

INTRODUCTION

Research Degrees Regulations - Eighteenth Edition (September 2017)

- (i) This Eighteenth Edition was approved by the Senate on 14th June 2017. Revisions incorporated into this version emerged for the following reasons:
- to address certain issues that have arisen during the academic year 2016/17;
 - as part of the annual update to improve clarity and to remove ambiguities and anomalies that have been brought to the attention of the Senate's Research Degrees Subcommittee.
- (ii) The Eighteenth Edition is approved for implementation from **1st September 2017** (except where stated otherwise) and applies to all students (new and existing) registered at all locations (including delivery by Associate Colleges in the UK and overseas) for all courses leading to an Anglia Ruskin award.
- (iii) The Research Degrees Regulations are organised into six sections:
- Part A Regulations for the Award of Anglia Ruskin University's degrees of Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Medicine by Research, Professional Master's and Professional Doctorates.
- Part B The Regulations for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy on the basis of Published Work
- Part C (a) Specific Regulations for the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research, Professional Master's and Professional Doctorates
[for students recruited to Professional Doctorates operating under the Regulations approved by the Senate in June 2016]
- Part C (b) Specific Regulations for the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research, Professional Master's and Professional Doctorates
[for students recruited to Professional Doctorates operating under the Regulations approved by the Senate prior to June 2016]
- Part D The Regulations for Higher Doctorates
- Part E Specific Regulations for the Doctor of Medicine by Research

(iv) The Research Degrees Regulations can be accessed online at:

www.anglia.ac.uk/researchregs

Summary of Revisions and Amendments in the 18th Edition (since 17th Edition, September 2016)

(the summary below is an amended extract from the paper from the Director of the Doctoral School (Dr Alan White) to the Senate in June 2017)

(v) Section 1 – Principles: a statement has been added concerning reasonable adjustments.

(vi) Section 2 - Admission of Students: the regulation concerning students conducting research abroad has been revised to make it clear that it covers all students and not just those who are resident overseas.

(vii) Section 3 - Approval of Research Proposal:

- a new regulation stipulating that the Research Proposal must be submitted to Turnitin and discussed with the 1st supervisor prior to application;
- a new regulation stipulating that the supervisors are formally appointed when the Research Proposal is approved;
- a new regulation stipulating that the student must be given informal and provisional feedback on the Research Proposal. This is to ensure that candidates are given the maximum time possible to prepare for any necessary resubmission.

(viii) Section 4 - Timescales for Completion: the procedure for requesting the first six months of intermission has been simplified. Any retrospective request must now go to a full committee meeting. A maximum intermission period of 18 months has been introduced.

(ix) Section 5 - Annual Review:

- the Annual Review must be submitted to Turnitin and discussed with the 1st supervisor prior to application;
- a new regulation stipulates that the student must be given informal and provisional feedback on their Annual Review. This is to ensure candidates are given the maximum time possible to prepare for any necessary resubmission;

- a procedure has been put in place to deal with the situation where an Annual Review panel is unable to reach a joint recommendation;
- a new regulations states that if a student is applying for Upgrade/Confirmation of Registration it will also act as an Annual Review for that academic year. This will reduce unnecessary duplication of effort.

(x) Section 6 – Supervision:

- First Supervisors now only need to pass one on-line ethics training programme;
- a procedure has been introduced to deal with exceptional requests to exceed the supervisory maximum of a headcount of 15. Previous regulations allowed for the possibility but did not explain how it could be obtained. This will be with the agreement of the Head of Department and the Director of the Doctoral School;
- a new regulation has been introduced to stipulate that by mutual agreement with the University a student may request new supervisors.

(xi) Section 7 - Upgrade of Registration From MPhil To PhD or Confirmation of Registration as a Candidate for PhD (Direct), MD (Res) or for a Professional Doctorate:

- a new regulation stipulates that the student must be given informal and provisional feedback on their Upgrade/Transfer of Registration application. This is to ensure candidates are given the maximum time possible to prepare for any necessary resubmission;
- a procedure has been put in place to deal with the situation where an Upgrade/Transfer of Registration panel is unable to reach a joint recommendation.

(xii) Section 8 - Write Up Status: any retrospective request for Write-Up status, or any request beyond the initial 12 months, must now go to a full committee meeting.

(xiii) Section 9 - The Thesis:

- a new regulation has been introduced to stipulate that the thesis title receives institutional approval when the examiners are appointed. Any subsequent change must be agreed by RDSC before the thesis is submitted;

- revisions to return to requiring the candidate to supply hard copies of the thesis for the examiners. Over 70% of examiners are requesting a hard copy (as allowed in the current regulations) so it seems sensible to adopt this as the default position. The independent chair will still receive a file copy. The final copy of the thesis supplied by the candidate remains a file version;
- clear statement that requests for confidentiality regarding the thesis must be made when the examiners are appointed.

(xiv) Section 14 – Academic Misconduct: amendments to accord with guidance published by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA).

(xv) Section 15 – Academic Appeals: amendments to accord with guidance published by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA)

PAUL BAXTER
Academic Registrar

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