

Research Degree Regulations

1. Introduction

- 1.1** These Regulations come into force on 1st October 2017, and their provisions replace all earlier Research Degree Regulations in force up to that date. These regulations shall apply to all research degree students still registered at this time and beyond.
- 1.2** The Regulations prescribe the conditions under which applicants are able to qualify for the award of the research degrees of Master by Research (MA/MSc), Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Professional Doctorates of De Montfort University.
- a) students studying for these awards have a legal commitment to all relevant De Montfort University research degree student Regulations and Procedures;
 - b) research degree students will only be accepted into an environment that provides support for doing and learning about research and where high quality research is occurring;
 - c) research degree students will be registered in a subject area which has a critical mass of research activity within it;
 - d) sufficient facilities for the research project, including library and IT facilities will be available;
 - e) the award of the degree will be based on work conducted during a period of registration under an approved supervisory team, under such conditions as prescribed by the Regulations (except for students registered under Regulation 11.3).

1.3 The Degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and the Degree of MA/MSc by Research

The degrees of MPhil and MA/MSc by Research are awarded to recognise the successful completion, under such conditions as are prescribed by Regulations, of a supervised programme of individual research, the results of which have been satisfactorily embodied in a thesis (together, under certain circumstances, with another form of presentation as defined in 1.8 below), and which:

- a) demonstrate an understanding of research methods appropriate to the field of study; and
- b) demonstrate critical investigation and evaluation of the topic of research.

The University adheres to the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland in describing the qualification outcomes and attributes for research degrees.

1.4 The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The degree of PhD is awarded to recognise the successful completion, under such conditions as are prescribed by Regulations, of a supervised programme of individual research, the results of which have been satisfactorily embodied in a thesis (or other presentation as defined in 1.8 below), and which:

- a) demonstrate an understanding of research methods appropriate to the field of study; and
- b) demonstrate critical investigation and evaluation of the topic of research; and
- c) constitute an independent and original contribution to knowledge; and
- d) demonstrate the student's ability to undertake further research without supervision.

1.5 Professional Doctorates

A professional doctorate degree is awarded to recognise the successful completion, under such conditions as are prescribed by Regulations, of a programme of study which:

- a) incorporates a substantial component which focuses upon appropriate research methods and provides instruction of a specialised vocational nature; and
- b) includes a thesis component which demonstrates:
 - i) an understanding of research methods appropriate to the vocational area of the named award; and
 - ii) critical investigation and evaluation of the area of study; and
 - iii) originality either in the development or application of knowledge.

1.6 Students enrolled at another Institution to study for a research degree are not eligible for admission, enrolment or to undertake the first project review for a research degree at De Montfort University, unless their enrolment elsewhere is terminated.

1.7 Except where the Research Degrees Committee Faculty Review Panel, see Procedure 7, has allowed otherwise at first project review stage, the thesis must be presented and defended in the English language. (See Regulation 11.2).

- 1.8** When permitted at the time of first project review the thesis may be augmented by the presentation of work relating to an exhibition, performance or other creative work; or the submission of published work, together with a substantial commentary. More detailed Regulations relating to these approaches are given in Regulation 11.

2. Admission Requirements and Processes

- 2.1** Students can be admitted for the following research degree programmes:

- a) MPhil
- b) MA /MSc by Research
- c) Doctoral Researcher Programme (aiming for PhD)
- d) PhD by Concurrent Publication
- e) PhD by Published Works

- 2.2** An offer of admission to a programme of supervised research shall be linked to a specified research topic and to two named supervisors for the probationary period from enrolment. These can be changed at first project review. Research degree students will only be accepted into an environment that provides support for doing and learning about research and where high quality research is occurring.

- 2.3** Whilst any offer of admission can be made only by the Director of Student and Academic Services (or nominee), it must bear the recommendation of the relevant Faculty Head of Research Students or equivalent role (or nominee), who thereby undertakes to arrange the necessary facilities and supervision if the offer is accepted. Such recommendation must also make clear which aspects of the programme, if any, will be undertaken outside University premises.

An offer of admission for MPhil or PhD shall be made on fixed entry points agreed by the University. These are: 1st October; 1st January; 1st April. An offer for admission for MA or MSc by Research shall be made for the 1st October.

- 2.4** The maximum period of probation is six months for full-time students and twelve months for part-time students. For students following the MA/MSc by Research programme only, the maximum period of probation is three months for full-time and six months for part-time. Students whose probationary period has expired before first project review is approved by the Research Degrees Committee Faculty Review Panel, see Procedure 7, will be deemed as unsatisfactory and the University has the right to terminate the student's enrolment. Exceptionally application can be made to extend the probationary period. Applications should be made to the Director of the Graduate School.