

- demonstrate critical investigation and evaluation of the topic of research

- 3.3 One of the student's supervisors who is not an examiner shall normally attend the oral examination, unless the student has expressed a wish to the contrary. The purpose of this is to assist the student and examiners with matters of clarification only and not to participate in the viva. Attendance by a supervisor is not compulsory but if the student feels that this would be helpful, the University then expects the supervisor to be at the oral examination.
- 3.4 Oral examinations must normally take place with the student and the examination team present at the same location.
- 3.5 The recording of the proceedings of the oral examination, by any method, is normally prohibited.
- 3.6 There will normally be at least two examiners present - one external examiner who is independent of De Montfort University and one internal examiner.
- 3.7 The oral examination should normally last between two and three hours. The pattern for each particular oral is for the examiners to determine; but in most cases the examiners will wish to focus on a detailed consideration of the research, its methodology and its findings. In some cases, however, the examiners may wish to focus on a discussion of broader aspects of the research process or findings, or the implications for policy/research, or publication possibilities. For this, the student could be invited to highlight aspects or issues that appear most important or interesting.
- 3.8 The intention is that oral examinations should be constructive and stimulating for all participants. The students should expect to be challenged on their ideas, but should be assured that the experience is intended to be helpful and positive. In preparation, students are advised to re-familiarise themselves with their thesis, make their own assessment of its strengths and weaknesses, and try to anticipate issues that are likely to be raised. The student must bring a copy of the his/her thesis with them to the oral examination.

No communication shall be made with a student for the award of a distinction of the University which purports to be, or might reasonably be taken to be, official notification of the results of the candidature, except by the Graduate School Office on behalf of the Director of Student and Academic Services.

4. Academic Standards

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

The degrees of MA/MSc by Research or the MPhil are awarded to recognise the successful completion, under such conditions as are prescribed by Regulations, of a

supervised programme of individual research, development or design, the results of which have been satisfactorily embodied in a thesis (or other presentation as defined in Regulation 11), 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.

4.2 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 Regulation 11), 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.

For variations from the standard research programme see Regulation 11.

5. The Examiner's Recommendation

5.1 Regulation 18 provides for examiners to make one of the following principal recommendations:

- a) the student should be awarded the degree sought; or
- b) the student should be awarded the degree sought, provided that minor factual amendments and corrections in the submitted work are made to the satisfaction of the nominated examiner(s) within a specified period not exceeding three months from the notification of the result to the student;
- c) the student be permitted to re-submit for the degree sought and be re-examined as follows:
 - i) the thesis to be revised and if deemed satisfactory by the Examiners, the student will be exempt from further examination, oral or otherwise; or