanying report shall be 1,000 words.

If the student is unable to apply again for the appointment of examiners within three terms, no subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required changes should have been submitted to the relevant Board along with a separate report indicating the specific changes made, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within twenty-four months of the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within that timeframe may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such

applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the notification of the outcome of the examination;

(iii) that the board should refuse the candidate's application for leave to supplicate.

7.12. In each case the examiners must embody in their report, in support of their recommendation, an account of the scope, character, and quality of the candidate's work.

8.13. On receipt of the examiners' report the board shall reach a decision on whether to accept the examiners' recommendation, provided that no candidate shall be given leave to supplicate unless the examiners have made the statements required in clause **611** (i) above. **1**

9.14. A candidate who has been granted leave to supplicate by a board must submit a finalised electronic copy of the thesis, as approved by the examiners, to the Oxford Research Archive in line with the requirements of the General Regulations governing Research Degrees. This copy must be submitted no later than the end of the fifth day before the date of the degree ceremony booked by the candidate for conferral of their degree. Permission to supplicate shall in all cases be conditional upon fulfilment of these requirements. No corrections, changes or additions of any kind shall be made to the thesis after the board has granted a candidate leave to supplicate.

10.15. In an exceptional case in which a board is unable to accept the examiners' recommendation, or in which the examiners cannot reach an agreed recommendation, the board shall have power to appoint one or two new examiners as it deems necessary, to conduct such further examination of the candidate as the board may require. This additional examination is a continuation of the examination process and the outcomes that were available to the original examiners, as defined in clause 8 above (clause 11 for students submitting before MT 2025) are available to the new examiners. The board shall make a report on any such case to the Education Committee.

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time before Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

~~11.~~ **16.** The board may exempt a candidate who is being re-examined under the provisions of clause **611** (ii) above from the oral examination, provided that the examiners are able to certify that they are satisfied, without examining the candidate orally, that they can recommend to the board in the terms required by clause **611** (i) above that ~~he or she~~ the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Letters. **1**

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

17. If the candidate has not completed the required corrections or amendments to the thesis within the timeframe specified, their name shall be removed by the Registrar from the Register of Students for the Degree of Master of Letters. It shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the

Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Letters. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required corrections should have been submitted to the relevant Board, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council by regulation should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid. In addition, those students who were required to make major corrections or whose thesis was referred back shall be required to submit a separate report, via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application, indicating the specific changes made.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within the timeframes given in the table below. In each case, the period should be calculated from the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

<u>Outcome of the examination</u>	<u>Time permitted for resubmission</u>	<u>Reinstatement permitted by the Board within</u>
<u>Minor corrections</u>	<u>2 months</u>	<u>6 months</u>
<u>Major corrections</u>	<u>6 months</u>	<u>12 months</u>
<u>Reference back</u>	<u>12 months</u>	<u>24 months</u>

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the timeframes given in the table above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the most recent notification of the outcome of the examination.]

~~12.~~ 18. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to notify the candidate of the board's decision as soon as may be. The Registrar shall also be responsible for publishing at the end of each academic year the names of those candidates to whom permission to supplicate has been granted during that year, together with a statement of the subject of the thesis written by each.

~~13.~~ 19. When, on the conclusion of the investigation of a complaint made by a candidate, the Proctors recommend that a candidate be re-examined, the board shall have power to hold a new examination.

8. Create new webpage and Part. All new text

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Letters: Part 7 Supervision, extension and suspension following examination

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

1. Following examination for the degree of Master of Letters, the right to further supervision will depend on the outcome of the examination. The outcome will also affect requests for extensions of time and suspensions from the Register of Students as outlined below.

Supervision

2. Candidates whose outcome is minor corrections should receive supervisory guidance on the changes required to facilitate a successful resubmission.

3. Candidates whose outcome is major corrections either with or without a mandatory viva (Outcome C or Outcome D) are entitled to supervision in accordance with Part 4 of this section.

4. Candidates who have received an outcome of reference back of the thesis (Outcome E) are entitled to supervision in accordance with Part 4 of this section.

Suspensions

5. Any period of suspension taken prior to first examination for the degree of Master of Letters (or Doctor of Philosophy where a student has (been) transferred to Master of Letters status following examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy) will not be counted against any period of suspension taken following examination. Any period of suspension taken as maternity, extended paternity or adoption leave, whether taken before or after examination for the degree of Master of Letters, will not be counted against the periods of suspension available following examination set out below.

6. Requests for suspension from candidates whose outcome is minor corrections (Outcome B) will be considered by Council's Education Committee

7. Candidates whose outcome is major corrections either with or without a mandatory viva (Outcome C or Outcome D) may submit a request to the Board for no less than four weeks and no more than twelve months of suspension. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may request further periods of suspension; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

8. Candidates who have received an outcome of reference back of the thesis (Outcome E) may submit a request to the Board for no less than four weeks and no more than twelve months of suspension. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may request further periods of suspension; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

Extensions of time

9. Candidates may only submit a request for an extension of time, following examination for the degree of Master of Letters, in exceptional circumstances; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

Submission of a revised thesis

10. Candidates who do not submit their revised thesis within the timeframe set out in Part 6, cl. 9., are no longer entitled to supervision except for any exceptional period of extension that has been approved by Council's Education Committee.]

Explanatory Notes

These changes to regulations support the implementation of revised outcomes for PGR students that were originally agreed by RDP in MT19 and which RDP has previously agreed should come into force for students submitting their PGR thesis for the first time in MT25 or later, i.e. theses submitted on or after Sunday 12 October 2025. These regulations cover submissions for DPhil, MSc(Res) and MLitt examinations.

The Research Degrees Management System Board has continued to have regular meetings about the project which includes the systems implementation of the revised outcomes for PGR students and is satisfied that the project will be able to deliver the necessary system updates to support the implementation of these regulation changes for students submitting from MT25.

The opportunity has also been taken to change the presentation of the regulations relating to PGR awards in the Examination Regulations so that they are easier to search and to link to. The model for presentation is that currently used for the [Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations](#) and introduced in 2024 for the [Regulations on Financial Matters](#). Each of the four current regulations relating to PGR awards will be split into eight or nine separate pages, with a separate page for each of the current sections which will be renamed Parts. In addition to minor changes to support the new regulatory structure, the regulations have been updated to remove

binary gender references and to reflect that there are now four rather than three reporting periods each year.

RDP(TT18)24/
RDP(MT19)19/
RDP(TT24)06/
009-RDP-24/10/21-P

Education Committee

Originally approved at the Research Degrees Panel meeting in Michaelmas term 2019 and reconfirmed at the week 2 meeting in Michaelmas term 2024

Name of Regulation

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research

Brief note about nature of change: Revised outcomes for MSc(Res) examinations; update of reporting requirements; reorganisation of regulations to improve ease of reference with associated minor edits; removal of binary gender references

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023* [2023-24, General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

From Michaelmas term 2024 with substantive changes to examination outcomes for students submitting their thesis for the first time from Michaelmas term 2025

Detail of change

Throughout, completely new text is underlined and deleted text struck through.

1. On the current page for the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research replace existing text with the following hyperlinked list

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 1 Degree of Master of Science by Research

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 2 Status

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 3 Admission of Candidates

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 4
Supervision of Students

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 5 Residence
and other Requirements

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 6
Examination

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 7
Supervision, extension and suspension following examination

2. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§1. Degree of Master of Science by Research~~

**General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 1
Degree of Master of Science by Research**

1. Any person who has been admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research and who has satisfied the conditions prescribed by ~~this decree~~ the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, may supplicate for the Degree of Master of Science.

2. The Education Committee shall have power to make and vary such regulations as may be necessary for carrying out the duties laid upon it and upon the Registrar by this section.

3. For the purpose of this section the words 'board', 'faculty board', 'board of the faculty' or 'divisional board' shall include any committee with powers to admit candidates for the Degree of Master of Science by Research.

4. A Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research who is not a graduate of the University may wear the same gown as that worn by Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

3. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§2. Status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research~~

**General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 2
Status**

1. The following may be admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research:

(i) a member of the University who, having held the status of Probationer Research Student under the provisions of the appropriate regulation, has successfully completed the relevant qualifying test for transfer to M.Sc. status prescribed in ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this section;

(ii) a member of the University who, holding the status of student for another higher degree within the University, has successfully completed the relevant qualifying test for transfer to M.Sc. status prescribed in ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this section.

2. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to keep a Register of those admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research.

3. A board may grant a student suspension from the Register or deprive a student of their status; and in such cases it shall at all times follow procedures determined by the Education Committee by regulation.

4. It shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should be paid. Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board provided that:

(i) no more than twenty-four months have passed since the student's name was removed from the Register; and

(ii) the number of terms the candidate spent with the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research did not exceed fifteen terms in the case of a full-time student, or eighteen terms in the case of a part-time student. (This limit includes any time spent with the status of Probationer Research Student or other relevant status before admission to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research.)

5. Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the provisions above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the candidate's name was on the Register of Students, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the candidate's department/faculty, supervisor and college.

4. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§3. Admission of Candidates to the Status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 3
Admission of Candidates

1. A candidate qualified under §2 Part 2 of this section may apply for admission as a Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research to the board under whose aegis the proposed subject of research falls. Such applications should be made through the Registrar, and must be accompanied by:

(i) a statement from the supervisor (where appropriate) that ~~he or she~~ they approves the proposed subject for a thesis and considers the candidate well fitted to undertake research;

(ii) a statement of the subject of the proposed thesis and details of the manner in which the candidate proposes to treat it;

(iii) a statement of support for the application from the candidate's society.

2. Applicants shall in addition be required to undertake such other tests and meet such other conditions as, subject to the approval of the Education Committee, a board may determine by regulation.

3. The board shall consider the candidate's application together with the material supplied in accordance with clauses 1 and 2 above. No application shall be granted unless the board is satisfied that the candidate is capable of carrying out research, that the subject of the thesis and the manner of its treatment proposed by the candidate are acceptable, that the subject is one which may profitably be pursued under the superintendence of the board, and that the board or department concerned is satisfied that it has adequate facilities to enable the research to be undertaken.

4. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to submit any application made under these provisions to the board concerned and to inform a candidate of the outcome as soon as may be.

5. A candidate who is admitted to the status of Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research shall be reckoned as having held that status from the time of admission to ~~his or her~~ their previous status, unless the board shall determine otherwise.

6. Any oral examination or interview which the board may require under cl.2 of this section shall be held in Oxford in a suitable university or college building, unless in exceptional circumstances the board concerned gives special permission for it to be held at some other place. Such permission shall only be granted where the candidate and the assessors have agreed in writing to the proposed arrangements.

7. In exceptional circumstances, application may be made to the relevant board for special permission to hold any oral examination or interview which the board may require under cl.2 of this section using audiovisual electronic communication. Special permission may be granted for any or all of the candidate and assessors to take part in the oral examination or interview using audiovisual electronic communication. The board concerned may approve the application where:

(i) it accepts that no alternative and timely arrangements may reasonably be put in place;

(ii) the proposed arrangements are acceptable to the assessors and to the candidate, all of whom have agreed to them in writing;

- (iii) it is content to bear the additional cost of the necessary arrangements;
- (iv) the oral examination or interview takes place according to the protocol approved by the Education Committee;
- (v) in the event of any technical or other problems, the validity of the process used to conduct the oral examination or interview and to determine the outcome will be decided by the Proctors.

5. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§4. Supervision of Students for the Degree of Master of Science by Research~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 4 Supervision of Students

1. Every candidate on admission as a Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research shall be placed by the board concerned under the supervision of a member of the University or other competent person selected by the board, and the board shall have power for sufficient reason to change the supervisor of any student or to arrange for joint supervision by more than one supervisor, if it deems it necessary.

2. It shall be the duty of a supervisor to direct and superintend the work of the student, to meet the student regularly, and to undertake such duties as shall be from time to time set out in Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee. The supervisor shall submit a report on the progress of the student to the board ~~three~~four times a year, and at any other time when the board so requests or the supervisor deems it expedient; and shall carry out such other duties as are set out in Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee. The supervisor shall communicate the contents of the report to the student on each occasion that a report is made, so that the student is aware of the supervisor's assessment of ~~his or her~~ their work during the period in question. In addition, the supervisor shall inform the board at once if ~~he or she is~~ they are of the opinion the student is unlikely to reach the standard required for the Master of Science by Research.

The Registrar shall send a copy of each report by the supervisor to the student's college and to the Director of Graduate Studies or other nominated person under the faculty board concerned.

3. It shall be the duty of every Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research to undertake such guided work as ~~his or her~~ their supervisor requests; to attend such meetings with ~~his or her~~ their supervisor as the latter reasonably arranges; and to fulfil any other requirements set out in Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee.

6. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§5. Residence and other Requirements for Students for the Degree of Master of Science by Research~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 5 Residence and other Requirements

1. A Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research shall, after admission for full-time study, keep statutory residence and pursue ~~his or her~~ their work at Oxford for at least three terms. Time spent outside Oxford during term as part of an academic programme approved by Council shall count towards residence for the purpose of this clause.

2. Any student who, after admission under ~~§3~~ Part 3 of this regulation, has kept statutory residence and studied at Oxford for a period of forty-two days, not necessarily consecutive, but falling within the same academic year, may apply to the board concerned for leave to reckon such period as one term towards the total required under the preceding clause. The board shall have power to grant such leave provided that:

(i) no day so reckoned which falls within any term shall also be reckoned for the purpose of keeping that term;

(ii) no student who has kept the Michaelmas, or the Hilary, or the Trinity Term shall be allowed to reckon in this manner any day that falls within the eight weeks beginning on the first day of Full Term in Michaelmas, or Hilary, or Trinity Term, as the case may be;

(iii) no student shall be allowed to reckon in this manner more than one such period in the same academic year;

(iv) no student shall be allowed to reckon more than three terms in the same academic year.

For the purposes of this clause, the academic year shall begin on the first day of Michaelmas Term and end on the day preceding the first day of Michaelmas Term in the following calendar year.

3. Applications for leave to reckon any period as a term under the provisions of the preceding clause shall be made to the board, through the Registrar, by the student's society.

4. Part-time students holding the status of Student for Degree of Master of Science by Research shall in each case be required to pursue their course of study for a minimum of six terms, subject to the provisions of ~~§3~~ Part 3, cl. 5. Part-time students shall not be required to keep statutory residence, but must attend for such instruction as the board or other relevant body shall require, subject to the approval of the Education Committee. No student may apply to the relevant board or other body for the appointment of examiners unless ~~his or her~~ their supervisor has certified that the student has fulfilled the requirements for part-time students laid down by the board or other relevant body.

5. For a student who changes from full-time to part-time study or vice-versa, the period of study will be calculated on the basis that each term of full-time study counts as 1 FTE, and each term of part-time study counts as 0.5 FTE, and the student must pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study for a minimum equivalent to three FTE terms.

6. Any student may, with the permission of the board, alter the subject of research approved by the board, provided that the conditions of suitability set out in §2 Part 2 above continue to be met. In such cases the date of the student's admission for all the purposes of this section shall remain unchanged, unless the board shall determine otherwise.

7. If a full-time Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research has held that status for nine terms, or a part-time student for fifteen terms but has been prevented by exceptional circumstances from completing ~~his or her~~ their thesis, the board shall have power to grant an extension of time for a period or periods not exceeding three terms in all for a full-time student, or three terms in all for a part-time student, to be determined by the board. Applications for such an extension of time shall be made through the Registrar not later than the term in which the student is due to apply for permission to supplicate.

8. A Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research shall cease to hold such status if:

(i) ~~he or she~~ they shall have been refused permission to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Science;

(ii) the board concerned shall, in accordance with provisions set down by regulation by the Education Committee, and after consultation with the student's society and supervisor, have deprived the student of such status;

(iii) ~~he or she~~ they shall have failed to complete ~~his or her~~ their thesis within nine terms for a full-time student, or fifteen terms for a part-time student, or within such further extension of time as may have been granted by the board concerned.

7. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§6. Examination of Students for the Degree of Master of Science by Research~~

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 6 Examination

1. Candidates who have fulfilled the applicable residence and other requirements set out in §5 Part 5 of this section, and whose status has not expired, may apply for the appointment of examiners and for leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Science by Research.

2. Applications for the appointment of examiners should be made to the board concerned through the Registrar. They shall include:

(i) a certificate from the supervisor that the candidate has pursued their course of study in Oxford in accordance with the provisions of §5 Part 5 of this section;

(ii) a statement by the candidate of what part, if any, of the thesis has already been accepted, or is being concurrently submitted for any degree or diploma or certificate or other qualification in this University or elsewhere;

(iii) a statement by the candidate that the thesis is their own work, except where otherwise indicated.

3. The supervisor shall consult with the candidate concerning possible examiners, and forward to the board the names of suggested examiners with details of any special considerations which the candidate wishes to make known about any potential examiners.

4. The student shall also submit for examination, at such time as the Education Committee shall by regulation require:

~~**[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time before MT 2019:**~~ (i) two printed or typewritten copies of a thesis;

~~(ii) two printed or typewritten copies of an abstract of the thesis, which shall not normally exceed 300 words.]~~

~~**[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019:**~~ (i) a digital pdf copy of their thesis via the Research Thesis Digital Submissions (RTDS) application.

~~(ii) an abstract of the thesis which should concisely summarise its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words. The abstract should be placed within the thesis, generally immediately following the Table of Contents.]~~

5. On receipt of an application for the appointment of examiners the board concerned shall appoint two examiners neither of whom shall be the candidate's supervisor, and whose duties shall be:

(i) to consider the thesis and the abstract of it submitted by the student under the provisions of the preceding clause, provided that they shall exclude from consideration in making their report any part of the thesis which has already been accepted, or is being concurrently submitted, for any degree or other qualification in this University or elsewhere and shall have the power to require the candidate to produce for their inspection the complete thesis so accepted or concurrently submitted;

(ii) to examine the student orally, and also, if they think fit, by a written examination, in the subject of the thesis and in other relevant subjects;

(iii) to report to the board through the Registrar;

~~**[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time before MT 2019:**~~ (iv) to return to the student the copies of the thesis and of the abstract thereof submitted for examination.]

~~**[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019:**~~ (iv) to delete all digital copies of the thesis and return to the student any soft-bound copies of the thesis received from Student Registry.]

The Education Committee shall have power to make regulations concerning the notice to be given of the oral examination and of the time and place at which it may be held.

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 of MT 2025:

6. In granting leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, the examiners must be satisfied, and include statements in their report that:

- (i) the student possesses a good general knowledge of the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
- (ii) that the candidate has shown competence in investigating the chosen topic;
- (iii) the student has made a worthwhile contribution in the particular field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
- (iv) the thesis is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner;
- (v) in their opinion the thesis merits the Degree of Master of Science by Research;
- (vi) the student has presented a satisfactory abstract of the thesis.

Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the extent of the candidate's contribution to knowledge or understanding of the relevant field of learning shall take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after two years of full-time study in the case of a full-time student, or twelve terms in the case of a part-time student.

7. The following are the permissible outcomes that the examiners may recommend having completed the examination. Certain outcomes are only permissible after a specified examination attempt. The examiners may recommend:

Outcome A. That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Science by Research without any further amendments to the thesis;

Outcome B. That the candidate be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Science by Research following minor corrections of the thesis;

Outcome C: That the candidate should make major corrections to the thesis;

Outcome D: That the candidate should make major corrections of the thesis, followed by a mandatory viva;

Outcome E: Reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Science by Research;

Outcome F: That the candidate's application for leave to supplicate should be refused (fail).

8. Having completed the examination of a candidate for the first time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A-E given in clause 7 above and described in detail in clause 9.

Having completed the examination of a candidate for a second time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A-F given in clause 7 above, subject to the previous decisions made, and described in detail in clause 9.

Having completed the examination of a candidate for a third time, the examiners may recommend any one of the Outcomes A, B, or F given in clause 7 above, as described in detail in clause 9.

Where a candidate is required to revise and re-submit their thesis, the revised thesis and, where required, a report indicating the specific changes made must be submitted via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application.

9. The recommendations available to the examiners are as follows. Further guidance including indicative criteria for all outcomes is available in the [Policy and Guidance on Research Degrees](#).

Outcome A: Leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Science by Research without any further amendments to the thesis.

In making this recommendation, the examiners must be satisfied, and include statements in their report, that the student fulfils the requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Science by Research as set out in clause 6 above.

Outcome B: Leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Science by Research following minor corrections

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections. The examiners must require the candidate to correct the thesis to their satisfaction before they submit their report.

A period of two months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary corrections.

Examiners may make a decision to require minor corrections without first recommending this to the relevant Board for approval. The examiners should agree between themselves which of them will consider and sign-off the corrected thesis.

In the unlikely event that an examiner is unhappy to sign-off the corrections and a student is unable or unwilling to make further corrections, the matter will be referred to the other examiner involved in the examination. If the examiners cannot agree on a course of action, the matter should be referred to the relevant Board for a decision. If the

Board determines that a student should make the corrections but they are unwilling or unable to do so, then leave to supplicate cannot be granted. Students who are unhappy with such a decision may submit an appeal or complaint if they meet the criteria for consideration as outlined in the respective procedures.

Outcome C: That the candidate should re-submit following major corrections to the thesis

This outcome should be chosen if the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient potential merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make major corrections. They should report this preliminary recommendation to the Board with a description of the major corrections which they require the candidate to make before the Board confirms its recommendation.

Where the examiners make this recommendation, and the Board, considering the extent and nature of the major corrections, takes the view that the recommendation ought to be reference of the thesis back to the candidate in order that the candidate may revise it for re-examination, the Board may, exceptionally, ask the examiners to review their recommendation.

Leave to supplicate following major corrections to the thesis will not normally require a further viva examination (circumstances where a further examination may be required are outlined below).

A period of six months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary changes. The examiners should be provided with the corrected thesis and a summary list of responses to their points from the candidate (if appropriate). Both examiners should confirm that they are satisfied with the changes before recommendations are made to the appropriate Board. If both examiners are content that the required corrections have been satisfactorily addressed, leave to supplicate may be granted without a further oral examination.

In cases where the examiners consider that they are unlikely to recommend leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Letters to the relevant Board, a viva examination must be held. The examiners should notify the Board of their intent to hold a viva. The same outcomes as for Outcome D below are available as a consequence of the viva.

Outcome D: That the candidate should undertake major corrections of the thesis, followed by a mandatory viva

If the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient potential merit to qualify for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make major corrections and be re-examined, they should report this preliminary recommendation to the Board with a description of the major corrections which they require the candidate to make before they confirm their recommendation.

Where the examiners make this recommendation, and the Board, considering the extent and nature of the major corrections, takes the view that the recommendation ought to be reference of the thesis back to the candidate, the Board may, exceptionally, ask the examiners to review their recommendation.

A period of six months will be available for a candidate to make the necessary changes. In advance of the re-examination, the examiners should be provided with the corrected thesis and a summary list of responses to their points from the candidate (if appropriate).

Following re-examination, no further outcome of major corrections (either Outcome C or Outcome D) is permitted.

Outcome E: Reference back of the thesis for further work followed by re-examination for the degree of Master of Science by Research

This outcome should be selected if the Board considers it necessary to refer the student's thesis back in order that the student may present it for re-examination for the degree of Master of Science by Research.

The revised thesis must be submitted not later than 12 months after the candidate was notified of the outcome of the examination.

If the examiners recommend reference back of the student's thesis, they shall annex to their report to the Board a statement (for transmission to the candidate) setting out the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree of Master of Science by Research. In exceptional cases, if the examiners are unable to state how, within the time allowed, the thesis can be altered to reach the standard of a Master of Science by Research, they should make this statement and the relevant Board should be notified.

Following re-examination, no further outcome of reference back (this Outcome) is permitted.

Outcome F: That the candidate's application for leave to supplicate should be refused (fail)

The examiners may determine that the standard of the thesis is such that a candidate should be refused leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Science by Research. In such instances, the examiners should set out their reasons for reaching this conclusion within the report.

10. On receipt of the examiners' report the Board shall reach a decision on whether to accept the examiners' recommendation, provided that no candidate shall be given leave to supplicate for the degree of Master of Science by Research unless the examiners have made the statements required in clause 6 above. 1

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time before Sunday of Week 1 of MT 2025:

6- 11. Having completed the examination of a candidate for the first time, the examiners may make recommendation (i) or (ii) below only. Having completed the examination of a candidate who has revised and re-submitted their thesis, the examiners may make any one of recommendations (i) to (iii). ~~**[For all students submitting their thesis for the first time from MT 2019:**~~ Where a candidate is required to revise and re-submit their thesis, the revised thesis and, where required, a report indicating the specific changes made must also be submitted via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application. **1**

The recommendations are:

(i) that the candidate should be granted leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Science by Research. In this case the examiners must include in their report statements that:

1. the candidate possesses a good general knowledge of the field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
2. that the candidate has shown competence in investigating the chosen topic;
3. that the candidate has made a worthwhile contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field of learning within which the subject of the thesis falls;
4. that the thesis is presented in a lucid and scholarly manner;
5. that it merits of the award of the Degree of Master of Science by Research.

Examiners shall bear in mind that their judgement of the extent of the candidate's contribution to knowledge or understanding of the relevant field of learning shall take into account what may reasonably be expected of a capable and diligent student after

two years of full-time study in the case of a full-time student, or twelve terms in the case of a part-time student.

If the examiners are satisfied that the candidate's thesis is of sufficient merit for the degree but consider, nevertheless, that before the thesis is deposited the candidate should make minor corrections (which are not sufficiently substantial to justify reference back for re-examination), they must require the candidate to correct the thesis to their satisfaction before they submit their report. If the candidate has not completed these corrections within one calendar month of the date of the oral examination, their name shall be removed by the Registrar from the Register of Students for the Degree of Master of Science by Research, provided that the board may, on good cause shown by the candidate, grant an extension of time of one further calendar month in which the candidate may fulfil this requirement before the removal of their name from the Register. No subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required corrections should have been submitted to the relevant Board, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within six months of the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within that timeframe may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the notification of the outcome of the examination;

(ii) that the board should refer the thesis back to the student in order that the student may revise it for re-examination. If the examiners so recommend they shall annexe to their report to the board a statement (for transmission to the student) setting out the respects in which the thesis falls below the standard required for the degree. If the board adopts this recommendation the student shall retain the status and obligations of a Student for the Degree of Master of Science, and may apply again for the appointment of examiners, in accordance with the procedure laid down in this subsection, not later than the third term after that in which the board gave permission so to reapply. If such permission shall have been given by a board during a vacation, it shall be deemed to have been given in the term preceding that vacation. On re-submission of the thesis, students should submit a separate report indicating the specific changes made. For students in the Medical Sciences Division and the Department for Continuing Education, the word limit for the accompanying report shall be 1,000 words; for students in the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division, the word limit shall be 2,000 words.

If the student is unable to apply again for the appointment of examiners within three terms, no subsequent extension shall be granted, but it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required changes should have been submitted to the relevant Board along with a separate report indicating the specific changes made, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within twenty-four months of the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within that timeframe may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the notification of the outcome of the examination;

(iii) that the board should refuse the candidate's application for leave to supplicate.

7.12. In each case the examiners must embody in their report, in support of their recommendation, an account of the scope, character, and quality of the candidate's work.

8.13. On receipt of the examiners' report the board shall reach a decision on whether to accept the examiners' recommendation, provided that no candidate shall be given leave to supplicate unless the examiners have made the statements required in clause **6-11** (i) above. **1**

9.14. A candidate who has been granted leave to supplicate by a board must submit a finalised electronic copy of the thesis, as approved by the examiners, to the Oxford Research Archive in line with the requirements of the General Regulations governing Research Degrees. This copy must be submitted no later than the end of the fifth day before the date of the degree ceremony booked by the candidate for conferral of their degree. Permission to supplicate shall in all cases be conditional upon fulfilment of these requirements. No corrections, changes or additions of any kind shall be made to the thesis after the board has granted a candidate leave to supplicate.

10.15. In an exceptional case in which a board is unable to accept the examiners' recommendation, or in which the examiners cannot reach an agreed recommendation, the board shall have power to appoint one or two new examiners as it deems necessary, to conduct such further examination of the candidate as the board may require. This additional examination is a continuation of the examination process and the outcomes that were available to the original examiners, as defined in clause 8 above (clause 11 for students submitting before MT 2025) are available to the new examiners. The board shall make a report on any such case to the Education Committee.

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time before Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

11. 16. The board may exempt a candidate who is being re-examined under the provisions of clause 6-11 (ii) above from the oral examination, provided that the examiners are able to certify that they are satisfied, without examining the candidate orally, that they can recommend to the board in the terms required by clause 6-11 (i) above that ~~he or she~~ they be given leave to supplicate for the Degree of Master of Science by Research. **1**

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

17. If the candidate has not completed the required corrections or amendments to the thesis within the timeframe specified, their name shall be removed by the Registrar from the Register of Students for the Degree of Master of Science by Research. It shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement as a Student for the Degree of Master of Science by Research. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, a copy of their thesis incorporating the required corrections should have been submitted to the relevant Board, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council by regulation should have been paid. Leave to supplicate shall not be granted until this fee has been paid. In addition, those students who were required to make major corrections or whose thesis was referred back shall be required to submit a separate report, via the Research Thesis Digital Submission (RTDS) application, indicating the specific changes made.

Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board within the timeframes given in the table below. In each case, the period should be calculated from the date the student was notified of the outcome of their examination.

<u>Outcome of the examination</u>	<u>Time permitted for resubmission</u>	<u>Reinstatement permitted by the Board within</u>
<u>Minor corrections</u>	<u>2 months</u>	<u>6 months</u>
<u>Major corrections</u>	<u>6 months</u>	<u>12 months</u>
<u>Reference back</u>	<u>12 months</u>	<u>24 months</u>

Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the timeframes given in the table above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the

requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the student was last examined, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college. Education Committee will not normally consider applications if sixty months or more have elapsed since the most recent notification of the outcome of the examination.]

~~12.~~ 18. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to notify the candidate of the board's decision as soon as may be. The Registrar shall also be responsible for publishing at the end of each academic year the names of those candidates to whom permission to supplicate has been granted during that year, together with a statement of the subject of the thesis written by each.

~~13.~~ 19. When, on the conclusion of the investigation of a complaint made by a candidate, the Proctors recommend that a candidate be re-examined, the board shall have power to hold a new examination.

8. Create new webpage and Part. All new text

General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Science by Research: Part 7 **Supervision, extension and suspension following examination**

[For students submitting their thesis for the first time on or after Sunday of Week 1 MT 2025:

1. Following examination for the degree of Master of Science by Research, the right to further supervision will depend on the outcome of the examination. The outcome will also affect requests for extensions of time and suspensions from the Register of Students as outlined below.

Supervision

2. Candidates whose outcome is minor corrections should receive supervisory guidance on the changes required to facilitate a successful resubmission.

3. Candidates whose outcome is major corrections either with or without a mandatory viva (Outcome C or Outcome D) are entitled to supervision in accordance with Part 4 above.

4. Candidates who have received an outcome of reference back of the thesis (Outcome E) are entitled to supervision in accordance with Part 4 above.

Suspensions

5. Any period of suspension taken prior to first examination for the degree of Master of Science by Research (or Doctor of Philosophy where a student has (been) transferred to Master of Science by Research status following examination for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy) will not be counted against any period of suspension taken following examination. Any period of suspension taken as maternity, extended paternity or adoption leave, whether taken before or after examination for the degree of Master of Science by Research, will not be counted against the periods of suspension available following examination set out below.

6. Requests for suspension from candidates whose outcome is minor corrections (Outcome B) will be considered by Council's Education Committee

7. Candidates whose outcome is major corrections either with or without a mandatory viva (Outcome C or Outcome D) may submit a request to the Board for no less than four weeks and no more than twelve months of suspension. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may request further periods of suspension; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

8. Candidates who have received an outcome of reference back of the thesis (Outcome E) may submit a request to the Board for no less than four weeks and no more than twelve months of suspension. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may request further periods of suspension; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

Extensions of time

9. Candidates may only submit a request for an extension of time, following examination for the degree of Master of Science by Research, in exceptional circumstances; such requests will be considered by Council's Education Committee.

Submission of a revised thesis

10. Candidates who do not submit their revised thesis within the timeframe set out in Part 6, cl. 9., are no longer entitled to supervision except for any exceptional period of extension that has been approved by Council's Education Committee.]

Explanatory Notes

These changes to regulations support the implementation of revised outcomes for PGR students that were originally agreed by RDP in MT19 and which RDP has previously agreed should come into force for students submitting their PGR thesis for the first time in MT25 or later, i.e. theses submitted on or after Sunday 12 October 2025. These regulations cover submissions for DPhil, MSc(Res) and MLitt examinations.

The Research Degrees Management System Board has continued to have regular meetings about the project which includes the systems implementation of the revised outcomes for PGR students and is satisfied that the project will be able to deliver the necessary system updates to support the implementation of these regulation changes for students submitting from MT25.

The opportunity has also been taken to change the presentation of the regulations relating to PGR awards in the Examination Regulations so that they are easier to search and to link to. The model for presentation is that currently used for the [Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations](#) and introduced in 2024 for the [Regulations on Financial Matters](#). Each of the four current regulations relating to PGR awards will be split into eight or nine separate pages, with a separate page for each of the current sections which will be renamed Parts. In addition to minor changes to support the new regulatory structure, the regulations have been updated to remove binary gender references and to reflect that there are now four rather than three reporting periods each year.

RDP(MT19)19/
RDP(TT24)06/
009-RDP-24/10/21-P

Education Committee

Approved at the Research Degrees Panel meeting in week 2 Michaelmas term 2024

Name of Regulation

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees

Brief note about nature of change: Update of reporting requirements; reorganisation of regulations to improve ease of reference with associated minor edits; removal of binary gender references

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2024* [2024-25, General Regulations Governing Research Degrees \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

From Michaelmas term 2024

Detail of change

Throughout, completely new text is underlined and deleted text struck through.

1. On the current page for the General Regulations Governing Research Degrees replace existing text with the following hyperlinked list

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 1 Probationer Research Students

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 2 Admission of Candidates as Probationer Research Students

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 3 Supervision of Probationer Research Students

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 4 Residence and other Requirements of Probationer Research Students

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 5 Register of Graduate Students

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 6 Students with Disabilities

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 7 Examination of Graduate Research Students

2. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations Governing Research Degrees, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§1. Probationer Research Students~~

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 1 Probationer Research Students

1. Any person intending to work for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Master of Science by **R**Research or of Doctor of Philosophy must apply in the first instance for admission as a Probationer Research Student, except as provided in the appropriate regulation.
2. The Education Committee shall have power to make and vary such regulations as may be necessary for carrying out the duties laid upon it and upon the Registrar by this section.
3. For the purposes of this section the words 'board', 'faculty board', 'board of the faculty' or 'divisional board' shall include any body with powers to admit students to the status of Probationer Research Student.
4. A Probationer Research Student who is not a graduate of the University may wear the same gown as that worn by Students for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

3. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations Governing Research Degrees, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§2. Admission of Candidates as Probationer Research Students~~

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 2 Admission of Candidates as Probationer Research Students

1. The board to which a prospective student's branch of study belongs may admit any person as a Probationer Research Student provided that the board is satisfied:
 - (1) that the candidate is well-fitted and well-qualified to conduct work for a research degree,
 - (2) that the branch of study proposed by the candidate is one which may profitably be pursued under the superintendence of the board,

(3) that supervision will be available, and

(4) that the faculty board or department under whose aegis the research is to be conducted has adequate facilities to enable the research to be undertaken.

2. Applications for admission shall be forwarded to the Registrar, according to such timetables as the Education Committee shall determine. The Registrar shall be responsible for transmitting the candidate's application to the faculty board or department concerned, together with a statement of the branch of study which the candidate intends to pursue, and such evidence of ~~his or her~~ their fitness to undertake the proposed study as may be required by the board or department.

3. No person shall be admitted as a Probationer Research Student unless ~~he or she~~ they are ~~is~~ also a member of a college, and unless the application for admission as a Probationer Research Student has the approval of ~~his or her~~ their college. The Registrar shall forward the application to the candidate's college or to the college to which the candidate wishes to apply for membership, as appropriate; and admission by the board shall be conditional upon admission by an approved society.

4. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to notify candidates of the decision of the board as soon as may be and to inform a candidate whose application has been approved by the board of the term from which ~~his or her~~ their admission as a Probationer Research Student is to be reckoned.

5. It shall be the duty of the Registrar to keep a Register of those admitted to the status of Probationer Research Student.

6. A board may grant a student suspension from the Register or deprive a student of their status; and in such cases it shall at all times follow procedures determined by the Education Committee by regulation.

7. Exceptionally, it shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement to the Register as a Probationer Research Student. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should be paid. Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board provided that:

(i) no more than twenty-four months have passed since the student's name was removed from the Register; and

(ii) the number of terms the candidate spent with the status of a Probationer Research Student did not exceed five terms in the case of a full-time student, or ten terms in the case of a part-time student.

8. In exceptional circumstances, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the provisions above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students as a Probationer Research Student. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the candidate's name was on the Register of

Students, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the student's department/faculty, supervisor and college.

4. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations Governing Research Degrees, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§3. Supervision of Probationer Research Students~~

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 3 Supervision of Probationer Research Students

1. Every candidate, on admission as a Probationer Research Student, shall be placed by the board concerned under the supervision of a member of the University or other competent person selected by the board, and the board shall have power for sufficient reason to change the supervisor of any student or to arrange for joint supervision by more than one supervisor, if it deems it necessary.

2. It shall be the duty of a supervisor to advise a student as to the courses of instruction and classes, if any, which ~~he or she~~ they should attend, and generally to direct and superintend the student's work. It shall also be the supervisor's duty to assist a student, when satisfied of ~~his or her~~ their competence, in the selection of a subject for ~~his or her~~ their thesis.

3. The supervisor shall submit a report on the progress of the student to the board ~~three~~ four times each year, and at any other time when the board so requests or the supervisor deems it expedient; and shall undertake such other duties as shall be from time to time set out in the relevant Policy and Guidance issued by the Education Committee. The supervisor shall communicate the contents of the report to the student on each occasion that a report is made, so that the student is aware of the supervisor's assessment of ~~his or her~~ their work during the period in question. In addition, the supervisor shall inform the board at once if ~~he or she~~ they are ~~is~~ of the opinion that a student is unlikely to reach the standard required for admission at least to the status of student for the Degree of Master of Letters or of Science.

The Registrar shall send a copy of each report by the supervisor to the student's college, and to the Director of Graduate Studies or other nominated person under the board concerned.

4. It shall be the duty of a Probationer Research Student to pursue any course of study preparatory to research recommended by ~~his or her~~ their supervisor, and in particular to attend such courses of instruction as the supervisor may advise or the board concerned may require. A board may award a certificate of graduate attainment at the end of the Trinity Term in the year of the student's admission as Probationer Research Student. Subject to the approval of the Education Committee, each board shall have power to determine by regulation what test or condition, if any, it may require before awarding such a certificate.

5. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations Governing Research Degrees, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§4. Residence and other Requirements of Probationer Research Students~~

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 4 Residence and other Requirements of Probationer Research Students

1. A full-time Probationer Research Student who has been admitted under the provisions of the preceding sub-section shall normally keep statutory residence and pursue ~~his or her~~ their course of study at Oxford during the period in which ~~he or she~~ they holds the status of Probationer Research Student. Time spent outside Oxford during term as part of an academic programme approved by Council shall count towards residence for the purpose of this clause.

2. A board may, on application from a candidate, and with the support of ~~his or her~~ their college and supervisor, grant dispensation from such residence in exceptional circumstances, on the grounds that it is necessary to the student's work that ~~he or she~~ they should be allowed to study at some other place than Oxford.

3. Part-time students holding the status of Probationer Research Student shall in each case be required to pursue their course of study for a minimum of four terms, and a maximum of eight terms. ~~(For students admitted before 1 October 2011, a minimum of six terms and maximum of twelve terms)~~, prior to an application for transfer of status, save that students who have completed the requirements for the Degrees of Master of Studies or Master of Science (by Coursework) by part-time study may, with the permission of the board or other relevant body, apply for transfer of status after three terms. Part-time students shall not be required to keep statutory residence, but must attend for such instruction as the board or other relevant body shall require, subject to the approval of the Education Committee. No student may apply to the relevant faculty board or other body for the appointment of examiners unless ~~his or her~~ their supervisor has certified that the student has fulfilled the requirements for part-time students laid down by the board or other relevant body.

4. Any student may, with the permission of the board, alter the subject of research approved by the board, provided that the conditions of suitability set out in ~~§2-Part 2~~, cl. 1 of this section continue to be met. In such cases the date of the student's admission for all the purposes of this section shall remain unchanged, unless the board shall determine otherwise.

~~For Probationer Research students admitted after 1 October 2011~~

5. A full-time student (other than students to whom cl.9 and 10 in this section may apply) may hold the status of Probationer Research Student for up to four terms and a part-time student for up to eight terms, including the term in which ~~he or she~~ they ~~was~~ were admitted.

6. A candidate whose first application for transfer to D.Phil. status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application, following the procedures laid down in clauses 1-4 above, and shall be granted an extension of time for one term if this is necessary for the purposes of making the application.

7. Subject to the approval of the student's college and the responsible divisional board or the CE Board as appropriate, and for good cause, a full-time student may be permitted to hold the status of PRS (prior to the first application for transfer of status) for a further one or two terms, and a part-time student for a further one to four terms. A first application for transfer of status must have been submitted and assessed within the six term limit of PRS status. Any application outside those limits (other than in clause 6 above) must be approved by or on behalf of Education Committee.

8. A Probationer Research Student (other than a student to whom cl. 9 and 10 in this section apply) shall cease to hold such status if:

(i)

(a) ~~he or she~~ they shall not have gained admission to another status within four terms of admission as a full-time student to the status of Probationer Research Student, or within eight terms for a part-time student, and

(b) ~~he or she~~ they ~~has~~ have not been given approval under clause 6 above to hold Probationer Research Student status for a further one or two terms as a full-time student or one to four terms as a part-time student;

(ii) ~~he or she~~ they ~~has~~ have failed to gain admission to either doctoral status or to the status of the applicable lower degree after the two transfer applications allowed under clause 7 above;

(iii) the board concerned shall in accordance with provisions set down in ~~section 5.2 below~~ Part 5 section 2 of this section, and after consultation with the student's college and supervisor, have deprived the student of such status.

9. For a full-time Probationer Research Student registered on a doctoral training programme listed in the special regulations for the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences and the Medical Sciences Division. Found in the 'Research Degrees in the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division' and 'Research Degrees in the Medical Sciences Division' sections, the maximum number of terms for which ~~he or she~~ they may hold that status is specified in the special regulations.

10. A Probationer Research Student registered on a Doctoral Training Centre Programme or the Doctoral Training Partnership Programme shall cease to hold such status if:

(i)

(a) ~~he or she~~ they shall not have gained admission to another status within the number of terms specified in the special regulations for that programme and

(b) ~~he or she~~ they ~~has~~ have not been given approval as specified in the special regulations or under clause 7 above to hold Probationer Research Student status for a further one or two terms as a full-time student or one to four terms as a part-time student;

(ii) ~~he or she~~ they ~~has~~ have failed to gain admission to either doctoral status or to the status of the applicable lower degree after the two transfer applications allowed under clause 7 above;

(iii) the board concerned shall in accordance with provisions set down in and after consultation with the student's college and supervisor, have deprived the student of such status.

6. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from the General Regulations Governing Research Degrees, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~55. Register of Graduate Students~~

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 5 Register of Graduate Students

1. Suspension of Graduate Research Students from the Register

1. If, for good cause, a student is temporarily unable to carry out ~~his or her~~ their research, the board concerned may grant him or her a request for a temporary suspension of status, for not less than one and not more than three terms at any one time. Applications for suspension of status should be made to the board concerned, c/o the relevant Graduate Studies Assistant; and should be accompanied by statements of support from a student's supervisor and society. No student may be granted more than six terms' suspension of status in this way by a board. No student may be granted any terms of retrospective suspension of status, including for the term in which they submit their thesis, after having submitted their thesis for examination.

2. A board may for sufficient reason, and after consultation with the student's supervisor and college, temporarily suspend ~~him or her~~ the student from the Register on its own initiative.

2. Removal of Graduate Research Students from the Register

1. A board which considers that it may be necessary to consider the removal of a student from the Register on academic grounds shall, except in cases requiring immediate action, follow the procedures for counselling and warnings set out in paras. 4-6.

2. A board shall not be required to follow the procedures for the removal of a graduate research student from the Register where a student ceases to hold the status of a student for a degree through failure to meet the requirements laid down in the decrees and regulations governing that degree. In particular where a student fails to achieve transfer within the prescribed time ~~his or her~~ their status automatically lapses, and ~~his or her~~ their name is removed from the Register.

3. A board shall not be required to follow the procedures for counselling and warnings set out below in cases of particular gravity and/or urgency or where it considers, for whatever reason, that immediate action is required, and in such circumstances a board may immediately notify the Education Committee as set out at paragraph 6 below and the matter will proceed as set out in that and subsequent paragraphs. In these circumstances, the board should indicate to the Education Committee why the procedures for counselling and warnings are not to be followed in that instance.

4.1. Subject to para. 3 above, wherever practicable, the formal procedures for the removal of a student from the Register should be preceded by private and informal counselling involving the student's supervisor and college, with the object of establishing the cause of any problem and advising appropriate remedial action.

4.2. If informal means are not effective in producing the necessary improvement, the student will be invited to a formal interview. Written notice of a formal interview should be given at least seven days before it takes place. Such notice will include an indication of the nature and purpose of the interview and the problem or problems that the interview is intended to address. The student will have the right to put ~~his or her~~ their case and to be accompanied by a friend. The formal interview will be conducted by the head of department or Director of Graduate Studies who on conclusion of the interview and if further action is considered necessary will issue either (a) a first formal warning, to be confirmed in writing to the student and to ~~his or her~~ their supervisor and society, setting out the reason for which it is given, and specifying a period of time for

improvement to be made (which period should in no case be less than one month or more than three months); or (b) a final warning as set out in 5 below.

4.3. If the student unreasonably fails to attend the formal interview, a formal warning in writing may be issued without interview, and the student shall be required to acknowledge receipt of the formal warning.

5.1. If the first formal warning issued under 4.2 above is not effective in producing the necessary improvement, the head of department or Director of Graduate Studies shall invite the student to a second formal interview. The procedure will be as for the first formal interview. At the conclusion of the interview the head of department or Director of Graduate Studies shall, if further action is required, issue a final warning, which shall be confirmed in writing to the student and to ~~his or her~~ their supervisor and society.

5.2. Where a final warning is issued under 4.2 or 5.1 above the warning itself and the written confirmation should make it clear that if the necessary improvement is not achieved within the specified period, the board may initiate action for the removal of the student from the Register of Graduate Students.

6. Where a final written warning is issued to a graduate student, a copy of the written warning shall be sent to the Education Committee. Where, following a final written warning, the necessary improvement is not achieved within the specified period and further action is indicated, the Education Committee shall be informed by the Secretary of the board concerned. A full report of the action taken by the board in relation to the student shall be made to the Proctors who shall decide whether further action should be taken and, if so, whether under the relevant disciplinary procedures of the University or under the board's power to remove a student from the Register of Graduate Students on academic grounds. The Proctors' ruling (which may include a decision that no further action is to be taken) shall be taken without reference to the Education Committee, and shall be final.

7.1. Where the Proctors determine that it is appropriate for the matter to be considered under the board's power to initiate action for the removal of a student from the Register of Graduate Students, the board shall seek the approval of the Chair of the Education Committee to undertake any such action. Where such approval is given, the board shall inform the student and the student's college and supervisor, in writing, with a minimum of seven days' notice, of its intention to consider the removal of the student from the Register, set out its reasons and invite comments. In particular the board shall inform the student of ~~his or her~~ their right under paragraph 7.3 to present ~~his or her~~ their case.

7.2. A board shall delegate the task of hearing the student's case to a panel comprising at least three of its members and shall set out the terms of reference to be followed by the panel. The board shall not appoint any member who has had a previous connection with the student or ~~his or her~~ their work.

7.3. The student may be accompanied by a friend and shall have the right to hear and to challenge any evidence presented to the panel. The student may present ~~his or her~~ their case in writing or orally, or both, as the student wishes, and the student's society and supervisor shall have the same rights. (All written evidence shall be circulated to the student, the student's supervisor, and the student's college not less than four days before the panel considers the case.) In conducting a hearing, the panel shall ensure that the student has every opportunity to hear and to challenge the case made out by the board for the removal of the student from the Register including any evidence (written or oral) which the panel will consider in reaching a conclusion. Where the

student fails to appear without good cause, the panel may proceed in the student's absence.

8. The panel shall then determine its decision as to whether the student's name shall, or shall not, be removed from the Register of Graduate Students. The decision shall be communicated to the student, college, and supervisor. The student shall also be advised in writing of the reasons for the decision and of ~~his or her~~ their rights of appeal. The board shall also inform the Education Committee of all cases where the board has decided to deprive a student of ~~his or her~~ their status.

9.1. A student or ~~his or her~~ their society may appeal in writing against the decision of the faculty board within fourteen days of the date of the letter from the board conveying its decision. The appeal shall be addressed to the Education Committee (c/o the Secretary, Education Committee, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD or edcapplications@admin.ox.ac.uk), which shall appoint a sub-committee to conduct a hearing of the student's appeal.

9.2. The sub-committee shall include a minimum of three members of the Education Committee, which shall appoint one of the chosen members as chair, with the power to cast an additional vote if necessary. The sub-committee may seek such legal advice as it believes to be necessary for the proper conduct of its duties, and shall have power to require any members of the University to assist it in the hearing.

9.3. The sub-committee shall give the board, the student, the student's college, and the student's supervisor, not less than seven days' notice in writing, of the date and time of the hearing, and shall give them the opportunity to make representations to the sub-committee orally and/or in writing. The student may be accompanied by a friend and shall have the right to hear and to challenge any evidence (written or oral) presented to the sub-committee; the student may present ~~his or her~~ their case in writing, or orally, or both, as the student wishes: the board, the student's college, and the student's supervisor shall have the same rights. (All written evidence shall be circulated to the faculty board, the student, the student's supervisor, and the student's college not less than four days before the sub-committee considers the case.)

9.4. At the conclusion of a hearing, the sub-committee shall have power to:

(i) confirm the board's decision to remove the student's name from the Register of Graduate Students;

(ii) uphold the student's appeal and direct that the student's name shall remain on the Register of Graduate Students;

(iii) impose such lesser penalty or requirement in place of the removal of the student's name from the Register of Graduate Students as it deems appropriate.

9.5. In reaching its decision, the sub-committee shall have regard to:

(a) whether the board correctly followed the required procedures, and, in the case of procedural irregularity or irregularities, whether any irregularity or irregularities were such as to have materially prejudiced the board's inquiry;

(b) whether the board's decision could reasonably have been reached on the evidence before it;

(c) any evidence presented to the sub-committee which was not available to the board's panel;

(d) any mitigating circumstances offered by or on behalf of the student;

(e) any other factors which in the opinion of the sub-committee are relevant to a fair consideration of the student's appeal.

9.6. The sub-committee shall communicate its decision to the student, to the student's society and supervisor, and to the board, in writing, within two months of the conclusion of any hearing. The decision of the sub-committee will be final, subject only to a complaint to the Proctors.

3. Reinstatement of Graduate Research Students to the Register

1. It shall be open to a candidate whose name has been removed from the Register of Students to apply to the Board for reinstatement to their former status on the Register. The application should have the support of their society and supervisor, and such reinstatement fee as may from time to time be prescribed by Council should be paid. Permission for reinstatement to the Register of Students may be granted by the Board provided that:

(i) no more than twenty-four months have passed since the student's name was removed from the Register; and

(ii) the number of terms the candidate spent on the Register of Students did not exceed the maximum number of terms allowed under the regulations governing that status.

The board shall determine the date from which any reinstatement granted under these provisions shall be effective.

2. Exceptionally, a candidate who is not able to apply for reinstatement within the provisions above may make an application to Council's Education Committee for reinstatement to the Register of Students. Such candidates must meet the requirements for reinstatement by the Board and in addition must provide a statement explaining why it is reasonable for Education Committee to permit their reinstatement and outlining the circumstances that have prevented earlier submission. For such applications, Education Committee will consider the length of time since the candidate's name was on the Register of Students, the seriousness of the causes for the delay, and the views of the candidate's department/faculty, supervisor and college.

7. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from General Regulations Governing Research Degrees, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§6. Students with Disabilities~~

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 6 Students with Disabilities

1. This part is concerned with candidates for research degree assessments who have a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal activities.

2. Candidates may apply for alternative arrangements where the impairment which they have significantly affects their ability to undertake the following assessments in the manner in which they are normally undertaken by candidates.
3. Research degree assessments are taken to include interviews, presentations, and oral examinations for Transfer of Status, Confirmation of Status, and the final oral examination for the degrees of M.Litt., M.Sc. by Research, and D.Phil.
4. Candidates may apply for alternative assessment arrangements to the appropriate Board in advance of, or at the same time as, submitting their application for assessment.
5. The relevant Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) will determine whether the arrangement is one that they can approve, or one that must be approved by the Proctors. The Proctors shall issue guidance periodically on the adjustments to assessments that the DGS may approve, and those that should be referred to the Proctors.
6. The application must be supported by evidence as set out on the application form. If the DGS is not satisfied that the evidence supports the request, the application must be forwarded to the Proctors for determination.
7. Decisions on applications shall be communicated to the department or faculty who shall be responsible for putting the approved arrangements into place.
8. Alternative assessment arrangements approved by the DGS or the Proctors under these regulations shall normally apply to all assessments for the duration of the candidate's course of study. It shall be the responsibility of the candidate to apply for any subsequent change to these arrangements which ~~he or she~~ they may wish, and to inform the DGS of any material change in ~~his or her~~ their circumstances which might affect the suitability of these arrangements.

Appeals

9. A candidate who is dissatisfied with any decision made by the Proctors under these regulations, may appeal against it in accordance with the following provisions.
10. An appeal must be made in writing within 14 days of the date of the Proctors' decision, addressed to the Chair of the Education Committee.
11. The appeal shall be determined expeditiously by the Chair or another member of the Committee, other than one of the Proctors, nominated by the Chair.

8. Create new webpage. Plain text indicates existing text from General Regulations Governing Research Degrees, underlined/struck through text indicates amendments to text.

~~§7. Regulations concerning the Examination of Graduate Research Students~~ **General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 7 Examination of Graduate Research Students**

1. Regulations governing the content and length of theses

(i) Material for transfer or submission

Material submitted for transfer to, or for the award of, the degrees of M.Litt., M.Sc. by Research, and D.Phil., shall be wholly or substantially the result of work undertaken while the student holds the status of Probationer Research Student or the status of a student for the degree concerned, except that a candidate may make application for a dispensation from this requirement to the Education Committee.

(ii) Prior publication

Prior publication of material arising from research undertaken while holding the status of Probationer Research Student or the status of a student for the M.Litt., M.Sc. by Research, or D.Phil., is fully acceptable, but the inclusion of published papers within a thesis may be subject to special regulation by the board concerned. Candidates should note that the acceptance of such material for publication does not of itself constitute proof that the work is of sufficient quality or significance to merit the award of the degree concerned. This remains a judgement of the relevant board on the recommendation of its examiners.

(iii) Thesis length

If a thesis exceeds the permitted length, the board concerned may decline to appoint examiners or to forward the thesis to examiners already appointed, and may return it to the candidate for revision. If the examiners find that a thesis which has been forwarded to them exceeds the permitted length, they should report the fact to the relevant board and await further instructions before proceeding with the examination.

2. Preparation and submission of theses for the Degrees of M.Litt., M.Sc. by Research, and D.Phil.

(i) Text and footnotes

Candidates should note that the purpose of these regulations is not only to ease the task of the examiners (which is obviously in the candidates' interests), but also to ensure that the copy finally deposited in the Bodleian or other university library is of a standard of legibility which will allow it (subject to applicable copyright rules) to be photocopied or microfilmed if required in future years.

The thesis must be word-processed with a margin of 3 to 3.5 cm on the left-hand edge of each page. The main text should be double-spaced with quotations and footnotes in single spacing. Double spacing should be taken to mean a distance of about 0.33 inch or 8 mm between successive lines of text. Text should be typed using an easily readable font, with a minimum font size of 11 pt. Footnotes should be font size 10 pt.

Footnotes should normally be placed at the bottom of each page. Where they are given at the end of each chapter or at the end of the thesis, a separate pdf of footnotes should be uploaded to the Research Digital Thesis Submissions (RTDS) application under "Additional Materials", for the convenience of the examiners.

Candidates should carefully note the regulations concerning word limits which individual boards have made. In such cases, candidates should state the approximate number of words in their thesis.

Theses must be submitted in English unless for exceptional reasons a board otherwise determines in the term in which the candidate is first admitted as a research student.

The thesis must have an abstract included (see vii below), and the pages of the thesis must be numbered.

(ii) Proof-reading

Work submitted for examination must be solely the work of the candidate, except where otherwise clearly indicated. It is not permitted for a student to ask or allow someone else to make material changes to their work, for example, by rewriting passages of text or rewriting formulae or code. Failure to adhere to these regulations could constitute a breach of academic integrity and contravene the Proctors' Disciplinary Regulations for Candidates in Examination.

Candidates are responsible for the proof-reading of their work. Proof-reading by a third party is acceptable provided it constitutes no more than advice on the following: spelling and punctuation, formatting, grammar and syntax. A third party may not be used to change the text of the thesis so as to clarify, develop or change the ideas and arguments, reduce the length of the thesis, provide help with referencing, correct information within the thesis, or translate the thesis into English.

(iii) Examiners' copies

At the time of their examination, candidates must submit a digital pdf copy of their thesis via RTDS. Additional materials (footnotes, appendices, image files, etc.) should be saved within a single zip file and uploaded at the same time. The thesis may be subject to scanning by text-matching software.

Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission must submit, together with the written portion of their thesis, documentation in appropriate form of the exhibition or portfolio of works to be examined. Wherever possible, this documentation should be contained within the written portion of the thesis but can be uploaded as a separate file under "Additional Materials" if necessary. Where this is not possible, two copies of additional items should be submitted to the Research Degrees Team, Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that their examiners have no difficulty in communicating with them. Any change in address or contact details since application for the appointment of examiners must be notified immediately to the Research Degrees Team (researchdegrees@admin.ox.ac.uk).

Examiners may request a soft-bound copy of the thesis from the Research Degrees Team.

(iv) Date of submission of examiners' copies

Candidates may submit the digital examination copy of their thesis, prepared as described above, at the same time as they apply for the appointment of their examiners. If they intend, however, to submit the examiners' copy at a later date, they will be required to state, at the time of their application for appointment of examiners, the date by which they will submit. This should be as soon as possible after the date of application and may in no case be later than the last day of the vacation immediately following the term in which application for the appointment of examiners has been made. In order for a thesis to be considered as having been submitted during a particular term, it must be submitted at the latest on the Saturday (in UK time) of the last week before the following Full Term.

(v) Library copies: binding and presentation

Once the board has granted a candidate leave to supplicate, they must submit an electronic version of their finalised thesis, as approved by the examiners, to the Oxford Research Archive. This should incorporate any corrections or amendments which the examiners may have requested of the candidate. The examiners must confirm in writing in their report to the board that any corrections required have been made. No corrections, changes or additions of any kind shall be made to the thesis after the board has granted a candidate leave to supplicate.

Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission must submit the written portion of their thesis electronically using the Oxford Research Archive together with documentation in appropriate form of their exhibition or portfolio of works.

Candidates should note that leave to supplicate is conditional upon receipt by the Oxford Research Archive of the electronic copy of this finalised thesis no later than by the end of the fifth day before the date of the degree ceremony booked by the candidate for conferral of their degree. Candidates may not proceed to take their degree until they have fulfilled this requirement.

Students who have been granted dispensation from consultation of their entire thesis (see (vi) below) should, in addition to the finalised copy of the thesis submitted to the Oxford Research Archive, submit a finalised hard copy of their thesis to the university by the means advertised on the University website for deposit in the relevant University library.

(vi) Dispensation from Consultation of Thesis (D.Phil, M.Litt. M.Sc. by Research)

A candidate may apply to the relevant board for dispensation from consultation of thesis for all or part(s) of the hard copy and/or digital version of their thesis if a good reason is presented. Applications should be submitted to the relevant board and should be supported by the student's supervisor. If dispensation from consultation is granted, access to the hard copy and/or digital thesis will be restricted from the date of deposit, and will not be made available for consultation until the approved end date.

In exceptional circumstances, a candidate's supervisor may apply to the relevant board for dispensation from consultation of thesis, or an extension to an existing dispensation from consultation. Every effort should first be made to consult the candidate on the proposed application. The board has the power to grant the supervisor's request provided it is satisfied that the request is appropriate and relevant.

(vii) Abstracts

The abstract of the thesis should concisely summarise its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words. It should be placed within the thesis, generally immediately following the Table of Contents. When the examination is completed, the abstract should be included in the library copy of their thesis.

It should be noted that some boards have made regulations requiring the submission of more detailed abstracts in addition to the general requirement of an abstract not normally exceeding 300 words.

3. Conduct of Oral Examinations for the Degrees of M.Litt., M.Sc. by Research, and D.Phil.

(i) The oral examination shall be held **at in** Oxford in a suitable university or college building, unless in exceptional circumstances the board concerned gives special permission for it to be held at some other place. Such permission shall only be granted

where the candidate and both the examiners have agreed in writing to the proposed arrangements. In the case of Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission, where it does not take place in the presence of the exhibition or portfolio of works, the candidate's supervisor must arrange for the examiners to view this part of the submission prior to the commencement of the oral examination. It shall, except in special circumstances, begin not earlier than 9 a.m. nor later than 5 p.m. and may be held in term or vacation.

(ii) The examination may be attended by any member of the University in academic dress. No person who is not a member of the University may attend it except with the consent of both examiners. The relevant board may decide (either at its own discretion or at the request of the candidate or the supervisor or department) to forbid the attendance of any person or all persons (other than the examiners and the candidate) or to impose any condition on attendance if and to the extent that such action is in their view necessary to protect the interests of the University or the candidate or both, and the examiners shall be informed accordingly and shall include this information in the notice of examination.

(iii) The place and time of the examination shall be fixed by the examiners, who shall be responsible for informing the candidate of the arrangements made. It shall be the duty of candidates to ensure that any letter addressed to them at their college or any other address which they have given is forwarded to them if necessary. The examiners shall allow reasonable time for receiving an acknowledgement from the candidate of their summons.

(iv) Except as provided in clause (v) below, the day shall be fixed by the examiners to suit their convenience. So that candidates may know what arrangements for absence from Oxford they may safely make, the examiners shall inform candidates within a reasonable time of the date fixed.

(v) Candidates may apply to the board concerned for the oral examination to be held not later than a certain date, provided that this date shall not be earlier than four weeks after the date on which the thesis was uploaded to the RTDS or after the date on which the examiners have formally agreed to act, whichever is the later. If the board is satisfied that there are special circumstances justifying this application, it will ask the examiners to make arrangements to enable the oral examination to be held within the period specified. In such cases the examiners, when invited to act, will be informed that the candidate has asked that the oral examination should be held not later than a certain date, and acceptance of the invitation to examine will be on the understanding that they would seek to meet this request. If it is not practicable to meet the student's request, then the board shall decide how to proceed.

If, for any reason, examiners wish to hold a viva within four weeks of receiving their copy of the thesis, a request should be sent to the relevant board which shall decide whether to grant it. The reasons for the request should be provided, along with an assurance that both examiners will have sufficient time to consider the thesis before the viva. The request shall only be granted where the candidate and both the examiners have agreed in writing to the proposed date of the viva. Requests for vivas to be held fewer than 14 days after receipt of the thesis by the examiners should only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances.

(vi) Notice of the examination shall be given in one of the following ways:

1. It may be published in the University Gazette not later than the day before it is due to take place;

2. Not later than two days before the examination the examiners may:

(a) inform the Submissions and Research Degrees Team in writing; and

(b) if the examination is to be held at a place other than the Examination Schools, post a notice at the place of the examination.

The notice shall state the name of the candidate, the subject of the thesis, the place, day, and hour of the examination, and the names of the examiners.

(vii) If, owing to illness or other urgent and unforeseen cause, an examiner is unable to attend the examination, it shall be postponed to a later date, provided that, if the Proctors are satisfied that postponement would be a serious hardship to the candidate, they may authorize another member of the board concerned to attend the examination as a substitute, but such substitute shall not be required to sign the report. The Proctors shall determine what payment, if any, the substitute examiner shall receive.

(viii) Candidates are strongly recommended to take a copy of their thesis to the examination. In the case of Fine Art candidates offering studio practice as part of their submission, where the oral examination is not taking place in the presence of the exhibition or portfolio of works, it is recommended they attend with the written portion of their thesis together with documentation of the work.

(ix) An oral examination shall normally be held in Oxford as prescribed in clause (i). In exceptional circumstances, application may be made to the relevant board for special permission to hold the examination using audiovisual electronic communication. Such circumstances will normally relate to the ability of the external examiner to take part in an Oxford-based oral examination, but in exceptional circumstances, special permission may be granted for any or all of the candidate and examiners to take part in the examination using audiovisual electronic communication. The board concerned may approve the application where:

(i) it accepts that no alternative and timely arrangements may reasonably be put in place;

(ii) the proposed arrangements are acceptable to both examiners and to the candidate, all of whom have agreed to them in writing;

(iii) it is content to bear the additional cost of the necessary arrangements;

(iv) the oral examination takes place according to the protocol approved by the Education Committee;

(v) in the event of any technical or other problems, the validity of the process used to conduct the oral examination and to determine the outcome will be decided by the Proctors.

Explanatory Notes

These changes to regulations support the implementation of revised outcomes for PGR students that were originally agreed by RDP in MT19 and which RDP has previously agreed should come into force for students submitting their PGR thesis for the first time in MT25 or later, i.e. theses

submitted on or after Sunday 12 October 2025. These regulations cover submissions for DPhil, MSc(Res) and MLitt examinations.

The Research Degrees Management System Board has continued to have regular meetings about the project which includes the systems implementation of the revised outcomes for PGR students and is satisfied that the project will be able to deliver the necessary system updates to support the implementation of these regulation changes for students submitting from MT25.

The opportunity has also been taken to change the presentation of the regulations relating to PGR awards in the Examination Regulations so that they are easier to search and to link to. The model for presentation is that currently used for the [Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations](#) and introduced in 2024 for the [Regulations on Financial Matters](#). Each of the four current regulations relating to PGR awards will be split into eight or nine separate pages, with a separate page for each of the current sections which will be renamed Parts. In addition to minor changes to support the new regulatory structure, the regulations have been updated to remove binary gender references and to reflect that there are now four rather than three reporting periods each year.

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Research Degrees Panel of Education Committee

Approved at the meeting of Research Degrees Panel on 3 June 2025

General Regulations Governing Research Degrees: Part 4 Residence and other Requirements of Probationer Research Students

Brief note about nature of change: Minor addition to regulations to clarify that part-time Probationer Research Students have twice as long as full-time students to complete Transfer of Status, and twice as long to complete any second attempt at Transfer of Status.

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations* 2024,

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=grgrdp4raoroprobresesstud&srchYear=2024&srchTerm=1&year=2024&term=1>

Effective date

For all students from Michaelmas term 2025 onwards

Detail of change

Amend cit. ref 1.6-1.7 as indicated, deleted text is ~~struck through~~; inserted text is underlined:

6. A candidate whose first application for transfer to D.Phil. status is not approved shall be permitted to make one further application, following the procedures laid down in clauses 1-4 above, ~~and shall be granted an extension of time for one term if~~ this is necessary for the purposes of making the application, a full-time candidate shall be granted an extension of time for one term, and a part-time candidate shall be granted an extension of time for up to two terms.

7. Subject to the approval of the student's college and the responsible divisional board or the CE Board as appropriate, and for good cause, a full-time student may be permitted to hold the status of PRS (prior to the first application for transfer of status) for a further one or two terms, and a part-time student for a further one to four terms. A first application for

transfer of status must have been submitted and assessed within the six term limit of PRS status for a full-time student, and within the twelve term limit of PRS status for a part-time student. Any application outside those limits (other than in clause 6 above) must be approved by or on behalf of Education Committee.

Explanatory Notes

At its meeting in Trinity term 2025, Research Degrees Panel agreed that minor revisions should be made to regulations to clarify that part-time postgraduate research students have twice as many terms of deferral of Transfer and Confirmation of Status as full-time students, and twice as long to submit a second attempt at Transfer or Confirmation if necessary. This is consistent with the fact that they have twice as long to complete Transfer, Confirmation and thesis submission.

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TDAP(HT24)21

Education Committee

Approved at the meeting of Taught Degrees and Awards Panel on 7 May 2024

Name of Regulation

Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations: Part 13 Mitigating Circumstances: Notices to Examiners

Brief note about nature of change: Change in process for MCE submission

Location of change

In *Examination Regulations 2023*, [2023-24, Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations: Part 13 Mitigating Circumstances: Notices to Examiners \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Effective date

From Michaelmas term 2024 for all students

Detail of change

Amend regulation as follows, deleted text struck through, new text underlined.

Mitigating Circumstances: Notices to Examiners

^{1,2}13.2. If a candidate considers that their performance in any part of a University Examination is likely to be or has been affected by circumstances of which the examiners have no knowledge, the candidate shall through ~~the Senior Tutor of their college~~ Student Self Service inform the Registrar of these mitigating circumstances. Where this information is received not later than noon on the day prior to the final meeting of the examiners for the relevant University Examination (where the overall outcome will be finalised) the Registrar shall pass this information on to the chair of the examiners.

Explanatory Notes

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Currently colleges must submit Mitigating Circumstances Notices (MCEs) on behalf of their students. The change means that students will now submit their own MCEs. The facility will still exist for submission by college if necessary.