

11. Variations from the Standard Research Programme

The following variations from the standard research programme are permissible provided that the approval of the Higher Degrees Committee Sub-Committee is obtained **at registration**.

11.1 Exhibition, Performance, Creative Writing or Similar Work

A student may undertake a programme of research in which the student's exhibition, performance, creative writing or other similar work, forms as a point of origin or reference, a significant part of the intellectual enquiry. Such work may be in any field but **must have been undertaken as part of the registered research programme**. In such cases, the presentation or submission of work relating to exhibition, performance or other creative writing or similar work must be supported by documentation in the form of a thesis which sets the work in its relevant theoretical, historical, critical and/or design context. The thesis must itself conform to the usual scholarly requirements and be of the correct length as defined in Regulation 15.

The final electronic and hard copy of the submission must be accompanied by some permanent record (for instance, computer disk, video, photographic record, musical score, choreographic notation, diagrammatic representation) of the exhibition, performance or other creative work where practicable, this shall be submitted at the same time and bound with the thesis. The electronic version must include this record.

The application for registration must set out the form of the student's intended submission and of the proposed methods of assessment.

11.2 Submission of Theses in Foreign Languages

Regulation 1.6 of the Research Degree Regulations indicates that "except where the Higher Degrees Committee Sub-Committee has allowed otherwise, the thesis must be presented and defended in the English language". The procedure for making an exception to the norm is as follows:

- a) The case must be made and accepted by the Higher Degrees Committee Sub-Committee before, registration so that the student and the supervisors are clear from the outset of the language(s) in which the thesis is to be written and the viva voce is to be conducted.
- b) The case must be fully supported by the First Supervisor.
- c) At least one supervisor must be sufficiently expert in the language used to offer constructive criticism concerning style, structure and content.
- d) Approval must not be likely to prejudice the subsequent selection and

appointment of examiners. Examiners must be competent in the language used.

Criteria for approval must include identification of positive benefits to the thesis being written in a particular language. A student's lack of ability to write in English is not a valid reason for making a proposal; as such a student would not meet the University's admission requirements. Accordingly approval will only be granted in the most exceptional cases.

The thesis must contain an extended abstract in English, not normally exceeding 3,000 words, bound in with the thesis.

11.3 Submission of PhD by Published Works

A member of staff may be permitted by the Higher Degrees Committee Sub-Committee, to present published work for examination, provided that he/she is able to fulfil the following:

- a) demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the relevant literature;
- b) demonstrate a sufficient original contribution to the literature;
- c) demonstrate a sustained research effort in the work represented by the publications;
- d) satisfy the conditions of Regulation 1.4 in that the submitted work should:
 - i) represent a substantial, continuous and coherent body of work on a particular theme; and
 - ii) demonstrate critical investigation and evaluation of the topic of research; and
 - iii) constitute an independent and original contribution to knowledge; and
 - iv) demonstrate the student's ability to undertake further research without supervision
- e) the applicant is either a permanent member of staff or on a fixed term contract of at least three years duration and is either full-time or pro-rata normally of at least 0.5 full-time equivalent. The applicant must have been a member of staff for not less than two years at the time of registration;
- f) if in the opinion of the Dean of Faculty, Head of Support Department, Head of an Independent Research Centre, or, for a member of the Executive, the Vice-Chancellor, is that it would be wasteful of effort and detrimental to the applicant's other responsibilities to require him/her to undertake a standard research degree programme;
- g) the student must provide a declaration at the time of registration that none of the material to be submitted has been used previously as part of a submission for an academic award, whether successful or otherwise.
- h) A student for PhD by Published works must register for a research degree **at least one year before submission**. A completed application form RDC: PW should be submitted to the relevant Faculty Assessor who will forward

it to the Higher Degrees Committee Sub-Committee in the normal way.

- i) Students studying for a PhD by Published Works are eligible to apply for exemption from any or all of the Research Training Programme components if so indicated by the Training Needs Analysis.
- j) The student's submission for PhD by Published Works shall include:
 - i) the publications presented; which shall be:
 - a) material of a suitable quality to be acceptable by the University for RAE/REF submission; and
 - b) substantial and sufficient to demonstrate an advancement of knowledge,
 - ii) an exposition and analysis, of approximately 10,000 words, of the work contained in the publications. The exposition document is regarded as central in enabling the student to demonstrate achievement in relation to the following criteria:
 - it shall identify the main problems or issues under discussion; and
 - it shall indicate the direction and thematic consistency of the publication(s); and
 - it shall provide an authoritative critique of the work; and
 - it shall locate the work in the context of the relevant literature; and
 - describe and assess the original contribution represented by the publications submitted;
 - in the case of conjoint publications, detail the extent and scope of the student's contribution in relation to the other authors. In the case of conjoint work, the contribution of a student will be rigorously scrutinised, particularly in the oral examination;
 - indicate a sustained contribution in a coherent field of research.
- k) The criteria for assessing a student in this situation are the same as for a student submitting a conventional thesis under the Research Degree Regulations.

11.4 Integrated Programme

Students for PhD, whether registered for PhD direct or for MPhil with possibility of transfer to PhD (this regulation does not apply to the MPhil degree), may undertake an integrated programme of work which includes a programme of postgraduate study on which their performance is formally assessed, as well as the research element. Such a course of study must not occupy more than one third of the total period of registration and must complement the research.

A student on an integrated programme may not submit a thesis for examination

until the assessment of the programme of postgraduate study has been completed to the satisfaction of its examiners.