



SENATE REGULATION 5: Research Degrees

Contents

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES	2
Standards.....	2
Admission and Registration	3
Supervision	4
Progress of candidates	4
The Thesis	5
Appointment of Examiners.....	5
The Examination	6
Recommendations of the Examiners	7
Appeals.....	8
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY BY PUBLISHED WORKS.....	8
Examination and Recommendations of Examiners	10
HIGHER DOCTORATES.....	10
SR5(b) JOINT RESEARCH DEGREES	13
Award of the Joint Degree	13
Admission	13
Candidature.....	13
Supervision and Progress.....	14
Duration	14
Abeyance	14
Extension of candidature	15
Submission of Thesis	15
Examination	15
Outcome of the Examination.....	15

EngD/PhD by new route	36	60
DrPH	30	

26. All candidates for a research degree will be examined by at least two Examiners, one of which must be external to the University. Candidates who are current or recent members of the staff of the University must be examined by at least two External Examiners and one Internal Examiner. "Current" members of staff are defined as anyone employed by the University at any point since the date of their registration for the research degree and up to the date of their viva voce examination. The only exception to the requirement for two external examiners is where a candidate becomes employed by the University after submission of their thesis. In these circumstances, the Head of Quality Assurance may approve an exception to the requirement to appoint two external examiners". "Recent" in this context shall mean members of staff who have ceased employment with the University within the last five years.

27. Each External Examiner for a research degree should normally hold a position in a UK university as Professor, Reader or Senior Lecturer. The External Examiner(s) should possess specialist current knowledge in an appropriate field. xterno

- c) shall, if appropriate, set out reasons why no *viva voce* should be held;
- d) shall be confidential to the Examination Panel members;

33. *Viva voce* examinations shall normally take place within three months of the date of the submission of the thesis. The candidate will be required to present themselves for the *viva voce* examination.

Recommendations of the Examiners

34. The Examiners shall make a joint written report to Senate on the examination of the candidate and may make any of the following recommendations:

- a) Where all the Examiners are in agreement that the thesis does not meet the standards for the award and that the degree not be awarded, in exceptional circumstances, they may make a recommendation to that effect, without requiring the candidate to defend the thesis in a *viva voce*.
- b) If the thesis meets the standards for the award, and the candidate has satisfied the Examiners at the *viva voce* e

Extensions to the six-month period may be approved by the College if there are accepted extenuating circumstances. The examination of the revised thesis

- d) A critical review of between 10,000 and 15,000 words. In particular the critical review shall:
- outline the themes that give the works their defining coherence;
 - show how the works make a significant and coherent contribution to knowledge;
 - provide an assessment of the impact of the works contained in the submission;
 - justify the overarching approach and methodologies used for the works.

Examination and Recommendations of Examiners

51. The regulations set out in paragraphs 5.25-5.39 applies with the exception of 5.33f and paragraph 38. No recommendation for re-submission for the award of a research masters can be made.

52. In the event that the Examiners recommend that the degree be not awarded, the candidate will not normally be permitted to make a further submission until a period of one year has elapsed since the date of that recommendation being made. Following the initial submission, no candidate for the degree of PhD by published works may be examined on more than two occasion 11.576 0 Td(-)Tj-0.002 Tc -0oc. ndaJ0 Tc02.436 noti4.55-6.6 (hTwed)(m)w 0

independent assessment. In their evaluation of a submission, Examiners shall be empowered to make such enquiries as they think fit.

62. If all Examiners recommend the award of the degree, their reports together with a recommendation for the conferment of the award shall be submitted to the Vice-Chancellor, as Chairman of Senate. If the Examiners' reports do not unanimously recommend the award of the degree, the Pro Vice Chancellor shall consult the Vice-Chancellor and take appropriate action.

63. The anonymised final report(s) of the Examiners will be issued to the candidate.

64. One copy of the published works submitted in evidence for the award of the degree shall be retained by the University Library.

where a candidate is registered for a joint award with an institution which does not offer an MPhil degree. In such cases the candidate may be given the option to transfer to a programme leading to the degree of MPhil from Brunel University London only.

Supervision and Progress

76. Candidates registered on a programme leading to a joint award shall have a supervisory team which includes at least one supervisor from each institution. The supervisor from Brunel University shall be an academic member of University staff. One supervisor in the team shall be designated as the principal supervisor. If appropriate, the principal supervisor may change depending upon the institution in which the candidate is physically located. The supervisory team may include other supervisors and/or independent mentors and should normally include at least one additional member from the institution at which a candidate is physically located, to provide additional support. The supervisors appointed shall satisfy the academic criteria for the appointment of supervisors at both institutions, and shall be approved by the normal academic route in both institutions.

77. The responsibilities of the supervisory team and of the candidate shall be set out in writing in the Memorandum of Agreement and in the Individual Doctoral Agreement provided to and signed by the supervisors and the candidate, and approved by the University.

78. Every candidate will take part in an individualised assessment of their research training needs or equivalent with their supervisor(s) at the commencement of their studies. Candidates will also be required to take part in a postgraduate student research training programme which will include generic and subject specific research training, together with generic skills training and may include a range of elements which are compulsory, optional or conditions of funding. Research training may take place at any or all of the institutions party to the joint degree, as agreed by the supervisory team and the candidate in a written training agreement. It is the responsibility of the supervisor from the University to

party by3fhe s toarene.002 Tw

Agreement. In addition, the University will comply with any statutory obligations, for example in relation to maternity/paternity leave. The maximum period of abeyance should be stipulated and will normally be in accordance with Senate Regulation 5.12. In the case of Research Council or sponsor-funded candidates, due regard should be given to Research Council or sponsor rules governing suspension of studies. Periods of abeyance shall be in accordance with Senate Regulation 5.12.9 (er)-6 (i)2.-spodwBT0

91. A candidate 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 and the recommendations of the examiners shall lapse. In exceptional circumstances a revised date for submitting corrections may be approved by the partner institutions.

92. Where the examiners recommend that the degree be not awarded and that submission of a revised thesis be not permitted, the candidate may ask for the case to be reviewed in accordance with procedures set out in the Memorandum of Agreement.

(Updated June 2024)