



UNIVERSITY_{OF}
WINCHESTER

**ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH
PROGRAMMES**

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Applies to: <i>(Strikethrough text, only if appropriate)</i>	University of Winchester University of Winchester Services Limited <i>Note.</i> <i>This policy applies to all the organisations listed above, collectively known as the “University” or the “University of Winchester” for the purpose of this policy.</i>
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Summary/Description:	
This document defines the Academic Regulations for all Postgraduate Research programmes validated by the University of Winchester. <i>Note. this policy is underpinned by our commitment to promoting a university wide approach to health, safety and wellbeing and is supported by the principles of the University Mental Health Charter. Care has been taken to ensure that the policy is written compassionately, with consideration of the potential impact on staff and students.</i>	

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SECTION A INTRODUCTION

These Regulations are intended to be used as a primary source of information. Alongside the Regulations, the University operates a wide range of institutional policies and procedures. Key aspects of these policies and procedures are incorporated within the Regulations and reference is made there to the full policy or procedures, which can be found on the University's website under *Policies and Regulations*.

Section A1 Scope of the Regulations

- A1.1 The *Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Programmes*, referred to here as the 'Regulations', apply to all postgraduate research provision of the University of Winchester and to all students undertaking that provision unless specifically exempted by Senate or disallowed under accreditation agreements with Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRB). A full list of all postgraduate research awards is contained in Appendix 5.
- A1.2 The University reserves the right to withdraw programmes and to make changes in regulations, programmes, modules, fees etc., at any time before or after an applicant's admission. Admission to the University is subject to compliance with the University's registration and enrolment procedures and its Regulations.
- A1.3 The Regulations for each year shall be approved annually by Senate during the previous year.
- A1.4 The Regulations in force at any time shall be those for that academic year unless specified otherwise. When a student registers at the start of an academic year for a year of study or part way through an academic year, the student shall sign up for the Regulations for that academic year.
- A1.5 When a student resumes study after an interruption, the student shall undertake to abide by the Regulations and, where appropriate, the programme and module specifications in force at the time of resumption.
- A1.6 The Academic Regulations may be amended, through Postgraduate Research Education Committee and the Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures Committee, by authority of Senate.

Section A2 Exemptions from and Suspension of the Regulations

- A2.1 In exceptional circumstances, a programme or Faculty may seek an exemption from one or more of the Regulations, normally at the time of validation or review. Application to do so shall follow appropriate consultation with other programmes and subjects as required and must be made explicit at the time of validation or review and must be explicitly approved by Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures Committee. Where approval is secured, this must be made explicit in the Programme Specification or Programme Outline, as appropriate, and added to the list of Exemptions held by the Quality Office on the University Intranet.
- A2.2 In exceptional circumstances, and following appropriate consultation, a programme or Faculty may seek to obtain formal approval through Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures Committee to suspend temporarily one or more of the Regulations. Where approval is secured, students shall be explicitly notified before implementation. (An example of this might occur where a programme is running out or an external event prevents the normal procedures to apply).

SECTION B ENROLMENT, CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS AND ATTENDANCE

Section B1 Enrolment

- B1.1 All students shall enrol annually in accordance with procedures established by the Academic Registrar. Failure to re-enrol shall result in termination of registration.

- B1.2 Students starting an MPhil/PhD must enrol and register within 20 working days of the Induction (or if they miss this date, they must defer starting their studies until the next registration date).
- B1.3 A student shall not be permitted to enrol on more than one programme leading to a qualification at one time except with the special permission of the Academic Registrar. This includes registration at another higher education provider. Failure to disclose any information relevant to this regulation may result in disciplinary action being taken and termination of registration, particularly in cases involving fraud or academic misconduct.

Section B2 Contractual Obligations

- B2.1 All students undertake to abide by the Regulations of the University and the programme for which they have registered, as a condition of enrolment, and to be subject to the University's discipline while registered at the University.
- B2.2 The University is responsible for providing students with a functioning University email account and providing adequate support. All formal email communication between the University and students shall proceed through this account; this includes staff who are studying for a research degree at Winchester. Students shall, therefore, undertake to monitor communications at least once a week.
- B2.3 Should a student transfer to another programme and/or to another mode of study at the University, or withdraw temporarily or permanently from a programme, they shall obtain written approval in accordance with the University's procedures.
- B2.4 A student remains enrolled unless:
1. they have advised the University of their withdrawal by completing the approved *Withdrawal Form (Form U available from Intranet)* and submitting it to the Doctoral School (doctoralschool@winchester.ac.uk); or
 2. the University has terminated their registration.
- B2.5 A student shall ensure that their personal records, held by the University, always have the up-to-date residential address(es) and contact number(s) (available on My Record)
- B2.6 Students shall ensure appropriate engagement with their studies as defined by attendance in Section B3. Failure to do so may result in the registration of a student been withdrawn by the University (see section C.1.3).

Section B3 Attendance

- B3.1 Attendance refers to the University's expectations with regard to the way in which students engage with their research programme. The specific nature of attendance requirements varies depending on the nature of the programme, but general expectations are that students complete modules (where required), undertake training and other specified activities. Engagement is also determined by meeting regularly with their Director of Studies/Supervisory Team.

It is a joint responsibility of the supervisory team and the student to arrange these meetings. It is expected that the students will meet with their Director of Studies/Supervisory Team every 6-8 weeks for a full-time student and every 10-12 weeks for a part-time student. The student is expected to meet the whole supervisory team at least three times each academic year. Lack of engagement from a student as determined above will be subject to their registration being withdrawn by the University (also see section C.1.3).

- B3.2 A student is admitted to a Professional Doctorate programme on the basis of being actively engaged in a profession relevant to the award being sought.
- a) Part-time students are normally required to remain actively engaged in their professional practice during their studies and any change in their practice should be reported to the University. A change may, at the discretion of the Programme Leader (where students are taking taught modules) or the Postgraduate Research Student

Progress Committee (where students are completing the Thesis), lead to a requirement that studies interrupt their studies for a maximum of 12 months, depending on the circumstances of the change (see also Section C2: Interruption).

- b) Full-time students may be permitted to take a break from active engagement in the profession during part or all of their period of registration.

Section B4 Full-Time and Part-Time Modes of Attendance

B4.1 The following modes of attendance are available to students:

- a) Full-time (FT, normally an average of 35 hours per week)
- b) Part-time (PT, normally an average of 17 hours per week)

B4.2 A student is expected to continue in the same mode of study for which they originally registered. Students who wish to apply for to transfer between full-time and part-time study (or *vice versa*) must complete *Form Q: Changes to Mode of Study*. Changes in Mode of Study may only be approved once. If approved the minimum and maximum registration periods shall be adjusted according to paragraphs C1.2 and C1.9 below.

B4.3 FT students are permitted to undertake a certain amount of paid teaching or demonstrating work subject to the following conditions:

- a) the total demand on their time, including contact time and a reasonable allowance for preparation and marking, does not exceed 180 hours in any one year;
- b) the total demand on their time shall not normally exceed six hours in any week;
- c) the work is compatible with their programme of doctoral study;
- d) the approval of their Director of Studies;
- e) Students may not teach until their second year of their studies

(Further details may be found in the Employment of Full-Time PGR Students as Graduate Tutors: Approved Procedures)

B4.4 Research Assistants shall be registered part-time except that in special circumstances the Postgraduate Research Education Committee, on the recommendation of the Faculty Postgraduate Research Students Lead, may approve full-time registration.

Section B5 Supervision

All students studying for an MPhil or Doctoral award (including a Professional Doctorate at the thesis stage) shall be allocated a Supervisory Team of either two or three persons. One of them will act as a Director of Studies (DoS). For clarification on who may act as DoS consult the current *PGR Student and Supervisors Handbook*. The DoS will assume principal responsibility for the supervision of the student; the second supervisor may act independently of the Director of Studies, with both parties assuming responsibility for supervision up until the completion of the programme. The Director of Studies will also be responsible for agreeing the respective responsibilities and roles of the supervisory team and ensuring progress is reviewed at appropriate points in the academic year.

Supervisors are appointed by the Postgraduate Research Education Committee according to the criteria below:

- DoS who is an active researcher ([REF 2021 Annex C](#))
- The team (including DoS) has at least two supervisors, who themselves must hold the qualification that they are supervising
- One of whom meets the definition of active researcher ([REF 2021 Annex C](#)).
- One member of the supervisory team must have past the post unless it is a fully funded studentship in which case the DoS must have past the post.

Postgraduate Research Education Committee may permit the use of supervisors external to our University provided suitable expertise cannot be provided by the current supervisory body. Any external supervisor appointed must have completed any relevant staff development equivalent to that expected of members of staff at Winchester.

No person who is receiving supervision for a research degree at any Higher Education Institution may act as a supervisor.

Refer to the University's current *PGR Student and Supervisors Handbook* for further details.

SECTION C REGISTRATION PERIODS, INTERRUPTION AND REPEAT STUDY

Section C1 Registration Periods

C1.1 The period of registration shall date from the point of initial enrolment. The expected period of registration for a programme shall normally be the maximum period as defined below:

Programme	Minimum Period of Registration	Maximum Registration Period (submission of thesis to be completed within this period)	Post-viva period allowed for any amendments to thesis
MPhil – Full Time	1 year	1 Year	Up to 1 year
MPhil – Part Time	2 years	2 Years	Up to 1 year
PhD – Full Time	1 year	3 years	Up to 1 Year
PhD – Part Time	2 years	6 years	Up to 1 year
Professional Doctorate – Full time	1 year	Part 1 (taught modules) 18 months Part 2 (thesis) 18 months	Up to 1 year
Professional Doctorate – Part Time	2 years	Part 1 (taught modules) 3 years Part 2 (thesis) 3 years	Up to 1 year

C1.2 In exceptional circumstances, and for academic reasons only, a student may be permitted to submit a thesis earlier than the specified maximum period of registration, provided the minimum period has lapsed. In such a case, the request must be made by the Director of Studies to Postgraduate Research Student Progress Committee for approval.

C1.3 The maximum period of registration plus the post-viva period defines the period within which a student shall complete the requirements for the award. This shall not include any periods of interrupted study. 'Completion' is defined as the thesis having been examined, corrections made and approved, and the award confirmed by the Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee, on behalf of Senate

The University may terminate the registration of a student where a student is failing to make progress under the *Support to Study Procedures* or has not engaged/been inactive for more than three months for FT students and six months for PT students. If such a decision is made, an exit award may be conferred.

- C1.4 A Postgraduate Research student whose thesis is not submitted for examination by the end of the maximum period of registration shall be deemed to have failed and their registration shall be terminated. Where appropriate, an exit award may be conferred.
- C1.5 A student enrolled for the degree of MPhil/PhD may be permitted to submit for the degree of MPhil. However, the period of registration shall be adjusted for the degree to which the submission is made according to section C1.1
- C1.6 In exceptional circumstances students may apply for an extension on their period of registration. The period of extension that may be applied for and the necessary paperwork to be presented in the application is stipulated in the current PGR handbook. Students should discuss this with the Doctoral School before applying.
- C1.7 When a student's mode of study changes from full-time to part-time or *vice versa*, the maximum period of registration shall normally be amended according to section C1.1.¹
- C1.8 Where students change their programme, the number of years outstanding shall be amended according to the maximum permitted for the new programme.
- C1.9 Students on Professional Doctorate Programmes who apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for taught modules will have their period of registration reduced to reflect the number of credits recognised as prior learning.

Section C2 Interruption

- C2.1 Students who are unable to continue their programme due to Exceptional Circumstances may apply to interrupt their studies.
- C2.2 The period of the interruption of studies shall normally be up to one year and exceptionally up to a maximum of two years. Interruption for parental leave shall not normally be included in the maximum period of interruption. Interruptions start on the first day of any calendar month and students shall return to their studies on either 1 September, 1 January, or 1 May.
- C2.3 Students who are completing the taught modules for a Professional Doctoral programme shall complete the Interruption Form (Form R), available from the intranet or the Doctoral School. The form shall be submitted with evidence where appropriate to the Professional Doctorate Programme Leader for consideration. Interruptions are subject to a minimum period of two months.
- C2.4 Students who are studying for their Thesis and who wish to interrupt study shall complete and submit *Form R: Request for Interruption in Study* to the Doctoral School, this is subject to a minimum period of two months. The form and appropriate evidence if required shall be submitted to the Doctoral School for consideration by Postgraduate Research Student Progress Committee.
- C2.5 Once approved, the form shall be forwarded to the Doctoral School, in order for the details to be processed. Until the form has been received by the Doctoral School, a student shall remain enrolled for their current programme. Any incomplete modules will have an amended submission date which will be set once the student has returned to their studies.
- C2.6 Interruption of studies shall normally include interruption of supervision, access to IT and Library services etc. However, a student may apply to continue to receive these services when applying to interrupt their studies.
- C2.7 Shortly before the student is due to return to their studies, the Doctoral School shall contact them to confirm the date of return and any details, relating to their studies, that needs to be confirmed.
- C2.8 Where the reasons for interrupting study relate to medical or health issues, the University may require specific evidence to demonstrate that the issues have been addressed before

¹ Care needs to be taken when a student transfers between full-time and part-time or vice versa. Approval may only be granted if Registry has confirmed that the student will not exceed the full-time equivalent (FTE).

permitting the student to resume their studies. Such evidence shall normally be detailed at the point of interruption.

- C2.9 Students recommencing study following interruption shall re-enrol on the programme, if necessary, before they are permitted to continue. When students resume study, they shall sign up for the Regulations and the programme, subject, and module specifications in force at the time of resumption.
- C2.10 Students, who are permitted to interrupt their studies and subsequently find they are unable to resume their studies, must complete the *Withdrawal Form* (Form U available from the intranet).
- C2.11 Students who fail to contact the University to either arrange their return to study or discuss other options to retain their registration no later than 20 working days after their expected return date shall be deemed to have unofficially withdrawn and their registration shall normally be terminated with effect from their expected return date.

Section C3 Second Attempts at Assessments

For students starting their studies from September 2023 onwards

- C3.1 Students shall normally be permitted an automatic second attempt for all first failed attempts. All assessments for every module need to be passed in order to pass that module. All second attempts are capped at the minimum pass mark of 50% for level 7 assignments. The normal resubmission date will be two weeks for a full-time student and four weeks for a part-time student for all non-thesis modules.
- C3.2 Students are not permitted to apply to repeat a module.
- C3.3. If a student has Exceptional Circumstances that they wish to be taken into consideration with regard to C3.1 or C3.2 they shall apply by email with their evidence to the Doctoral School.

SECTION D PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND CREDITS

Full details of programme requirements may be found in the individual Programme Specifications for Professional Doctorates and Postgraduate Certificate in Research Skills and the Programme Outlines for MPhil/PhD (See appendix 6 for award and classification rules and credit framework summary for Postgraduate Research Degrees)

- D1 All aspects relating to a Postgraduate Research Programme shall be conducted in English, including interviews, upgrades/progression vivas, and *viva voce* and within the working hours of working days of the UK.
- D2 The MPhil and PhD consist of research training and supervision sessions leading to the production of a thesis in English which, depending on the nature of the discipline, may include the production of creative work or performance followed by a *viva voce*
- D3 Professional Doctorate programmes consist of modules (Level 7 or Level 8), a progression viva followed by the thesis submission and *viva voce*.
- D4 Every student shall take part in an individualised assessment of their research training and personal and professional developmental needs with their supervisor(s) at the start of their programme. Training needs shall be monitored and re-assessed on an annual basis as part of the annual progress reporting process.
- D5 PhD students shall also be required to take and pass the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Skills prior to submitting their thesis, unless they can provide evidence and/or documentation of equivalent experience and qualifications through the RPL process. MPhil students are required to complete the first two modules and will have the option to complete the certificate.

- D6 PhD students are normally required to register initially for the degree of MPhil (Refer to paragraph E2 below for details of the process for upgrading to a PhD).
- D7 In addition to meeting the Qualification Descriptors defined in *Appendix 4* of these Regulations, students are required to meet the following requirements for their intended award:

MPhil/PhD A thesis which must be submitted and defended at a viva voce

Professional Doctorates

Following completion of modules, a thesis which must be submitted and defended at a *viva voce*.

- D8 Students who exit a Professional Doctorate without completing a thesis may be considered for a Professional Masters award after completion of the required number of credits for each programme (See Appendix 6).

SECTION E PROGRESSION

Section E1 Annual Progress Review

- E1.1 Progress shall be reviewed annually for all students.
- E1.2 Progression for students undertaking taught or supported self-study modules shall be determined by a Faculty Progression and Award Board or the Doctoral School Exam Board (PGR Student Progress Committee) which shall meet at least one a year to confirm module results, progression and exit awards, as appropriate.
- E1.3 A student shall normally pass all modules for which they were registered in an academic year before being permitted to progress from one year to the subsequent year of study, except in the case of modules which cross academic years. This does not include MPhil/PhD students who are required to take and pass each Postgraduate Certificate in Research Skills module before applying for the next module
- E1.4 A Professional Doctorate student shall normally pass all taught modules and submit their *Form C (DProf Progression Viva and Registration of Thesis Title)* for examination and pass their Progression Viva before being permitted to undertake the writing of the thesis.
- E1.5 Students working on their MPhil/PhD/Professional Doctorate thesis shall be required to submit an *Annual Progress Report (Form D)* including an Action Plan (approved by their Supervisory Team), normally in May of each year with the following exceptions:
- Students who have submitted their thesis for their final examination.
 - Students who are on an interruption to studies who will be asked to complete the report when they resume their studies.
- E1.6 Students who wish to apply for an extension shall do so using the application for *Exceptional Circumstances Form* and submit it to the Doctoral School, together with written concessionary evidence of Exceptional Circumstances.
- E1.7 A Supervisory Team, which has concerns about a student's progress at any time, may request that a one-off review is undertaken and considered by the Chair of the PGR Student Progress Committee.
- E1.8 Where a student fails to meet attendance requirements for their research programme and/or demonstrates unsatisfactory progress (for example non-submission of the *Annual Progress Report Form* and Action Plan or failure in a), the Chair of the PGR Student Progress Committee or the Faculty Progression and Award Board (as appropriate) may require the student to:
- continue their studies for a defined period under the terms of an agreed action plan pending a further review; and/or

- b) transfer their registration to an alternative programme; or
- c) withdraw from the programme.

E1.9 Students shall not normally be permitted to progress to the next academic year of their programme, nor will they receive any academic award, unless they have paid at least 80% of their tuition fees and have an agreed payment plan in place for the balance (in accordance with the *Student Finance Regulations*).

E1.10 Any student required to withdraw under paragraph E1.8 above shall have the normal rights of appeal in accordance with the *Appeals Regulations*.

Section E2 Upgrade from MPhil to PhD

E2.1 Students wishing to upgrade from an MPhil to PhD should follow the *Upgrade Guidelines* and shall submit *Form G: Upgrade Arrangements* to the Postgraduate Research Education Committee and have taken and passed the relevant requirements of the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Skills. Once the Committee has approved the arrangements, the student shall:

- a) complete a written submission
- b) attend an Upgrade *Viva* at which they must successfully defend their research proposal.

E2.2 The Upgrade *Viva* shall be conducted by a Panel consisting of two appropriately qualified members of academic staff:

- a) an Independent Chair, who shall be appointed under the Procedure for the Appointment of Chairs for PGR *vivas* within the PGR Handbook.
- b) an External Assessor, who may be a member of staff at the University or external to the University but is not directly associated with the student's work. The External Assessor shall have a high level of subject knowledge, sufficient to impart a critical independent expert evaluation and shall have previous experience of postgraduate research examinations (as Chair or Examiner of at least three upgrades or *vivas*). In exceptional cases where the proposed External Assessor does not have the necessary experience, a second External Assessor may be appointed who does possess sufficient experience to ensure that, between them, the two Assessors shall meet the level of examining experience required. No person who is enrolled for a research degree may act as an assessor.
- c) Assessors are appointed for the full duration of the examination process, including periods of amendment, correction, revision and second attempts. In exceptional cases (such as approved Exceptional Circumstances or unavailability of an assessor) an assessor may be changed. Where the assessors cannot reach agreement on the recommendation, a new upgrade *viva voce* shall normally be arranged with new assessors.

Termination of appointments

If the University has cause to terminate an Assessor's contract before the end of the term of appointment, the Head of the Doctoral School or Director of Research and Innovation will write to the Assessor with an explanation of the reason(s).

In the event that an Assessor needs to terminate their contract before the end of the term of appointment, they should write to the Head of the Doctoral School or Director of Research and Innovation.

E2.3 Students may invite their supervisors to attend their *viva*.

- E2.4 Following the upgrade *viva voce*, the External Assessor(s) shall recommend one of the following courses of action:
- upgrade is recommended
 - upgrade is deferred pending submission of a revised written submission
 - the student be required to attend for a further Upgrade *viva* examination only
 - the student be required to submit a revised written submission and attend a further Upgrade *viva*
 - the Upgrade is not recommended, and no further submissions shall be attempted.
(This decision shall normally only be given following a second submission and/or *viva*).
- E2.5 Where a student is successful and transfers their registration, the date of initial registration for the postgraduate research programme continues to apply for the purposes of determining minimum and maximum registration periods.
- E2.6 Students are only permitted two attempts to apply to upgrade their research proposal to a PhD (definition of attempt is in Section G4.6.1).
- E2.7 The student has a right to appeal against the decision of the Panel in accordance with the *Appeals Regulations*.
- For further details of the upgrade process, requirements and documentation, please refer to the *PGR Student and Supervisors Handbook and the Upgrade Guidelines*.

Section E3 Progression from Taught Modules to the Thesis Module for a Professional Doctorate

- E3.1 Students wishing to continue their DProf after completing the taught modules shall submit *Form N Request for Approval of the Supervisory Team* as soon as possible after they start their final module and no later than the date of submission of their final assessment.
- E3.2 Once they have completed their taught modules, and the modules have been confirmed by an exam board the student shall work with their proposed Director of Studies to complete *Form C DProf Progression viva and registration of thesis*. Following submission of Form C, the student shall be invited to attend a Progression *Viva* at which they must successfully defend their research proposal.
- E3.3 The Progression *Viva* shall be conducted by a Panel of Assessors consisting of an independent Chair (normally the Faculty PGR Lead or their nominee, who is not directly associated with the student's work) and an External Assessor.
- The External Assessor shall have a high level of subject knowledge, sufficient to impart a critical independent expert evaluation and, shall have previous experience of postgraduate research examinations (as Chair or Examiner of at least three upgrades or *vivas*). In exceptional cases where the proposed External Assessor does not have the necessary experience, a second External Assessor may be appointed who does possess sufficient experience to ensure that, between them, the two Assessors shall meet the level of examining experience required. No person who is enrolled for a research degree may act as an assessor. The Director of Studies and proposed second/third supervisors may attend as observers if invited by the student
 - Assessors are appointed for the full duration of the examination process, including periods of amendment, correction, revision and second attempts. In exceptional cases (such as approved Exceptional Circumstances or unavailability of an assessor) an assessor may be changed. Where the assessors cannot reach agreement on the recommendation, a new Thesis progression *viva voce* shall normally be arranged with new assessors.

Termination of appointments

If the University has cause to terminate an Assessor's contract before the end of the term of appointment, the Head of the Doctoral School or Director of Research and Innovation will write to the Examiner with an explanation of the reason(s).

In the event that an Assessor needs to terminate their contract before the end of the term of appointment, they should write to the Head of the Doctoral School or Director of Research and Innovation.

E3.4 Following the Thesis Progression *Viva*, the Assessors shall recommend one of the following courses of action:

- a) progression to supervised study is recommended
- b) progression is deferred pending submission of a revised written submission only
- c) the student be required to attend a further Thesis Progression *Viva* only
- d) the student be required to submit a revised written submission and attend a further Thesis Progression *Viva*
- e) the progression to supervised study is not recommended and no further submissions shall be accepted. An exit award may be considered by the Faculty Exam and Progression Board. (This decision shall normally only be given following a second submission and/or *viva*).

E3.5 Where a student is successful in making the progression to supervised study, the date of initial registration for the postgraduate research programme continues to apply for the purposes of determining minimum and maximum registration periods.

E3.6 Students are normally only permitted two attempts to apply to make the progression to supervised study (an attempt is defined in G4.6.1)

E3.7 The student has a right to appeal against the decision of the Panel in accordance with the *Academic Appeals Regulations*.

For further details of the progression process and documentation, please refer to the *PGR Student and Supervisors Handbook*.

SECTION F ASSESSMENT

The regulations governing assessment for the taught Level 7 modules in the pre-Thesis stage of Professional Doctoral programmes are contained in the *Assessment Regulations*.

Academic English Standards: these are the standards of proficiency in English language (appropriate to the level and content of the course) by which academic writing or speaking will be assessed. Work should express the student's understanding, ideas and/or arguments clearly through adopting an appropriate tone and grammar and, in writing, using correct spelling, and punctuation. In addition, the student's work should be focused, concise, and follow a clear structure. Individual programmes may also require the student to adhere to subject-specific standards (such as those specified in PSRB requirements). Where this is the case, these will be communicated clearly to the student.

SECTION G THESIS REQUIREMENTS AND EXAMINATION

Section G1 Notice of Intention to Submit a Thesis

A student who is about to submit a thesis shall complete and submit *Form J: Intention to Submit and Exam Arrangements* at least four months' prior to submission and shall have completed and passed the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Skills unless exempt.

Section G2 Thesis Word Lengths

The word length may vary in accordance to the subject of study but the following ranges and maxima are offered as a guide, there is no minimum word count, but students must meet the criteria as outlined in Appendix 4.

G2.1 For students registered pre - 01 September 2021

Professional Doctorate	Thesis: maximum 60,000 words (bibliography not included in word count)
Master of Philosophy	Thesis: maximum of 50,000 words including bibliography
Doctor of Philosophy	Thesis: between 75,000 - 100,000 words including bibliography

Where students submit original, creative, or practical work in part fulfilment of the award requirements, the relative weighting of practical work and written thesis would normally be between 60% critical element: 40% creative element [60,000 words and 40,000 words] and 40% critical element: 60% creative element [40,000 words and 60,000 words]

For students registered from 01 September 2021

Professional Doctorate	Thesis: maximum 60,000
Master of Philosophy	Thesis: maximum of 40,000 words
Doctor of Philosophy	Thesis: 80,000 words excluding appendices

The word count includes: in text citations including footnotes and the abstract

The word count excludes: appendices, the bibliography/reference list (for students registered after 1 September 2021), words within tables, figures, diagrams and pictures, contents page

Where students submit original, creative, or practical work in part fulfilment of the award requirements, the relative weighting of practical work and written thesis would normally be between 50% critical element: 50% creative element [40,000 and 40,000 words] and 25% critical element: 75% creative element [20,000 and 60,000 words].

The weighting shall be agreed between the supervisory team and the student at the research proposal stage (for DProf programmes) or the upgrade *viva* (for PhD programmes).

G2.2 Permission to exceed the maximum word lengths listed above may only be approved by Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee on the recommendation of the Director of Studies. Students who exceed the stated limit without Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee's permission shall be required by the examiners to resubmit their thesis within the stipulated length.

G2.3 Post-*viva* amendments may on occasion result in exceeding these word counts for which permission is not required.

Section G3 Submission of Thesis

G3.1 Following completion of the necessary period of study, a thesis shall be submitted for examination in accordance with the *Thesis Presentation Guidelines*. The responsibility for the decision to submit is the student's and submission does not imply the endorsement of the Supervisory Team. If the student has submitted against the advice of the Supervisory Team, this shall be noted on *Form J Supplement Declaration for Final Thesis Submission*, which is submitted at the same time as thesis submission.

G3.2 Academic English Standards: these are the standards of proficiency in English language (appropriate to the level and content of the course) by which academic writing or speaking will be assessed. Work should express the student's understanding, ideas and/or arguments clearly through adopting an appropriate tone and grammar and, in writing, using correct spelling, and punctuation. In addition, the student's work should be focused, concise, and follow a clear structure. Individual programmes may also require the student to adhere to subject-specific standards (such as those specified in PSRB requirements). Where this is the case, these will be communicated clearly to the student.

G3.3 The submission of a thesis shall be made no later than the expected end date of the maximum period of registration, as defined in Section C1.1 above.

G3.4 Students who wish to apply for an extension to the deadline for submission of the thesis or performance of a practical assessment associated with the thesis must complete and submit *Form T: Extension to Period of Registration*. Such requests shall be submitted to the Postgraduate Research Education Committee.

Section G4 Thesis Examination

G4.1 For each student, normally one internal and one external examiner shall be appointed to examine the thesis; in exceptional cases, one additional external examiner shall be appointed, or in those cases where it is not possible to appoint an internal examiner with expertise on the subject matter. In the case of Professional Doctorates: at least one of these two examiners shall have relevant professional experience. Students that obtain short-term or casual employment in a different department or Faculty where they are based, can request to Postgraduate Research Education Committee to be examined as above when applying for upgrade and final *viva*. All University staff and students that obtain employment in the department and/or Faculty where they are based, shall normally have two external examiners appointed to examine the thesis, but no internal examiner. The examiners shall have a high level of subject knowledge, sufficient to impart a critical independent expert evaluation and, ideally, previous experience of postgraduate research examinations (as Chair or Examiner of at least three upgrades or *vivas*). No person who is enrolled for a research degree may act as an examiner.

Members of the supervisory team, and other researchers who have had a substantial involvement in the student's work such that there would be a conflict of interest, or a potential lack of objectivity may not be appointed as internal examiners.

G4.2 The thesis examination is a two-stage process where each stage counts as an attempt:

Stage 1 The appointed examiners will review the submitted thesis and make a provisional decision on whether the thesis is ready to be examined at a *viva voce*. Their provisional decision will be submitted to the Doctoral School at least five working days in advance of the *viva*. If both examiners agree that the thesis is not ready for *viva voce*, then the *viva voce* will be postponed. The student will be informed and normally allowed to re-submit their thesis within one year for a second attempt (see G4.6.1). In the event that the examiners do not agree on their provisional decision the *viva* will take place as planned. Submission of a thesis for examination is normally considered an attempt even if the examiners determine that the thesis is not ready for final *viva*.

Stage 2 The *viva voce* examination

G4.3 Students shall be required to attend a *viva voce* examination. In conducting the *viva voce* examination, arrangements shall be made to accommodate the requirements of students with reasonable adjustments. The length of the *viva voce* examination shall normally not exceed two hours, not including attendance at a practical element, where required.

G4.4 A suitably qualified academic member of staff from the University, with no connection to the project under examination, shall chair the *viva voce* examination.

G4.5 Members of the supervisory team shall attend the *viva voce* unless the student would prefer not to.

G4.6 Following the *viva voce*, the examiners shall recommend one of the following courses of action:

- a) that the degree for which the student has submitted a thesis be awarded (i.e., there are no corrections to be made to the thesis)
- b) that the degree for which the student has submitted a thesis be awarded subject to minor* amendments to the thesis normally within 1 month for a Part-time (PT) student and 10 working days for a Full-time (FT) student after the formal notification to the student

- c) that the degree for which the student has submitted a thesis be awarded, subject to the correction of modest** amendments, normally within 2 months for a PT student and 1 month for a FT student after the formal notification to the student
- d) that the degree for which the student has submitted a thesis be awarded, subject to the correction of major*** amendments, normally within 8 months for a PT student and 4 months for a FT student after the formal notification to the student.
- e) that the student be required to attend for a further *viva voce* examination
- f) that the student be permitted to submit a revised thesis for the same degree for re-examination on one subsequent occasion, normally within 12 months for a PT student and 6 months for a FT student after the formal notification to the student
- g) that, in the case only of a PhD student who has failed to satisfy the examiners, they may decide that the student may be awarded an MPhil, subject to:
 - I. minor amendments* to the thesis, normally within 1 month for a PT student and 10 working days for a FT student after the formal notification to the student
 - II. modest amendments** to the thesis, normally within 2 months for a PT student and 1 month for a FT student after the formal notification to the student
 - III. major amendments*** to the thesis being made, normally within 8 months for a PT student and 4 months for a FT student after the formal notification to the student.

In such circumstances, the examiners must include in their statement how the work shall meet the criteria for the award of the MPhil degree, and why it doesn't meet the criteria for a PhD.

- h) that the degree be not awarded, and that resubmission of the thesis be not permitted.²

***Minor amendments** may include typographical errors and minor presentation errors.

****Modest amendments** may include minor errors, typographical errors, occasional stylistic or grammatical flaws, corrections to references, addition or modification of one or two figures, and minor changes to layout and require no new research or revision.

*****Major amendments** may include omissions of substance and/or require limited further analysis or development but shall not affect the originality of the central thesis. They shall be of a scale to require certification by both the internal and external examiners, though normally not so extensive that a *viva voce* is required.

G4.6.1 Students are only permitted two attempts to pass. An attempt is defined as a submission of written work or attendance at a *viva*, which involves the participation of one or more examiners. Amendments are considered part of that attempt. If at any stage a submission including a student's defence (performance) at a *viva* does not meet the criteria to pass that will be considered a failed attempt.

G4.6.2 Examiners are appointed for the full duration of the examination process, including periods of amendment, correction, revision and second attempts. In exceptional cases, such as approved Exceptional Circumstances or unavailability of an examiner, an examiner may be changed.

Termination of appointments

² This action may be taken following an initial *viva voce* or a subsequent *viva voce*.

If the University has cause to terminate an Examiner's contract before the end of the term of appointment, Head of the Doctoral School or Director of Research and Innovation will write to the Examiner with an explanation of the reason(s).

In the event that an Examiner needs to terminate their contract before the end of the term of appointment, they should write to the Head of the Doctoral School or Director of Research and Innovation.

If an examiner is not available to review an amended thesis (e.g. retired or due to personal circumstances) then the Doctoral School shall appoint another examiner (usually internal) to review the amended thesis.

- G4.7 The student has a right to appeal against the decision of the Examiners in accordance with the *Appeals Regulations*.
- G4.8 Where the examiners cannot reach agreement on the recommendation, a new *viva voce* shall normally be arranged with new examiners.
- G4.9 Failure to attend a *viva voce* or practical assessment associated with a thesis, without good cause, shall result in a fail. Permission to attend a rescheduled *viva voce* or practical assessment shall be at the discretion of the Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee.
- G4.10 If a student is unable to attend a *viva voce* and/or practical assessment associated with a thesis, due to illness or other good cause, a medical certificate or other documentary evidence shall be submitted to the Doctoral School before the examination, where possible, or no later than 5 working days after the *viva voce*/practical assessment was due to be held. Where the evidence is accepted, the student shall normally be permitted to attend the *viva voce* and/or practical assessment again at a time to be confirmed by the Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee.
- G4.11 A student who fails to submit a corrected or revised thesis by the date set by the examiners shall normally be regarded as having failed the examination.
- G4.12 Extensions to the deadline for submission of corrections or an amended thesis may only be approved by the Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee. Such requests must be submitted to the Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee.

SECTION H AWARDS

Section H1 Conferment of Awards

- H1.1 The Faculty Progression and Award Board shall confirm the awards for exit awards for students who are unable or ineligible to continue their intended programme.
- H1.2 The Postgraduate Research Student Progress Committee shall confirm the awards for Professional Doctorates, MPhil, and PhD awards.
- H1.3 Students shall not be permitted to attend a Graduation Ceremony while in debt to the University (in accordance with the *Student Finance Regulations*).

Section H2 Posthumous Awards

- H2.1 Senate may exceptionally, on the recommendation of the PGR Student Progress Committee, approve the conferment of a posthumous award to a student who has died. Examiners or Assessors shall consider the work presented. The following cases may be considered for a posthumous award:
- a) Where a student dies following a successful upgrade from MPhil to PhD but before completion of the thesis or submission of *Form J*, Intention to Submit for Final *Viva*, an MPhil may be awarded.

- b) Where a student dies following the submission of *Form J, Intention to Submit for Final Viva*, the Director of Studies may request that the Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee accept the draft thesis, together with any relevant published work by the student, for examination.

H2.2 In considering whether to accept the work, the Postgraduate Research Students Progress Committee shall assure itself that the work available is of sufficient quality to demonstrate to examiners that the student had achieved the objectives of the research programme.

H2.3 If deemed appropriate for examination, the work shall be sent to the Examiners as allocated and they shall be asked to make a recommendation in accordance with the options listed in paragraph G4.6 above, as appropriate.

SECTION I AVAILABILITY OF THESES

Research work submitted for a postgraduate research degree shall be available in the University Library (if hard copy submitted) and electronically in the British Library and via the Electronic Repository, normally with no restriction on access. Restrictions on access may be requested against specific criteria as outlined in the University's Open Access Policy (Please refer to the *Guidance for PGR Students in respect of Open Access and the Data Repository*, available via the intranet pages of the Doctoral School for further information). Students may publish or otherwise perform or disseminate the whole part of their work prior to its submission as a thesis, provided that in the published work it is nowhere stated that it is in consideration for a higher degree.

SECTION J ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Suspected cases of academic misconduct (including plagiarism, ethical misconduct, cheating and other forms of unfair advantage) shall be dealt with under the University's *Academic Conduct and Standards Policy*.

SECTION K REVOCATION OF AWARD

The University may revoke an award made under these regulations in accordance with the relevant section on the Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes.

SECTION L APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

L1 Students have a right to appeal against the decision of either the Faculty Progression and Award Board or the PGR Student Progression Committee the Upgrade Viva Panel and the Examiners for the *Viva Voce*, in accordance with the *Appeals Regulations*.

L2 Students who wish to complain may do so in accordance with the *Student Complaints Policy*.

APPENDIX 1. DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

As a means of helping to ensure that the University's academic regulations are consistently interpreted and applied, the following definitions are used:

- 1.1 **'The University'** means the University of Winchester.
- 1.2 **'Senate'** is the senior academic body of the University
- 1.3 **'Postgraduate Research Education Committee'** (PGREC) is a Sub-Committee of Senate Research and Innovation Committee with delegated responsibility for all matters relating to the provision of Postgraduate Research Programmes.

- 1.5 **'Postgraduate Research Student Programme Committee'** (PSPC) which acts as an Exam Board for Postgraduate Research Programmes with delegated responsibility for ratifying marks and taking decisions regarding progression and the award of qualifications for postgraduate research programmes.
- 1.6 The **'Faculty Progression and Award Board'** is a Sub-Committee of Senate with delegated responsibility for ratifying marks and taking decisions regarding progression and the award of qualifications for taught programmes.
- 1.7 **'Programme'** means an approved course of study, which leads to an award from the University of Winchester. Postgraduate Research Programmes lead to awards at levels 7/8.
- 1.8 **'Student'** means a person who has enrolled at the University in accordance with section B1 for either the Preparation for Research Programme or a Postgraduate Research Programme.
- 1.9 **'Thesis'** means the dissertation or complete body of work, which may include creative practice, to be presented for examination for an MPhil or Doctoral award.
- 1.10 **'Examination'** means the submission and defence of the Thesis at a *viva voce*.
- 1.11 A **'Module'** is the basic component of a taught programme with a defined number of CATS credits and defined learning outcomes.
 - a) a Mandatory module must be taken by all students on a particular pathway/programme;
 - b) a Core module must be taken and passed by all students on a particular pathway/programme;
 - c) an Optional module may be taken by students on a particular pathway/programme.
- 1.12 **'Preparation for Research Programme'** is an up to a 12-month programme in which students prepare an MPhil/PhD proposal under supervision. Upon completion a student may apply for a PhD place.
- 1.13 **'Valid Exceptional Circumstances'** or **'Valid evidence of Exceptional Circumstances'** means approved; relevant Exceptional Circumstances
- 1.14 **RPL** means Recognition of Prior Learning and is a generic term for the process by which recognition may be given for past learning experiences.
- 1.15 **'CATS'** refers to the Credit Accumulation Transfer Scheme operating at the University in which modules have a national currency. All references to module credits in these Regulations refer to CATS credits, unless stated otherwise. The number of credits is based on the estimated notional learning hours (where one credit represents 10 notional hours of learning).

Level 7

Learning at this level shall display mastery of a complex and specialised area of knowledge and skills, employing advanced skills to conduct research, or advanced technical or professional activity, accepting accountability for related decision-making, including use of supervision.

Level 8

Learning at this level shall display creation and interpretation, construction and/or exposition of knowledge which extends the forefront of a discipline or professional practice, usually through original research, enabling students to conceptualise, design and implement projects for the generation of significant new knowledge and/or understanding and make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields and/or professional practice and take an innovative approach to tackling and solving problems.

- 1.16 **'ECTS'** refers to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System operating throughout Europe. ECTS is based on the principle that 60 credits measure the workload of a full-time student during one academic year. The University equates one ECTS credit to two CATS credits.

APPENDIX 2. ACADEMIC YEAR AND START DATE OF REGISTRATION

- 2.1 The academic year dates are published on the University website. Any variations to the Academic Year Calendar for a particular programme shall be approved by Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures Committee and be included in the Programme Specification.
- 2.2 The Academic Year Calendar is approved by the University Leadership Team and published by the Academic Registrar.
- 2.3 Students studying for an MPhil/PhD may register in September of each year
- 2.4 Professional Doctorate students normally shall register at the start of a semester.

APPENDIX 3. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, READMISSIONS, ADVANCED STANDING AND TRANSFERS

3.1 Entry Requirements

- 3.1.1 Students are admitted to the University at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor or other appropriate officer, on fulfilment of specified entry requirements for the purposes of following a specified programme normally leading to an award.
- 3.1.2 The general entry requirements are defined in the University's *Postgraduate Research Programmes Admissions Policy*. Programme-specific entry requirements for programmes including taught modules are defined in the relevant Programme Specification or Programme Outline.
- 3.1.3 All applications for an MPhil/PhD programme or progression to thesis for Professional Doctorate students are subject to confirmation by the University that satisfactory arrangements for supervision and arrangements for financial support for the student and facilities for the project (including the provision of any additional support strategies, specialist equipment or assistive technology required by disabled students) have been approved.

3.2 Re-Admission following termination of registration or exclusion

- 3.2.1. If the University has terminated a student's registration and an application for repeat study has been rejected or disallowed or the student has been excluded or expelled in accordance with the *Student Conduct and Disciplinary Policy*, a student may apply for re-admission under consideration of the Academic Registrar.
- 3.2.2 If readmitted, previous credit may be recognised and accredited.

3.3 Entry with Advanced Standing via RPL and Transfers

- 3.3.1 An applicant for a programme including taught modules may be permitted to enter with advanced standing and awarded credit for specified modules through RPL.
- 3.3.2 Internal transfers between programmes is not permitted
- 3.3.3 Applicants may be permitted to transfer from another University with or independent of their Director of Studies/Supervisor subject to the satisfactory provision of: an official release (including details of the duration of the student's previous research study), progress reports, confirmation and details of any upgrade from MPhil to PhD (as appropriate). Where this occurs, the minimum period of registration at the University must be at least 12 months full time or 24 months part time.
- 3.3.4 On transfer of registration, the registration for the original degree shall lapse.

APPENDIX 4. QUALIFICATION AND GRADE DESCRIPTORS

4.1 Descriptor for a Higher Education Qualification at Level 8

Doctoral degree graduates are required to meet this descriptor in full.

A Doctoral degree (level 8 qualification) is awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a) the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline, and merit publication and/or public performance and other public dissemination
- b) a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of creative or professional practice
- c) the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- d) a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

Typically, holders of the qualification shall be able to:

- a) make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- b) continue to undertake pure and/or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches.

And holders shall have:

- a) the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

4.2 Descriptor for a Higher Education Qualification at Level 7

Master's degree graduates are required to meet this descriptor in full.

A Master's degree (level 7 qualification), is awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- a) a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of creative or professional practice
- b) originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- c) conceptual understanding that enables the student to:
- d) evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline
- e) evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses
- f) a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

Typically, holders of the qualification shall be able to:

- a) deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- b) demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level
- c) continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

And holders shall have:

- a) the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - i) the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - ii) decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - iii) the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

4.3 Grade Descriptors for Marks achieved at Level 7

The grading descriptors that follow offer representations of achievement by marks from 100 to 0 are described in the *Assessment Regulations*.

4.4 Grade Descriptors for Level 8

Assessments at level 8 are graded pass/fail only and shall have no accompanying percentage mark.

Results shall be recorded as follows:

Ungraded Pass	UP
Fail	F

Programme Leaders may adopt specific criteria for individual assignments, as appropriate.

APPENDIX 5. LIST OF DEGREE TITLES AND THEIR ABBREVIATIONS

Programme	Award title on certificate
MPhil	Master of Philosophy *
ProfM	Professional Masters (in one of the following disciplines: Education, Business Administration)
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy *
EdD	Doctor of Education *
DBA	Doctor of Business Administration *
* followed by the title of the Thesis	

APPENDIX 6 AWARD AND CLASSIFICATION RULES AND CREDIT FRAMEWORK SUMMARY FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES

1. CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR POSTGRADUATE AWARDS

Where there is more than one Award Pattern for an award, eg A, B, C please refer to Section 2 below to confirm which pattern applies to which programme(s).

Award Code	Award Pattern	Level 7	Level 7 or 8	Level 8
PgCertA	Postgraduate Certificate A	60 credits		
PgCertB	Postgraduate Certificate B		60 credits	
PgCertC	Postgraduate Certificate C			60 credits
PgDipA	Postgraduate Diploma A	120 credits		
PgDipB	Postgraduate Diploma B		120 credits	
PgDipC	Postgraduate Diploma C			120 credits
MResA	Masters in Social Research in Education A	180 credits		
MResB	Masters in Social Research in Education B		180 credits	
ProfMA	Professional Masters A	160 credits		80 credits
ProfMB	Professional Masters B	120 credits		120 credits
ProfMC	Professional Masters C			240 credits
ProfDA	Professional Doctorate A	160 credits		380 credits
ProfDB	Professional Doctorate B	120 credits		420 credits
ProfDC	Professional Doctorate C			540 credits

The following awards have no credit load so are excluded from these Award Rules:

MPhil
PhD

2 AWARD CALCULATION AND CLASSIFICATION PATTERNS

Where there is more than one award pattern (e.g., PGCert A – C), the table below lists which programme(s) use which calculation method.

Where there is only one award pattern listed, all programmes offering that award as a terminal or exit award will use the same calculation and classification pattern.

Code	Award Calculation Method	Classification(s)	Applicable to these Award Patterns
PgCertA	Weighted average of the best 60 credits at level 7	Distinction Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 70% or above Merit Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 60% or above	Postgraduate Certificate A
PgCertB	Weighted average of all level 7 modules up to a maximum of 30 credits. 30 credits at L8	Distinction Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 70% or above Merit Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 60% or above No award classification for credits at Level 8	Postgraduate Certificate B
PgCertC	60 credits at L8	No award classification	Postgraduate Certificate C
PgDipA	Weighted average of 120 credits at level 7	Distinction Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 70% or above Merit Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 60% or above	Postgraduate Diploma A
PgDipB	Weighted average of all level 7 modules up to a maximum of 90 credits. Minimum 30 credits at L8	Distinction Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 70% or above Merit Weighted average mark for level 7 modules is 60% or above No award classification for credits at Level 8	Postgraduate Diploma B
PgDipC	120 credits at L8	No award classification	Postgraduate Diploma C
ProfM	240 credits at L7/8	No award classification	Professional Masters A, B and C
ProfD	540 credits at L7/8	No award classification	Professional Doctorate A, B and C

Equality Impact Assessment	
Summary of process undertaken to determine equality impacts:	To ensure that inclusivity and accessibility are effective. Demonstrating that the Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Programmes do not offer any unfair advantage to anyone that is perceived to have a protected characteristic as defined by the Equalities Act 2010.
University Committee (name/ date) where equality impacts discussed (may be Committee of approval, or another):	Postgraduate Research Education Committee, Academic Regulations, Policies & Procedures Committee and Senate
Identified equality impact(s) on colleagues and students (i.e. any specific impacts related to this policy that may cause disadvantage for people due to one or more particular protective characteristic)	
Protected Characteristic	Impact(s) identified and any action(s)/mitigation(s) to address these impact(s), as necessary.
Age	No impacts identified.
Disability	No impacts identified.
Gender Identity	No impacts identified.
Marriage/Civil Partnership	No impacts identified.
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impacts identified.
Race (incl. nationality)	No impacts identified.
Religion and Belief	No impacts identified.
Sex	No impacts identified.
Sexual Orientation	No impacts identified.