

## RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS

### SUMMARY OF REGULATORY AMENDMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR

2024/25

*The wording in bold reflects the amended wording.*

Section number	Relevant paragraph(s)	Page (s)
Section 13 (18) and (19)	<p><i>Section 13 (18) and (19) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to provide an additional format for submitting the MPhil and PhD thesis.</i></p> <p>13 Requirements of the MPhil and PhD theses</p> <p>(18) The thesis must be presented in accordance with <del>either</del> <b>one</b> of the following formats:</p> <p>(a) The thesis will be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument. Research work already published, or submitted for publication, at the time of submission of the thesis, either by the student alone or jointly with others, may be integrated into the body of the thesis in a suitably adapted form. Any publications derived from the work in the thesis may also be bound as supplementary material at the back of the thesis.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i></p> <p>(b) Students wishing to present a thesis in a format other than a monograph, for example as papers (including book chapters, journal articles, or conference proceedings) may do so with the permission of their supervisor. This must normally be confirmed at the time of the upgrade review. The thesis should include the following:</p> <p>(i) <i>Either</i> a short introduction which provides the context of the research, the rationale for the investigation, and the strategy employed during the research at the start of the thesis, together with a critical evaluation of the work presented in the thesis located at the end of the thesis; <i>or</i> a longer introductory section which includes the introduction as defined in section 13, paragraph 18 (b) (i) <i>and</i> the critical evaluation, at the start of the thesis. In either instance the critical evaluation, should be a maximum of 15,000 words.</p> <p>(ii) A detailed methodology section which describes the methods employed during the research with a detailed critical analysis of those methods making reference to the main thesis content derived from those methods. This should be a maximum of 8,000 words.</p> <p>(iii) a summary and conclusion which draws together, with the critical evaluation, the various outcomes of the work into a coherent synthesis and indicates directions for future work.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Or</i></p>	21-22

	<p>(c) Where students throughout their programme have produced significant work alongside their research project that contributed to their learning and skills development, then the following alternative thesis format may be presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) a short introduction which provides the context of the research, the rationale for the investigation, and the strategy employed during the research at the start of the thesis.</li> <li>ii) Detailed sections that demonstrate learning and skills development, which may include (but are not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Project management</li> <li>b. Data management plan</li> <li>c. Engagement with knowledge exchange</li> <li>d. Engagement with industry</li> <li>e. Engagement with open science including data deposit in a public repository</li> <li>f. Challenge led work</li> </ul> </li> <li>iii) Research project work (may be submitted as papers, see 18(b) above), including a critical evaluation of the research work as whole</li> <li>iv) A summary and conclusion that draws together, with the critical evaluation, the various sections and outcomes of the work into a coherent synthesis and indicates directions for future work.</li> </ul> <p>(19) Students who are not covered by external funding arrangements may nevertheless use the option under section 13, paragraph (18) (c) with the permission of their supervisor. This must normally be confirmed at the time of the upgrade review. The options under section 13, paragraphs (18) (b) and (c) <del>is</del> are <u>not</u> available for students presenting research in the field of creative writing or poetic practice.</p>	
Section 15	<p><i>A new sub-section (2) has been added to Section 15 which outlines the outcome PGR students may receive if a thesis is over the wordcount permitted by the Research Degree Regulations. The reset of the section has been renumbered.</i></p> <p><b>The student's thesis must comply with the specific wordcount set for the programme, factoring in the format to be used as detailed in Section 13 of these regulations. If the wordcount is in excess of the parameters set, then the thesis may not be examined and may be referred for resubmission as detailed in Section 17(5) for PhD examinations and Section 18(5) for MPhil examinations of this regulations.</b></p>	24
Throughout the regulations	<p><i>We have updated nomenclature by replacing references to the Senior Vice Chancellor with Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Strategy, Planning and Resource).</i></p> <p><i>We have updated nomenclature by replacing references to Director of Student and Academic Services with Executive Director of Student Journey.</i></p> <p><i>References to Head of School have been replaced with Executive Dean of School.</i></p>	

Throughout the regulations	<i>We have updated pronouns.</i>	
Throughout the regulations	<i>We have added a contents page.</i>	