

RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS

SUMMARY OF REGULATORY AMENDMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR

2022/23

The wording in bold reflects the amended wording.

| Section number | Relevant paragraph(s) | Page (s) |
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| Section 5 (2) | <p><i>Section 5 (2) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to incorporate placements as a valid reason for a student to apply for an interruption of studies.</i></p> <p>5. Interruption of studies</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) The period of study shall normally be continuous.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) The Senior Vice-Principal (Academic Strategy and Research) or nominee may permit a student to interrupt his/her studies for up to 24 months on financial, medical or personal grounds on the recommendation of the student's Head(s) of School or an authorised deputy. The College will not normally approve a period of interruption of studies during the writing up year. Interruptions at this stage will only normally be permitted for placements, or long-term and very serious extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from undertaking any research at all.</p> | 5 |
| Section 12 (4) | <p><i>Section 12 (4) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to ensure that External Examiners will not have held any visiting roles at the College within a period of at least three years.</i></p> <p>(4) Two examiners, or exceptionally three if the School Director of PGR Education determines that the scope of the thesis is such that it cannot be examined adequately by two individuals, will be appointed to act jointly for each student as follows.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) at least one of the examiners will be external to Royal Holloway when the nomination is made, meaning that s/he must not have been a member of staff, a visiting lecturer, a visiting professor or emeritus professor at Royal Holloway for a period of at least three years.</p> | 11 |
| Section 12 (5) | <p><i>Section 12 (5) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to acknowledge that some internal examiners may have had at some previous contact with supervisors, but independence should be sought as far as possible.</i></p> <p>(5) The aim of the appointment process is to appoint examiners who will be able, and be seen to be able, to make a fair and independent assessment of the student and his/her thesis and to ensure the good standing of University of London Research Degrees through the consistent application of appropriate academic standards. To this end:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) the examiners will be of sufficient authority in the discipline to command the respect of the wider academic community and familiar with current standards and procedures of Research Degrees in the UK;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) the examiners will be experts in the field of the thesis; whilst it is accepted that each examiner individually may not have expertise in all parts of the precise topic, the examiners together should be able to cover all aspects of the work to be presented by the student;</p> | 12 |

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| | <p>(c) the examiners will be able to make an independent assessment of the student and will not therefore have played an active role previously in assessing the student's academic progress on the course of study or have had any other involvement with the student or supervisor which might reasonably lead to an allegation of bias; although it is acknowledged that while internal examiners may have had contact with supervisors, independence of internal examiners should be sought as far as feasibly possible.</p> | |
| Section 16 (2) | <p><i>Section 16 (2) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to state that the independent chair is required to have experience of conducting at least two, rather than three, Research Degree viva voce examinations as an examiner.</i></p> <p>16. Conduct of the MPhil and PhD final examination</p> <p>(1) The final examination for the MPhil and PhD Degree will be based on a thesis submitted by the student and an oral examination, which in all cases will be conducted in English. The examiners may additionally require the student to undertake practical and/or written examinations on the subject of the thesis and/or other relevant subjects at times and places determined by the College</p> <p>(2) Each oral examination must have an independent chair and be recorded. The recording will be kept by the Doctoral School until the student is awarded or discontinues their studies, after which time it will normally be destroyed. The recording will only be listened to in the event of an academic appeal or complaint, and only by those involved with investigating the appeal or complaint. The independent chair's role will be to act as an observer and to ensure that the procedures are followed. S/he will not be directly involved with examining the thesis. The independent chair will normally be a member of the academic staff, but not the Head of School, who has had no involvement with the student's course of study. It is expected that the independent chair will normally have had experience of conducting at least two Research Degree viva voce examinations as an examiner.</p> | 19 |
| Appendix 1 | <p><i>Clarification has been provided with regard to the repeated use of External Examiners to examine Masters by Research student dissertations.</i></p> <p><u>7. Nomination of External Examiners</u> External examiners for the Masters by Research dissertation will be nominated in line with Section 12 (1) of the Research Degree Regulations. However, in some circumstances the same examiner may be nominated on more than one occasion where it is not practical to find a suitable alternative examiner.</p> | 35 |