

Regulations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy awarded jointly with another Institution

Note: the term 'Student visa' refers to both the Tier 4 (General) visa and the new Student visa which replaced the Tier 4 (General) visa on 5 October 2020.

The Higher Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

The PhD

1. For the award of Doctor of Philosophy, a research student must have demonstrated the criteria as specified within paragraph 5 of the [Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision](#) (*The Difference between PhD and MPhil*).

Award of the Degree

2. The University of Southampton may approve arrangements for a research student to register for a programme leading to a joint award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy with a specific named institution, in accordance with the University of Southampton's procedures for approving collaborative partnerships and the procedures established for such degrees.
3. A jointly awarded research degree programme with another named institution shall be governed by a Memorandum of Agreement, approved and signed by the President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton and the authorised signatory of the other named Institution participating in the award.
4. In addition to the Memorandum of Agreement, each research student for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy within these Regulations shall enter into an Individual Doctoral Agreement. This Agreement will be provided to and signed by the supervisors and the research student and approved by the relevant Faculty Director of the Graduate School of the University of Southampton. This agreement will set out the terms and conditions governing the joint award.
5. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy may be awarded by the Senate to research students who have successfully pursued a course of study jointly with another approved institution, as prescribed below and have satisfied any other requirements to the satisfaction of the relevant academic authorities of both the institutions concerned.

Admission

6. Applications for admission to a jointly awarded research degree programme with another named institution must be approved by the appropriate academic authorities in both institutions and must satisfy the formal entry requirements for both institutions.
7. The procedures for admission will be specified in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Candidature

8. The degree to be followed shall be one of full-time supervised study, including research training which will include both generic and subject specific elements, together with generic skills training.
9. Research students will normally be formally enrolled at both institutions throughout the period of candidature unless otherwise specified in the Memorandum of Agreement. If a research student is not enrolled at both institutions throughout the period of candidature, periods of separate enrolment at either institution in the partnership shall be counted as equivalent for the

- purposes of determining the overall period of candidature, as specified in the Memorandum of Agreement, for the degree.
10. Research students will be subject to the regulations, rules, policies and practices of the institutions with which they are enrolled. Procedures for dealing with breaches of the aforesaid will be specified in the Memorandum of Agreement.
 11. The minimum period of candidature to be spent at each institution and the expected division of the period of candidature between institutions will be specified in the Memorandum of Agreement.
 12. Research students must have their doctoral candidature confirmed at a suitable point through the process specified in the Memorandum of Agreement. The Memorandum of Agreement should also specify if candidates who are not successful in confirming their doctoral candidature may be offered the opportunity to transfer onto a Master of Philosophy degree (or a degree with equivalent criteria for award) at one of the partner institutions.
 13. A research student for the degree of PhD may be permitted at any time prior to submission of the thesis to transfer to a programme leading to the degree of Master of Philosophy at one of the partner institutions. With regards to transfer of programme, the University will comply with its obligations under the relevant immigration legislation which may be updated from time to time. Before a transfer of degree has taken place, those in the UK by virtue of a Student visa should seek advice from the [Visa and Immigration Student Advice Service](#).

Supervision and Progress

14. Research students registered on a programme leading to a joint award shall have a supervisory team which includes at least one supervisor from each institution. The co-ordinating supervisor from the University of Southampton should be a permanent academic member of University of Southampton staff. One member of the supervisory team shall be designated as the main supervisor and should have an employment contract valid for at least the typical period of doctoral candidature. The main supervisor will typically also undertake the role of co-ordinating supervisor. If appropriate, the main supervisor may change depending upon the institution in which the research student is physically located. The supervisory team may include other supervisors and/or independent mentors and should normally include at least one additional member from the institution at which the research student is physically located, to provide additional support. The supervisors appointed shall satisfy the academic criteria for the appointment of supervisors at both institutions, and shall be approved by the normal academic route in both institutions.
15. The responsibilities of the supervisory team and of the research student shall be set out in the Individual Doctoral Agreement provided to and signed by the supervisors and the research student and approved by the relevant Faculty Director of the Graduate School of the University of Southampton.
16. Every research student will take part in an individualised assessment of their research training needs or equivalent with their supervisor(s) at the commencement of their studies. Research students will also be required to take part in a research training programme which will include generic and subject specific research training, together with generic skills training and may include a range of elements which are compulsory, optional or conditions of funding. Research training may take place at any or all of the institutions party to the joint degree, as agreed by the supervisory team and the research student in a written training agreement. It is the responsibility of the relevant Faculty Director of the Graduate School of the University of Southampton to ensure that the research student undertakes a programme which meets all the training requirements for that Faculty of the University of Southampton and any funding body where that funding has been arranged through the University.
17. Timings and procedures for progression reviews should be established in the Memorandum of Agreement. In addition, the progress of the research student may be reviewed at any time. If

progress is unsatisfactory and if, after due warning, there is insufficient improvement, a recommendation may be put forward for termination of candidature. Such recommendations must be approved by both institutions, following their normal procedures for termination of candidature. In exceptional circumstances, and if specified in the Memorandum of Agreement, provision may be made for a research student to transfer to candidature for the degree of Master of Philosophy (or a degree with equivalent criteria for award) of either the University of Southampton or the other Institution in the partnership.

Duration of Research Degrees

18. Unless otherwise specified in the Memorandum of Agreement, the minimum and maximum length of full-time candidature shall be as that specified for a PhD – Standard Route in the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#). This includes nominal registration where applicable but excludes periods of suspension (see paragraphs 21 and 22 of these Regulations (*Suspension of Candidature*)).
19. The period of candidature ends when the thesis is submitted. A research student who fails to submit a thesis by the end of the agreed maximum period of candidature shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the programme.

Nominal Registration

20. The Memorandum of Agreement will specify whether the University of Southampton's regulations relating to Nominal Registration (paragraphs 36 to 40 (*Nominal Registration*) of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#)) apply. If there is no provision for transfer to Nominal Registration a candidate must remain in supervised full-time candidature until the thesis is submitted.

Suspension of Candidature

21. Candidates must continue in registration for the degree until such time as they submit their thesis or withdraw, except where a suspension of candidature is approved through the relevant academic authorities as specified in the Memorandum of Agreement. The maximum period of suspension should be stipulated and will normally be in accordance with the [General Regulations: Transfer, Suspension, Withdrawal and Termination](#). In the case of research council or other funded candidates, due regard should be given to funder and local visa rules governing suspension. Periods of temporary suspension shall not count towards the maximum period of study.
22. Whilst in attendance at the University of Southampton, paragraphs 41 to 42 of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#) (*Suspension of Candidature*) shall apply to research students in suspension.

Extension of Candidature

23. The minimum and maximum periods of candidature specified in the Memorandum of Agreement should be strictly adhered to. The University's regulations on extension of candidature (paragraphs 43 and 44 of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#) (*Extension of Candidature*) will apply unless otherwise specified in the Memorandum of Agreement. Any requests for an extension must be approved through the relevant academic procedures in both institutions.

Submission

24. After completion of the necessary period of study, a thesis (alternative formats may be permitted in some disciplines as defined in paragraphs 85 to 86 of the [Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision](#) (*Alternative Formats of Thesis Submission*) shall

- be submitted for examination. Procedures for giving notice of intention to submit a thesis will be specified in the Memorandum of Agreement.
25. The length and format to be used for the submission will be specified in the Memorandum of Agreement, taking due regard of the requirements specified in paragraphs 46 to 55 of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#) (*Submission of Thesis*).
 26. A research student who, if the examination is successful, wishes to attend a graduation ceremony at the University of Southampton should seek advice from the relevant Faculty Graduate School Office regarding the date by which they must give notice of intention to submit. A longer than standard period of notice may be required depending upon the detailed examination requirements set out in the Memorandum of Agreement. The research student should also seek guidance from the [Visa and Immigration Student Advice Service](#).
 27. Candidates must comply with the provisions of paragraphs 51 to 52 of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#) (*Submission of Thesis*) regarding access to their thesis.

Examination

28. The examination will be conducted simultaneously by both institutions.
29. The examination process for research students registered for a degree jointly awarded with another university will be based on the principles described in paragraphs 56 and 57 of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#) (*Examination*). These principles are that:
 - a) No member of the supervisory team may be appointed as an examiner; nor may they take part in the judgement of the thesis under consideration in any other way.
 - b) The research student will be expected to submit a written thesis (or alternative format as specified in paragraphs 85 to 86 of the [Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision](#) (*Alternative Formats of Thesis Submission*)). The thesis must be written in English (a thesis may be written in a language other than English only if approved within the conditions specified in paragraph 84 of the [Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision](#) (*Thesis Written in a Language other than English*)) and the research student will be required to defend the submission in some form of *viva voce*. The examination may take the form of a public defence of the thesis, but this must be part of the examination process.
 - c) The panel of examiners will consist of at least two examiners, one of whom will be an examiner external to the institutions awarding the degree.
 - d) The examining panel may include additional members should this be considered necessary.
30. The arrangements for examination will be as specified in the Memorandum of Agreement or in the Individual Doctoral Agreement.

Outcomes of the Examination

31. The outcomes of the examination will be as set out in paragraph 58 of the [Regulations for Research Degrees](#) (*Outcomes of the Examination*) unless otherwise specified in the Memorandum of Agreement, except that the provision for a research student who has failed to satisfy the examiners to apply within a specified time for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy will not be available to a research student who is registered for a joint award with an institution which does not offer an Master of Philosophy degree (or a degree with equivalent criteria for award). In such cases, the research student may be given the option to submit a thesis for the award of a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Southampton only.
32. The award must be approved by the relevant academic authorities at both institutions. For the University of Southampton, the award will be made by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty Education Committee.

33. A research student who fails to submit a corrected or revised thesis by the date set by the examiners shall normally be regarded as having failed the examination, the recommendations of the examiners shall lapse and candidature will be terminated. In exceptional circumstances a revised date for submitting corrections may be approved by the partner institutions.
34. Where the examiners recommend that the degree not be awarded and that submission of a revised thesis not be permitted, the research student may ask for the case to be reviewed in accordance with procedures set out in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Special Considerations, Complaints and Appeals

35. Provisions for special consideration, complaints and appeals will be specified in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Revision History

Amendments approved by UPC in May 2013 and by Senate in June 2013

Amendments approved by AQSC in May 2014 and by Senate in June 2014

Reviewed in July 2015; no changes made

Amendments approved by AQSC in May 2016, by AQSC in June 2016 [Chair's Action], and by Senate in July 2016

Amendments approved by AQSC in May 2017 and by Senate in June 2017

Amendments approved by AQSC in May 2018 and by Senate in June 2018

Amendments approved by AQSC in May 2019 and by Senate in June 2019

Reviewed in May 2020; no changes made

Amendments approved by AQSC in May 2021 and by Senate in June 2021