**RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS**

**SUMMARY OF REGULATORY AMENDMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/17**

***The wording in bold reflects the amended wording***

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| **Section number** | **Relevant paragraph(s)** | **Page (s)** |
| Section 9 (4) | *Paragraph 4 has been amended in light of changes to the College’s requirements for doctoral annual review and upgrade panels.*  **Reviews of academic progress**  (4) **In line with Section 9 (2), each department or school will be responsible for publishing their individual review procedure at the beginning of each academic year. However, as a minimum, each annual review will be conducted with at least one member of the supervisory team present plus one member of staff who is completely independent of the supervisory team. Where the student is undertaking a review for the purpose of upgrading their degree to PhD, the panel will include a minimum of three members, with at least one member of the supervisory team and one member of staff who is completely independent of the supervisory team in attendance.** | 7 |
| Section 13 (8) | *The word limits for theses in creative writing and poetic practice have been amended as follows.*  **Requirements of the MPhil and PhD theses**  (8) Fiction  The thesis is normally between 80,000-**150,000** words in total:  • 60,000–**90,000** words of creative writing • 20,000–**60,000** words of critical writing   Poetry & Poetic Practice  The thesis is the equivalent of normally between 80,000-**150,000** words in total:  • 45–60 pages of poetry or equivalent practice-based output • 20,000–**60,000** words of critical writing | 13 |
| Section 13 (10) | *This paragraph below has been added to cover provision for the practice-based PhD with the Department of History.*  **Requirements of the MPhil and PhD theses**  (10) **Where a student working in the field of History has undertaken research in which practice forms a core methodology and mode of research, submission may include a body of creative and/or curatorial and/or archival work conceived specially for the degree.  The practice element of the PhD will be informed by research and appropriately documented. A retainable record of these creative practices will be submitted in a form which has been approved by the supervisory team, together with a body usually 30,000-60,000 words of critical and theoretical writing. Both will show coherence, originality and intellectual rigour, illustrating knowledge and understanding of relevant practice and critical debates in the field. The relationship between the creative and critical/theoretical components will vary depending on the project. Taken together, they will demonstrate the contribution to knowledge made by the thesis as a whole. The exact balance between the creative, theoretical and critical elements of the thesis will be decided between the student and the supervisory team.** | 14 |
| Section 15 (2-4) | *Section 15 has been amended as shown below. This elates to the new requirement to submit an electronic copy of the final version of the thesis prior to examination.*  **Submission of the MPhil and PhD theses**   1. **In addition to two (or three) hard copies of the thesis, submitted in line with Section 15 (1), students will also submit an electronic version of the thesis to Student Administration, Registry, except in cases where agreement is in place for a restriction of access for reasons of confidentiality, commercial sensitivity or patents.** 2. Failure to submit **both hard copies and an electronic version** within the required period will normally result in the student failing the degree without the option to present the thesis for a second time, unless there are severe extenuating circumstances which are deemed acceptable by the College Board of Examiners’ Executive Committee. 3. All components of the thesis**, including the electronic version,** must be presented for examination in a final form and bound in accordance with the Instructions on the Submission, Format and Binding of Theses for Research Degrees. | 16-17 |
| Section 19 (2) | *Section 19 has been amended to remove the requirement for students to submit a hardcopy of the thesis, subsequent to successful examination and with any required amendments, from 2016/17 onwards.*  **Notification of results**   1. The degree of MPhil or PhD shall not be awarded until one electronic copy of the final, post- viva, corrected version of the thesis has been submitted to the institutional repository **and lodged with Student Administration, Registry (see Section 15(2) of these regulations).** | 23 |
| Section 20 (1) | *Section 20 (1) has been amended in line with the College’s decision that successful doctoral candidates shall no longer be required to submit a hardcopy of the thesis subsequent to their examination.*  **Availability of MPhil and PhD theses**   1. Unless subject to Section 20 (2), (3) and (4) of these regulations, **electronic** copies of successful theses shall be placed, after award, in the Institutional Repository (electronic version) to be available for public reference, inter-library loans and copying. | 23 |
| Section 20 (2) | *The paragraph below has been amended to make clear that the minimum period of embargo afforded by the College to a doctoral student’s thesis is two years.*  **Availability of MPhil and PhD theses**   1. Restriction of access to the print and/or electronic version of the thesis for a **minimum** period of ~~up to~~ two years can be specified by the student without any formal justification or approval. Students wishing to impose access restrictions for any period longer than two years must follow the formal process specified in Section 20 (4) of these regulations. | 23 |
| Appendix 1, Section 5 (1-3) | The examination of Master’s by Research will now include an outcome whereby students may be required to complete amendments over a period of six months.  **Appendix 1: Regulations governing Masters by Research programmes**   1. **Outcome of the Masters by Research examination** 2. **If the dissertation fulfils the criteria for the Masters by Research degree as set out in paragraph 5 (1-2) in Appendix 1 of these regulations and the student has passed the taught component of the programme (if applicable), the examiners will report to the College Board of Examiners that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the Master’s by Research degree.** 3. **If the dissertation otherwise fulfils the criteria for the Masters by Research degree as set out in paragraph 5 (1-2) in Appendix 1 of these regulations, but requires minor amendments, and the student has passed the taught component of the programme (if applicable), the examiners may require the student to make amendments to the dissertation specified by them within six weeks. The amended dissertation shall be submitted to the examiners, or to one of their number nominated by them, for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory. If the amendments are made by the deadline and are satisfactory, the examiners will report to the College Board of Examiners that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the Master of Arts or Master of Science by Research degree. If the candidate fails to meet these requirements the examiners will normally recommend offering the candidate the option to return the following academic year to resubmit the dissertation for a second and final time.** 4. **If the dissertation, though inadequate, shall seem of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may determine that the student be permitted to re-present his/her dissertation in a revised form for a second and final time within six months. This option is not available to examiners re-examining a dissertation. The examiners shall not make such a decision without first submitting the candidate to an oral examination.** | 31 |
| Appendix 5 | Appendix 5 has been added to cover the newly approved provision for the award of the Doctorate in Medicine (MD). | 47 |