

RDP(HT24)07a

**Research Degrees Panel of Education Committee**

**Approved at the meeting of Research Degrees Panel on 1 March 2024**

**General Regulations Governing Research Degrees**

**Brief note about nature of change:** Clarification that suspension of status is not possible after a student has submitted a research degree thesis

**Location of change**

In *Examination Regulations 2023*,

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

**Effective date**

For all students from Michaelmas term 2024 onwards

**Detail of change**

Amend section §5 (cit. ref. 1.46) as indicated, inserted text is underlined:

1. If, for good cause, a student is temporarily unable to carry out his or her 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.

**Explanatory Notes**

At its meeting in Hilary term 2024, Research Degrees Panel agreed that regulations should be revised to make clear that postgraduate research students cannot suspend study after they have submitted their thesis (and therefore cannot effectively withdraw their thesis submission via suspension for the term in which they submitted). Students

will still be able to use other processes (application for extension of time, or withdrawal with a future application for reinstatement to submit) if they are not ready to submit by their deadline.