

PART C (a)

[for students recruited to Professional Doctorates operating under the Regulations approved by Senate in June 2016]

**Specific Regulations for the Awards of:
Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research
Professional Master's
Professional Doctorate**

The Research Degrees Regulations apply equally to Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research, Professional Master's and Professional Doctorate candidates. The specific additional requirements for these awards are set out below.

1. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1.1 An applicant seeking entry to the Professional Doctorate shall normally as a minimum entry requirement:

- hold a first or upper second class honours degree of a university or any other institution of higher education in the UK with degree-awarding powers, provided that the degree included training in research and the execution of a research project or dissertation, or a qualification which is regarded by Anglia Ruskin University as equivalent to a first or upper second class honours degree;

AND

- have appropriate professional experience.

1.2 Any DProf programme that wishes to propose that the minimum entry requirement must be a Master's degree, in an appropriate cognate area awarded by a UK University or an overseas Master's degree of equivalent standard is required to submit a case to RDSC for consideration.

1.3 An applicant who does not have appropriate research methods knowledge will be required to pass a programme of researcher development identified by the Programme Director, prior to registering.

1.4 Applicants who have been awarded the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research may seek admission, within a period of five years of gaining that award, for entry onto the Professional Master's or Professional Doctorate.

1.5 Anglia Ruskin University is not responsible for finding work placements for candidates registered on the Professional Doctorate, Professional Master's or Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research. Applicants must, therefore, have access to relevant employment or practice.

2. NON-STANDARD ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Applicants holding qualifications other than those in Regulation 1.1 above shall be considered on their merits and in relation to the nature and scope of the programme of proposed work. In considering an applicant in this category the Faculty shall look for evidence of the candidate's ability and background knowledge in relation to the proposed research. Professional experience, publications, written reports or other appropriate evidence of achievement shall be taken into consideration.

3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

3.1 Where English is not an applicant's first language, they must demonstrate evidence of English language ability by holding an IELTS score of 6.5 (or equivalent) and have achieved a minimum of English language competence of at least IELTS 5.5 (or equivalent) across all four disciplines – writing, reading, speaking and listening.

- 3.2 These minimum requirements may be supplemented by additional requirements as determined by individual Faculties. This may include a requirement to complete Anglia Ruskin University's Postgraduate English Support Programme.

4. PERIODS OF REGISTRATION

- 4.1 The minimum and maximum periods of registration are calculated from the initial date of registration. Entry onto the Writing Up Stage must take into account the following minimum and maximum periods of registration within which students must submit their thesis for oral examination.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research		
<i>Part-time</i>	16 months	30 months
<i>Full-time</i>	12 months	18 months
Professional Master's		
<i>Part-time</i>	30 months	48 months
<i>Part-time (following full-time taught stage)</i>	26 months	36 months
Professional Doctorate		
<i>Part-time</i>	36 months	72 months
<i>Part-time (following full-time taught stage)</i>	32 months	60 months

Shortening the Period of Registration

- 4.2 Where there is evidence that the research is proceeding exceptionally well, the FRDSC may approve a shorter minimum period of registration. An application for such shortening should be submitted before the application for approval of examination arrangements.

Extending the Period of Registration

- 4.3 A candidate is expected to submit their thesis before the expiry of the maximum period of registration. The FRDSC may extend a candidate's period of registration where evidence is submitted to support the request, normally for not more than 6 months at a time up to a maximum of 12 months.
- 4.4 Only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances will a further and final period of 6 months be permitted.
- 4.5 A candidate seeking an extension shall apply to the FRDSC on the appropriate form. In all cases an action plan demonstrating how the extension will enable the successful completion of the thesis must be submitted at the time of requesting the extension. This action plan must be agreed by the First Supervisor. In making their decision the FRDSC will take into account the progress made by the candidate and any previous requests for intermission or extensions.

Transferring Course

- 4.6 A candidate registered for a Professional Doctorate who wishes to transfer their registration to MPhil or PhD, or vice versa, is required to first seek the support of their First Supervisor and discuss the proposed transfer with the Professional Doctorate Programme Director, before applying in writing to the FRDSC for approval. The relevant form can be obtained from the appropriate FRDSC Secretary.

5. ATTENDANCE AT WORKSHOPS

- 5.1 Candidates are expected to attend all workshops designed for the Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research / Professional Master's / Professional Doctorate programmes.
- 5.2 Candidates are also required to attend the compulsory three-stage University-wide Researcher Development Programme.
- 5.3 Candidates are strongly encouraged to attend the annual Research Student Conference.
- 5.4 Candidates are encouraged to take advantage of the further training offered through the Doctoral School, Human Resources and the Faculties. In addition, candidates are advised to take advantage of national training events and training opportunities external to our University.

6. NATURE OF THE PROGRAMME

- 6.1 Professional doctorates are credit rated and modular, and offer professionally relevant and practice-based learning and research.
- 6.2 Professional doctorates are named awards linked to disciplinary areas (e.g. Professional Doctorate in Health and Social Care).
- 6.3 Completion of a professional doctorate will require the award of 540 credits, of which:
- a minimum of 60 credits, and a maximum of 180, will be at Level 7;
 - a minimum of 30 level 7 credits will be devoted to advanced research methods;
 - a minimum of 30 level 7 credits will be devoted to advanced professional practice;
 - a minimum of 360 credits will be at Level 8.
- 6.4 The level 8 credits are notional only. The thesis is governed by the Research Degrees Regulations.
- 6.5 All professional doctorates will include a research thesis. The outcome of the research will be presented as a written thesis, portfolio etc. and may include other material such as a performance or presentation supported by a written commentary.
- 6.6 The taught elements of a professional doctorate programme will draw on a variety of teaching and learning methods appropriate to the discipline. The pattern of contact hours within a module may also vary according to the subject area covered by the professional doctorate.
- 6.7 An applicant may seek admission to study for any of the following awards:
- Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research;
 - Professional Master's;
 - Professional Doctorate.

- 6.8 The taught stage of the professional doctorate may be studied on a full-time basis where this has been validated.
- 6.9 Accreditation of prior certified and/or experiential learning can be claimed against the taught modules only. Students should refer to our University policy regarding prior learning for details of the procedure.
- 6.10 For those professional doctorates accredited by professional bodies or associations, students must hold qualifications recognised by the professional body or association as providing eligibility for entry on to the programme and may have to provide evidence of either relevant clinical experience or have secured a suitable placement.
- 6.11 To qualify for the award of Professional Master's or Professional Doctorate a candidate must submit and defend a thesis to the satisfaction of the examiners **and** pass all taught modules of the programme.
- 6.12 Any student leaving the programme before they gain their intended degree will be given the relevant intermediate award.
- 6.13 Examiners for the research thesis module will be appointed for each student individually, rather than for a cohort, though it is recognised that there will be occasions where the same examiner will be appropriate for more than one student. However, our university will ensure that the same external examiner is not approved so frequently that his/her familiarity with the programme team might prejudice objective judgement.

7. THE TAUGHT STAGE

- 7.1 Assessment of the Level 7 modules of a professional doctorate will be undertaken in accordance with the *Academic Regulations* (www.anglia.ac.uk/academicregs).
- 7.2 External examiners for the Level 7 modules of a professional doctorate will be appointed in accordance with our University's procedures for appointing external examiners for taught provision (see the *Senate Code of Practice on External Examiners for Taught Courses* at www.anglia.ac.uk/codes).
- 7.3 All modular assessments within the professional doctorate are subject to the University's policies on marking and moderation (see the *Senate Code of Practice on the Assessment of Students* at www.anglia.ac.uk/codes).

8. UPGRADE/CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION

- 8.1 Assessment of a candidate's research ability to determine whether registration for the professional doctorate can continue is determined through the confirmation of registration process.
- 8.2 MProf and professional doctorate candidates are required to apply for upgrade/confirmation of registration between 9-18 months after completing the taught part of their studies.

9. THE RESEARCH THESIS

- 9.1 The notional credits at level 8 is that part of the professional doctorate devoted to conducting research and the production of the thesis for viva. The research thesis for the MProf is assessed against level 7 criteria.

- 9.2 The research thesis is governed by the Research Degrees Regulations.
- 9.3 The assessment for this stage will include a viva voce examination.
- 9.4 Research may be proposed in any topic appropriate to the overall subject matter of the professional doctorate provided that:
- appropriate supervision expertise is available to support the proposed project
 - an environment exists to support high quality research at doctorate level
 - appropriate examiners can be identified.
- 9.5 The research thesis will normally be the last stage of the course to be taken but courses can be structured where this runs concurrently with the taught modules. The sequence of study will be specified and agreed at approval.
- 9.6 The Professional Master's thesis should display appropriate evidence of originality and independent critical judgement and demonstrate an understanding of techniques and/or methodologies applicable to the candidate's own research.
- 9.7 The Professional Doctorate thesis should display appropriate evidence of originality and independent critical judgment, constitute a contribution to professional practice and exhibit development of professional competencies.

Professional Master's (Level 7)

- 9.8 Successful candidates for the award of MProf will be expected to demonstrate:
- A systematic acquisition and critical understanding of knowledge, that is mostly at the forefront of the academic discipline and area of professional practice;
 - The ability to reflect on and examine critically their own professional activity;
 - The ability to conduct research in accordance with academic and professional ethical standards;
 - A comprehensive and critical understanding of techniques and/or methodologies applicable to practitioner research;
 - A critical and contextually appropriate application of techniques for original research, effective communication, critical and independent reasoning appropriate to advanced academic enquiry;
 - Originality in the application of knowledge or methodology in the discipline and/or area of professional practice;
 - The ability to conceptualise understanding so as to evaluate critically current research in the discipline and area of professional practice;
 - The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and, where appropriate, autonomous and/or collaborative initiative in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
 - The ability to communicate findings clearly and effectively.

Professional Doctorate (Level 8)

9.9 Successful candidates for the award of Professional Doctorate will be expected to demonstrate:

- The systematic acquisition and critical understanding of a substantial body of knowledge that is at the forefront of the academic discipline and area of professional practice;
- The ability to reflect on and examine critically their own professional activity;
- The ability to conduct research in accordance with academic and professional ethical standards;
- The creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship which is of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline, and merit publication;
- The ability to integrate theoretical and professional-practical perspectives, knowledge and understanding in such a way as to generate mutual critique, and reformulation of theory and of professional practice;
- The ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding which are at the forefront of the discipline or area of professional practice, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- A critical and contextually appropriate application of techniques for original research, effective communication, critical and independent reasoning appropriate to advanced academic enquiry;
- The qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and, where appropriate, autonomous and/or collaborative initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, and in professional/institutional or equivalent environments.

10. CHANGE OF PROGRAMME REGISTRATION

10.1 Candidates may request to change the programme on which they are registered, subject to the approval of the relevant Programme Directors.