

What criteria is the thesis examined against?

According to the [Research Degree regulations](#):

- For the degree of MPhil, the thesis *'will be a record either of original work or of an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge and provide evidence that the field has been surveyed thoroughly'*
- For the degree of PhD, the thesis *'will form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power'*

To be awarded, the examiners are asked to consider the thesis against the following criteria

The thesis must:

- genuinely be the work of the candidate
- form a distinct contribution to knowledge of the subject
- afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power
- be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument
- give a critical assessment of the relevant literature
- describe the method of research and its findings
- include discussion of those findings and how they advance the study of the subject
- demonstrate a deep and comprehensive understanding of the field of study and the capacity for objective judgement in complex situations
- be satisfactory as regards literary presentation
- include a full bibliography and references
- demonstrate research skills relevant to the thesis
- be of a standard to merit publication in whole, in part or in a revised form
- be of an appropriate length for the discipline/subject