

University Calendar: 2022/23

Academic Regulations: Faculty of Medicine

School	Medicine
Final Award	Doctor of Medicine (DM) <i>With exit awards of:</i> Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
Programme(s)	Doctor of Medicine
Last modified	April 2022

The Academic Regulations which are detailed in Section V: [Regulations for Research Degrees and Higher Doctorates](#), and Section IV: [General Information and Regulations](#) of the Calendar, apply to and regulate the programme(s) listed above.

On occasion, programmes can be exempted from one or more of the clauses in the Regulations; one or more of the clauses can be varied; and programmes can impose additional requirements.

- Exemptions are characterised by the omission of the relevant clause.
- Variations are characterised by the replacement of the clause with alternative wording.
- Additions are characterised by requirements in addition to those detailed in the Academic regulations.

The programmes listed have approval from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee for the **exemptions** and/or **variations** and/or **additions** to the regulations noted below.

Exemptions:

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption to the Regulations exists:

None apply

Variations:

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation to the Regulations exists:

Existing University regulation Regulations for Research Degrees		Approved Variation
14	A research student in candidature for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy may be permitted, at any time prior to the submission of the thesis, to transfer to a programme leading to the degree of Master of Philosophy. The period spent in candidature up to the point of transfer will be counted towards the period of candidature required for the degree to which the transfer is made. Details of the permission required to transfer for other programmes will be detailed in the Academic Regulations (Section VI of the University Calendar).	Research students registered for the degree of DM may apply to transfer to PhD registration after at least one year of part-time registered study. Research students wishing to transfer from DM to PhD will be required to successfully complete the Faculty of Medicine's <i>Transfer of candidature to PhD</i> procedures not less than six months before the end of their DM candidature. The <i>Transfer of candidature to PhD</i> will normally take the form of a confirmation panel, even if a research student has previously had their DM status confirmed. Time already spent in candidature for the DM will count towards the period of study required for the PhD.

Existing University regulation Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision	
63	Research students who enrolled on their doctoral studies after 1 August 2016 are required to undertake Progression Reviews as outlined in the <i>Summary of timings of progression reviews for research students who enrolled on their doctoral studies on or after 1 August 2016</i> table below. The second Progression Review is known as confirmation of doctoral candidature (paragraphs 65 to 73 of this Code (<i>The Second Progression Review (Confirmation of Doctoral Candidature)</i>)) and must be successfully completed before a research student may submit a thesis for examination. Research students will be required to submit the material for a Progression Review normally not later than four working weeks in advance of the decision deadline. These timings are defined to enable the Assessment Panel to consider the submitted material, hold the Review, and

make a recommendation within the specified timeframe. Timings refer to the full month, i.e. the decision from the first attempt at the First Progression Review should be made between the beginning of month 8 and the end of month 10.

Summary of timings of progression reviews for research students who enrolled on their doctoral studies on or after 1 August 2016 (**full-time** programmes)

	First Attempt		Second Attempt	
	Submission window	Decision deadline	Submission window	Decision deadline
First Progression Review	7-9 months	Before the end of month 10	10-11 months	Before the end of month 12
Second Progression Review (Confirmation)	18-20 months	Before the end of month 21	21-23 months	Before the end of month 24
Third Progression Review	30-32 months	Before the end of month 33	33-35 months	Before the end of month 36

Summary of timings of progression reviews for research students who enrolled on their doctoral studies on or after 1 August 2016 (**part-time** programmes)³

	First Attempt		Second Attempt	
	Submission deadline	Decision deadline	Submission deadline	Decision deadline
First Progression Review	15 - 20 months	Before the end of month 21	21 - 24 months	Before the end of month 24
Second Progression Review (Confirmation)	30 - 41 months	Before the end of month 42	42 - 47 months	Before the end of month 48
Third Progression Review	61 - 65 months	Before the end of month 66	66 - 71 months	Before the end of month 72

In exceptional circumstances, and only where a student can be shown to be making exceptional progress, a research student may be permitted to undertake their Progression Review earlier than the timeframe specified. In such a case, the request must be made by the main supervisor to the Faculty Director of the Graduate School for recommendation to the Faculty Education Committee for approval.

Research students who first enrolled on their doctoral studies before 1 August 2016 will follow the progression monitoring timings and procedures that applied at the time of their year of entry and as determined by their Faculty (including those for upgrade/transfer from MPhil to PhD). A summary of the applicable timings, depending on year of entry, is set out in the table below and students should refer to their Faculty for further information. However, the policy and procedure outlined in paragraphs 65 to 73 of this Code (*The Second Progression Review: Confirmation of Doctoral Candidature*) will apply to research students who first enrolled on their doctoral studies before 1 August 2016 when completing their upgrade/transfer from MPhil to PhD.

Summary of timings of Confirmation of Doctoral candidature/Upgrade from MPhil to PhD³

Time of Entry	Full-time	Part-time
After 1 August 2016	18 to 21 months	30 to 42 months
1 August 2015 to 1 August 2016	18 to 21 months	30 to 42 months
Before 1 August 2015	At least 6 months before final thesis submission	At least 6 months before final thesis submission

¹ These timings may be adjusted on a pro-rata basis for research students registered on non-standard research programmes where other duties are a formal part of the programme; for example, the Clinical Doctorate Research Fellowship scheme or the Mayflower Scholarship scheme.

Approved Variation				
Research students enrolled on a DM programme will follow the timelines for progression reviews set out for full-time doctoral students:				
Summary of timings of progression reviews for research students who enrolled on their doctoral studies on or after 1 August 2016 (full-time programmes)				
	First Attempt		Second Attempt	
	Submission window	Decision deadline	Submission window	Decision deadline
First Progression Review	7-9 months	Before the end of month 10	10-11 months	Before the end of month 12
Second Progression Review (Confirmation)	18-20 months	Before the end of month 21	21-23 months	Before the end of month 24
Third Progression Review	30-32 months	Before the end of month 33	33-35 months	Before the end of month 36

Additional requirements:

The clause(s) listed below are in addition to the Regulations.

Existing University regulation	Approved Variation
Regulations for Research Degrees	
<p>5 Applicants for a research degree shall hold an undergraduate degree or Master's degree in a suitable subject of any approved university or whatever award/range of experience might be deemed equivalent by the Faculty Graduate School Committee using the University's guidance on recognition of prior [experiential/certificated] learning as set out in the University's Recognition of Prior Learning Policy and in paragraph 13 of the University's Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision. Applications from individuals with other non-standard qualifications must be approved by the Associate Dean (Education) on a case by case basis. Applicants may be admitted on transfer from another university according to the guidelines set out in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the University's Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision (<i>Selection and Admission of Research Students</i>).</p>	<p>Candidates must hold a medical qualification which is recognised by the General Medical Council for the United Kingdom, and must have held this qualification for at least three years by the date of submission of the thesis or published works.</p> <p>In addition, candidates must be employed during their period of registered study in appropriate clinical or scientific work in hospitals or institutions associated with the Faculty of Medicine.</p> <p>Alternative Submission for the Degree Exceptionally, candidates may apply for the award of the DM degree without having pursued a programme of registered study, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Southampton graduates not employed in hospitals or institutions associated with the Faculty of Medicine may register as a student of the University for a DM degree if they can provide evidence that they have tried unsuccessfully to submit for the degree at their local university. Such students will undertake a period of supervised research in their home institution following the requirements of the University of Southampton Regulations for Research Degrees. Any graduates who hold a Consultant or equivalent position, or who work in General Practice and who are employed in local hospitals or institutions associated with the Faculty of Medicine, may apply for the award of the degree by submission of published works. Such works should be broadly comparable to a DM thesis, as specified in regulation 24 below. The normal requirement would be a minimum of four peer-reviewed papers in respected journals which form a coherent body of work.

		<p>i. The published material should be bound together with an abstract and a supporting statement indicating the candidate's aims, the nature of the research, and the contributions to it of the works submitted. Where published papers from different sources are included, the candidate must provide a separate introduction which links the material and demonstrates the nature and extent of his/her original contribution. If the published work is already in book form, the abstract and supporting statement must be bound.</p> <p>ii. If the candidate incorporates material which has been produced in collaboration with others, a written statement should be included indicating the share the candidate personally took in the work.</p> <p>Such candidates will not be allocated a supervisor but will be allocated an academic mentor who will provide informal guidance during the preparation of the candidate's thesis or published works. The proposed area of research must be approved by the Faculty normally at least one year before submission of the thesis.</p> <p>The degree of Doctor of Medicine denotes high professional standing and good competence as evidenced by high quality clinically orientated or biomedical research. Candidates must provide evidence that they have mastered a special field within the broad remit of clinical medicine or surgery, or more basic science as it relates to those areas. The scientific and research methods employed by the candidate must be validated. The work should be of a standard that might reasonably be expected from a candidate who has spent at least two years in part-time research. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate they have met the criteria expected of other doctoral level degrees as set out in Paragraph 5 of the Code of Practice for Research Degree Candidature and Supervision.</p>
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These regulations should be read in conjunction with the programme specification.

Disclaimer:

As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, these regulations may be revised during a student's period of registration, however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our [Disclaimer](#) to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.