

RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS

SUMMARY OF REGULATORY AMENDMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/24

The wording in bold reflects the amended wording.

Section number	Relevant paragraph(s)	Page (s)
All sections	<p><i>Update terminology in the Research Degree Regulations with the following:</i></p> <p>‘Research Degrees Programmes Committee’ replaced with ‘Doctoral School Committee’.</p> <p>‘the College’ replaced with ‘the University’ (unless referring to ‘Royal Holloway and New Bedford College’, specifically)</p>	All
Section 15 (1)	<p><i>Section 15 (1) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to clarify that the Doctoral School Committee does not review extenuating circumstances submissions.</i></p> <p>15 Submission of the MPhil and PhD theses</p> <p>(1) An electronic copy of the thesis must be submitted by the student to the Doctoral School, except in cases where agreement is in place for a restriction of access for reasons of confidentiality, commercial sensitivity or patents where instead two hard copies of the thesis must be submitted by the student. In such cases, the student may be required to submit a third copy of the thesis in the event that a third examiner is appointed at any stage in the examination process. The thesis must be submitted within the maximum period of registration in Section 2 (4) (a) and (b). Failure to submit 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 Research Degrees Programmes Committee.</p>	19
Section 21 (12)	<p><i>Section 21 (12) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to provide further clarification around the specific timescale in which a student should expect to receive a response to a request for a review of an academic appeal.</i></p> <p>(12) Requests for a review must be submitted in writing by the student to the General Counsel, Legal and Compliance Directorate within 10 working days of the date on which the student was formally notified of the initial outcome of their appeal. Unless informed otherwise the student will be notified of the review decision within 20 working days of the receipt of a request for review.</p>	28/29
Section 22 (5)	<p><i>Section 22 (5) of the Research Degree Regulations has been amended to clarify the outcome of an upheld academic appeal.</i></p> <p>22 Appeals against termination of registration</p> <p>(5) The findings from the investigation by the investigating officer will be presented in writing to a Senior Vice-Principal, who will determine one of the following courses of action:</p>	31

	<p>(a) to uphold the appeal in the event that the appeal is upheld, to reinstate the student's registration in full subject to any conditions which s/he may wish to impose and with a revised deadline for final submission to account for the time taken for the appeal process;</p> <p>(b) to confirm the decision to terminate the student's registration;</p> <p>(c) to convene an Appeals Committee under the provisions of Section 22 (6) to investigate the matter further through a formal hearing. Normally, this is only in cases where major procedural irregularities have been identified.</p> <p>In the event that the appeal is upheld, if appropriate, to reinstate the student's registration in full subject to any conditions which s/he may wish to impose and with a revised deadline for final submission to account for the time taken for the appeal process.</p>	
Appendix 1	<p><i>Appendix 1 has been updated to include the specific practice requirements for Drama/Theatre/Dance/Music and Media Arts submission for Masters by Research degrees.</i></p> <p>5. Dissertation</p> <p>(1) The dissertation will be a maximum of 40,000 words. The word count includes references, footnotes and endnotes, but excludes the bibliography and any appendices, which should only include material which the examiners are not required to read in order adequately to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish.</p> <p>(2) The dissertation shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) synthesise knowledge from the subject or discipline and apply it to a suitable research problem, hypotheses or research questions; (b) provide a critical discussion of relevant major theories, debates and concepts; (c) demonstrate the capacity to design and carry out an independent research project using appropriate research methods and utilizing suitable skills and techniques; (d) undertake a clear analysis of the results of the project, and show informed and critical use of theories and concepts to interrogate these results; (e) provide a reasoned and coherent account of the main findings and their significance; (f) display good presentation and referencing skills. <p>(3) In the fields of practice-based research where the student has undertaken research in creative writing or poetic practice, the dissertation will be completed according to 5(2) above with the dissertation comprising a minimum of 10,000 words and a maximum of 20,000 words to be submitted alongside a body of creative work devised specifically for the degree. Both elements will show coherence, originality and intellectual rigour, illustrating knowledge and understanding of relevant practice and critical debates in the field. Taken together, they should demonstrate an original contribution to knowledge. The relationship between the creative and critical/theoretical components will vary depending on the specific project. The exact balance between the textual/non-textual creative work and dissertation of the thesis</p>	33-36

	<p>will be decided between the student and supervisor and discussed at the outset of the project; though in all cases the dissertation must be a minimum of 10,000 words and a maximum of 20,000 words.</p> <p>Live practice work will be appropriately documented, and a retainable record of the performance(s) or other creative practices will be submitted in a manner approved by the supervisory team.</p> <p>Fiction / Literary Non-Fiction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,000–20,000 words of fiction to be completed alongside the dissertation (5(2)) <p>Poetry and Poetic Practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-20 pages of poetry or equivalent practice-based output to be completed alongside the dissertation (5(2)) (4) The dissertation element of the degree will be examined by both an internal examiner, who may have acted as the dissertation supervisor for the student, and an external examiner. (5) An oral examination may be conducted at the discretion of the examiners. The oral examination will normally be held within three months of the date of submission of the dissertation. The oral examination will be subject to the examination requirements set out in Section 16 (1) to (11) of the <i>Research Degree Regulations</i>. Section 6 (2) sets out when the conduct of an oral <p>Drama, Theatre and Dance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A piece of practice normally in the form of a minimum of 30-minute performance (live, digital, dance), a play-script, or a series of workshops. • The written commentary for the dissertation (5(2)), should provide discussion of the artistic considerations, methodological approaches, and broader social, cultural and/or theoretical issues arising from the creation of the piece of practice. <p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A piece of practice up to 40 minutes in length normally in the form of a musical composition or a portfolio of musical compositions, musical performance, collaborative performance, or a lecture-recital. • The written commentary for the dissertation (5(2)), should provide discussion of the artistic considerations, methodological approaches, and broader social, cultural and/or theoretical issues arising from the creation of the piece of practice. <p>Media Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A piece of practice that addresses specific research questions normally as a screenplay, a lens/sound-based work, an exhibition, an installation, or a performance. 	
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