Guidance on Thesis Word Count

Please note the University of London and Royal Holloway Research Degree Regulations for the Degrees of MPhil and PhD state that the thesis will comprise a piece of scholarly writing of not more than 60,000 words for the MPhil degree and 100,000 words for the PhD degree. In both cases this length includes references, but excludes the bibliography and any appendices.

Please note the following exceptions apply for the MPhils/PhDs listed below:

Drama and Theatre Studies: The submission may include a live performance (broadly defined) or a piece of creative writing (normally a play script) devised specifically for the degree, together with a body of critical/theoretical writing of approximately 30,000-60,000 words. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

Creative Writing: The thesis is between 80,000-100,000 words in total: 60,000–80,000 words of creative writing and 20,000–40,000 words of critical writing. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

Poetic Practice: The thesis is the equivalent of between 80,000-100,000 words in total: 45–60 pages of poetry or equivalent practice-based output and 20,000–40,000 words of critical writing. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

Practice Based Geography: The thesis may include a body of creative work devised specially for the degree, together with a body of critical/theoretical writing of approximately 30,000-60,000 words. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

Please note in cases where candidates exceed the prescribed word limit set out in the College’s Research Degree Regulations the examiners may refer the thesis for resubmission requiring it to be shortened.