

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

**This guidance document should be read in conjunction with Regulation 38 Governing Research Degrees (see [www.go.warwick.ac.uk/calendar/regulations](http://www.go.warwick.ac.uk/calendar/regulations)).**

**Requirements for the award of Research Degrees**

*The Regulation on Research Degrees covers the qualifications listed below. The criteria for the award of each research degree and any specific requirements for the examination process for each research degree are set out below.*

*Maximum word limits are given for each degree. If a student wishes to present a longer thesis for examination, s/he is required to seek permission from the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies before submitting the thesis. Any such request should be supported by an explanation of the need for an extension to the word limit and a statement from the student's supervisor. Students are not required to indicate the length of their thesis upon submission. However, the examiners may require the student to specify the length of the thesis.*

**1. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

- 1.1 To satisfy the requirements of the degree of PhD, a thesis must constitute a substantial original contribution to knowledge and is, in principle, worthy of peer-reviewed publication. The thesis shall be clearly and concisely written and well argued and shall show a satisfactory knowledge of both primary and secondary sources. It shall contain a full bibliography and, where appropriate, a description of methods and techniques used in the research.
- 1.2 The maximum length of the thesis is 70,000 words in the Faculty of Science and 80,000 words in the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Social Studies. These limits are exclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography.
- 1.3 In the Faculties of Arts and Social Studies an appendix may contain material that functions as data to supplement the main argument of the thesis. This may not contain material that is an essential or integral part of the thesis. The total length of all appendices combined may not exceed 5,000 words in length.
- 1.4 A student must attend an oral examination, which shall cover the thesis itself and the field of study in which the thesis has been written. The examiners may also require the student to take a written and/or practical examination. The student must complete satisfactorily the oral examination and written and/or practical examination, in order to satisfy the requirements for the degree.

**2. PhD to be Awarded for the Submission of Published Work**

- 2.1 Candidates for the degree of PhD by submission of published work must be:
  - (a) members of academic staff or administrative or library staff of equivalent status of the University who have normally been employed by the University for at least three years immediately prior to the submission of published work.
  - (b) graduates of at least seven year's standing normally holding a Bachelor's degree or equivalent.
- 2.2 A member of staff seeking admission to this degree is required to follow the application process set out by the Academic Office. The request for admission shall be considered by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Heads of the appropriate Departments or Schools and the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee of the relevant Faculty. Candidates admitted under 2.1 (a) are required to register for a minimum of three months. Those admitted under 2.1 (b) are required to register for a minimum of six months. The Head of the appropriate Department or School will

appoint an academic advisor to provide guidance to the candidate on the presentation of the published work. An examination fee is charged.

- 2.3 A candidate must submit for examination two copies of material from a nominated field of study together with a covering document of 5,000 - 10,000 words. The covering document must explain the inter-relationship between the material presented and the significance of the published works as a contribution to original knowledge within the relevant fields. In addition, the covering document must include, as an appendix, a full bibliography of all the work published by the candidate. A candidate may include with their submitted material work that has not been published only with the prior approval of the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies.
  - 2.4 Candidates are required:
    - (a) to declare that the submitted material as a whole is not substantially the same as published or unpublished material that they have previously submitted, or are currently submitting, for a degree, diploma, or similar qualification at any university or similar institution;
    - (b) to state which parts if any of the work or works submitted have previously been submitted for any such qualification; and
    - (c) where the work submitted includes work conducted in collaboration with others, to provide a written statement on the extent of the candidate's individual contribution to the material and the conditions and circumstances under which the work was carried out. This statement should normally be signed by all collaborating parties.
  - 2.5 In order to be eligible for the award of the degree of PhD, the submitted material must constitute a substantial original contribution to knowledge.
  - 2.6 The material submitted shall be examined by two external examiners appointed by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies on the recommendation of the Head of the appropriate Department or School. In the case of collaborative work the examiners must satisfy themselves that the submitted material attributed to the candidate constitutes a substantial original contribution to knowledge.
  - 2.7 A candidate shall be required to undergo an oral examination which shall be on the submitted material itself and the related general field of study.
  - 2.8 The examination and appeals processes set out in the Regulation on Research Degrees apply to submissions for the degree of PhD by Published Work.
  - 2.9 One copy of the work submitted in support of a successful application shall be retained by the University and deposited in the Library.
- 3. Engineering Doctorate (EngD)**
- 3.1 Students are normally required to follow taught modules as set out in the Course Regulations. Exemptions may be granted under the University's AP(E)L procedure by the Chair of the Board of Graduate Studies if a student has completed relevant study elsewhere or has substantial industrial experience.
  - 3.2 Students are required to submit a portfolio of work. The precise requirements for the portfolio are set out in the Course Regulations. Students are also required to pass an oral examination to be conducted by the Panel of Examiners.
  - 3.3 In order to be eligible for the award of the degree of Doctor of Engineering, candidates must demonstrate innovation in the application of knowledge to the engineering business environment. In addition they must demonstrate the following competences:

expert knowledge of an engineering area; the appreciation of industrial engineering and development culture; project and programme management skills; teamwork and leadership skills; oral and written communication skills; technical organisational skills; financial engineering project planning and control; the ability to apply their skills to new and unusual situations; the ability to seek optimal, viable solutions to multi-faceted engineering problems and to search out relevant information sources.

- 3.4 For the degree of EngD, a Panel of three Examiners shall be nominated. This shall normally include at least one external examiner, one industrial external examiner and one internal examiner.

#### **4 Doctor of Education (EdD)**

- 4.1 Students are normally required to follow taught modules as set out in the Course Regulations.
- 4.2 Students are required to submit a research thesis. In the Institute of Education this may take the form of one study of a maximum of 40,000 words or two studies each of no more than 20,000 words in length, inclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography. In the Centre for Applied Linguistics this shall take the form of a research thesis of a maximum of 50,000 words.
- 4.3 To satisfy the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Education the thesis shall constitute an original contribution to knowledge which is, in principle, worthy of publication in a peer-reviewed journal. The thesis shall be clearly and concisely written and well argued and shall show a satisfactory knowledge of both primary and secondary sources. In addition, it shall contain a full bibliography and, where appropriate, a description of the methods and techniques used in the research.
- 4.4 A candidate shall be required to present himself/herself for an oral examination, which shall cover the thesis itself and the field of study in which the thesis has been written. The research thesis will be examined only after all other requirements for the degree have been met. The candidate shall be required to complete satisfactorily the oral examination in order to satisfy the requirements for the degree.

#### **5 European Doctorate**

A European Doctorate may be awarded in any subject or subjects otherwise approved for the award of a PhD or other doctoral degree provided that the following additional requirements have been satisfied:

- (a) The candidate must have been resident and undertaking research in another European country for not less than ten consecutive weeks during his or her period of registration.
- (b) The examiners conducting the examination of the thesis must include at least two persons from universities or other institutions of higher education in two separate European countries other than the UK.
- (a) Part of the oral examination of the thesis must have been conducted in a European language other than English, normally an official language of a European country.

## **6 Doctor of Medicine (MD)**

- 6.1 In order to be eligible for admission to the degree of Master of Surgery or Master of Medical Science (MMedSci) a candidate must hold a degree entitling him/her to, or recognised for, any form of registration with the General Medical Council for the United Kingdom.
- 6.2 To satisfy the requirements of the degree of Doctor of Medicine a thesis shall constitute a substantial original contribution to medical knowledge which is, in principle, worthy of publication. The thesis shall be clearly and concisely written and well argued and shall show a satisfactory knowledge of both primary and secondary sources. In addition, it shall contain a full bibliography and, where appropriate, a description of methods and techniques used in the research.
- 6.3 The maximum length of the thesis is 70,000 words, exclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography.
- 6.4 A student must attend an oral examination, which shall cover the thesis itself and the field of study in which the thesis has been written. The examiners may also require the student to take a written and/or practical examination. The student must complete satisfactorily the oral examination and written and/or practical examination, in order to satisfy the requirements for the degree.
- 6.5 Examiners will be appointed in line with the Regulation on Research Degrees. One of the examiners must be medically qualified.

## **7 Master of Surgery (MS) and Master of Medical Science (MMedSci)**

- 7.1 In order to be eligible for admission to the degree of Master of Surgery or Master of Medical Science (MMedSci) a candidate must hold a degree entitling him/her to, or recognised for, any form of registration with the General Medical Council for the United Kingdom.
- 7.2 To satisfy the requirements of the degrees of Master of Surgery or Master of Medical Science, a thesis shall be clearly and concisely written, show evidence of originality in knowledge and in interpretation, and shall also be judged on its scholarly presentation. In addition it shall contain a full bibliography.
- 7.3 The maximum length of the thesis is 40,000 words, exclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography.
- 7.4 Examiners will be appointed in line with the Regulation on Research Degrees. One of the examiners must be medically qualified.

## **8 Master of Philosophy (MPhil)**

- 8.1 To satisfy the requirements of the degree of MPhil a thesis shall constitute an original contribution to knowledge. The thesis shall be clearly and concisely written and well argued and shall show a satisfactory knowledge of both primary and secondary sources. In addition it shall contain a full bibliography and, where appropriate, a description of methods and techniques used in the research.
- 8.2 The maximum length of the thesis is 60,000 words, which in the Faculties of Medicine and Social Studies shall be inclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography and in the Faculties of Arts and Science shall be exclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography. In the Faculty of Arts an appendix may contain material that functions as data to supplement the main argument of the thesis, and may not contain material that is an integral part of the thesis. An appendix may not exceed 5,000 words

in length unless permission to exceed this length is given by the Board of Graduate Studies.

- 8.3 A student must attend an oral examination, which shall cover the thesis itself and the field of study in which the thesis has been written. The examiners may also require the student to take a written and/or practical examination. The student must complete satisfactorily the oral examination and written and/or practical examination, in order to satisfy the requirements for the degree.

## **9 Masters by Research (MA, MSc, LLM)**

- 9.1 To satisfy the requirements of the degree of Masters by Research, a thesis shall be clearly and concisely written, show evidence of originality in knowledge and in interpretation, and shall also be judged on its scholarly presentation. In addition it shall contain a full bibliography.
- 9.2 The maximum length of the thesis is 40,000 words, which in the Faculty of Social Studies shall be inclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography and in the Faculties of Arts, Medicine and Science shall be exclusive of appendices, footnotes, tables and bibliography.
- 9.3 The examiners may require the candidate to attend an oral examination. If an oral examination is held, this must be completed satisfactorily in order to meet the requirements for the award of the degree.