

SECTION A1

PRINCIPLES

Preamble

- 1.1 Anglia Ruskin University's Research Degrees Regulations are the definitive statement over all other Anglia Ruskin University documents of the regulations for Anglia Ruskin postgraduate research degrees. In the unlikely event of any discrepancy between the Research Degrees Regulations and any other Anglia Ruskin publication, the Research Degrees Regulations take precedence and will be applied in all cases.
- 1.2 All postgraduate research students and relevant university and Associate College staff are expected to be familiar with these regulations.

Consistency and Comparability of Academic Standards

- 1.3 Anglia Ruskin University's Research Degrees Regulations are the principal means through which we ensure consistency in the academic standards achieved across our research degree awards.
- 1.4 Anglia Ruskin University will ensure that its research degrees are comparable in standard with those conferred throughout higher education in the United Kingdom and consistent with the *QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications*. This is achieved through the appointment, where relevant, of external panel members with appropriate knowledge and expertise, to serve on Approval Panels and independent, experienced external examiners to examine candidates. For the taught modules of professional doctorate programmes independent, experienced external examiners are appointed. Approval Panel members are provided with copies of the QAA Qualification Descriptors for Master's and Doctoral degrees and the QAA Characteristics Statement: Doctoral Degree (September 2015). The Descriptors and Characteristics are also included in the Notes of Guidance for Examiners of Postgraduate Research Degree Examinations and Chairs of Postgraduate Research Degrees Examinations.

Award Titles

- 1.5 Anglia Ruskin University shall award the degrees of Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Medicine by Research (MD (Res)), Professional Doctorates, Professional Master's (MProf) and Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Research (PGDipProf) to registered candidates who successfully complete the approved programmes.
- 1.6 Programmes of research may be proposed in any field of study in which Anglia Ruskin University has expertise, subject to the requirement that the proposed programme is capable of leading to scholarly research and to its presentation for assessment by appropriate examiners. The written thesis may be supplemented by material in other than written form. All proposed research programmes shall be considered for research degree approval on their academic merits and without reference to the concerns or interests of any associated funding body.
- 1.7 The MPhil shall be awarded to a candidate who, having critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic and demonstrated an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field, has presented and defended a thesis by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners.
- 1.8 A PhD shall be awarded to a candidate who:
- having critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic resulting in an *independent and original contribution to knowledge* and;
 - demonstrated an understanding of research methods appropriate to the chosen field,
- has presented and defended a thesis by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners.
- 1.9 A professional master's or doctorate shall be awarded to a candidate who has successfully passed the taught parts of the award and has presented and defended a thesis by oral examination to the satisfaction of the examiners. In advancing their understanding and practice within their profession, candidates must have demonstrated an awareness of research as a vehicle to integrate theory and practice.
- 1.10 A postgraduate diploma in professional research shall be awarded to a candidate who has successfully passed 120 credits at Level 7 as specified at approval.

Qualification Descriptors

- 1.11 Anglia Ruskin University's master's and doctoral degrees are awarded to candidates who have demonstrated the outcomes specified in the QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications. Examiners are provided with copies of the QAA Descriptors for Master's and Doctoral Degrees and the Doctoral Degree Characteristics within the Notes of Guidance for Examiners of Postgraduate Research Degrees Examinations. Examiners are asked to confirm in their final report that candidates have demonstrated the characteristics set out in the QAA Qualification Descriptors

Valuing Diversity and Promoting Equality

- 1.12 Anglia Ruskin University will consider applications to register as a research degree candidate in accordance with its published Equality Policy Framework. The aim of the policy is to provide a supportive environment in which to work and study, and where we will treat each other with dignity, courtesy and respect.
- 1.13 Reasonable adjustments will be made for all relevant candidates. For further guidance please visit our website: ***http://web.anglia.ac.uk/onet/student_services/study_support/summary-of-reasonable-adjustments.phtml***.

Research Integrity

- 1.14 Anglia Ruskin University is compliant with the UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity and continues to ensure that the principles expected therein are effectively embedded, evaluated and strengthened in our research endeavours, including in the pursuit of the postgraduate research degrees qualifications covered by these Regulations.

Research Committee

- 1.15 The Research Committee is responsible, on behalf of Senate, for the development and implementation of Anglia Ruskin University's Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Strategy. The terms of reference and constitution of the Research Committee and its Subcommittees can be found in the 'Constitution of Senate and its Standing Committees' document.

Research Degrees Subcommittee

- 1.16 The Senate's Research Degrees Subcommittee (RDSC) is responsible, on behalf of the Research Committee, for the development of research degrees in Anglia Ruskin University and for developing, monitoring and reviewing Anglia Ruskin University's quality assurance and enhancement policies and procedures for monitoring and reviewing the quality of the student experience.
- 1.17 The implementation and development of these regulations, and their associated procedures, are overseen by the RDSC established within the academic committee structure of Anglia University's Senate. Some of the Subcommittee's responsibilities and procedures are devolved to Faculty Research Degrees Subcommittees (FRDSCs). The terms of reference and constitution of the RDSC and the FRDSCs can be found in the *Constitution of the Academic Committee Structure*.

Faculty Research Degrees Subcommittees

- 1.18 FRDSCs monitor the progress of all research degrees students within the faculty and receive and approve documents relating to various key stages in a student's progress.

Research Ethics Subcommittee

- 1.19 This Subcommittee of the Research Committee considers policies and procedures relating to the ethics of research investigations involving human participants, human tissue and organs, animals and other research that presents ethical issues (such as damage or disturbance to culturally, spiritually or historically significant artefacts or places, or human remains or research that may have a negative effect on the environment) undertaken by staff and students of Anglia Ruskin University and students at our Associate Colleges. Responsibility for the approval of individual research ethics applications is devolved by Research Ethics Subcommittee to Faculty Research Ethics Panels. Each faculty, apart from Medical Science, also has Departmental Research Ethics Panels, whose approval of ethics applications must be ratified by the relevant Faculty Research Ethics Panels. The terms of reference and constitution of Research Ethics Subcommittee, Faculty Research Ethics Panels and Departmental Research Ethics Panels can be found in the *Constitution of the Academic Committee Structure*.

Review of Regulations

- 1.20 These regulations are subject to review as and when appropriate, normally on an annual basis. They embody nationally recognised good practice as recommended from time to time in policies, codes of practice and regulations of the Quality Assurance Agency, funding bodies, and research funding councils.

Useful Publications for candidates and supervisors

- 1.21 A list of useful publications is shown in **Annex 1**.

Annual Faculty and Institutional Reports

- 1.22 The RDSC will receive an annual report from each faculty commenting on its postgraduate research activity. This report will include, inter alia, commentary on recruitment, retention, completion rates and times, and comments from Annual Review panels. The faculty reports will inform an annual institutional report which will also be tabled at the RDSC.

The University's Right to Discontinue a Candidate for Failing to Make Satisfactory Academic Progress

- 1.23 The University may discontinue a candidate if he or she fails to comply with any research degree regulation which makes specific requirements of him or her, or fails to make satisfactory academic progress as determined at a point of assessment.