



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
**Glasgow**

## General Academic Regulations

(Regulations Specific to a Particular Level of Study)

### *Postgraduate Research Degree Regulations*

Version No.	Description	Author	Approval	Effective Date
1	Regulations for Postgraduate Research Students	Quality Enhancement & Assurance Team	Senate	Not implemented
2	Regulations for Postgraduate Research Students	Quality Enhancement & Assurance Team	Senate	27 Jan 2021
3	Students who successfully complete the professional development element of their studies will be eligible to receive the associated award. To note the inclusion of the new award of Professional Doctorate.	Quality Enhancement & Assurance Team	Senate	2023/24
4	Para 91 – remove reference to a hard copy of thesis being submitted to library.	Quality Enhancement & Assurance Team	Senate	Nov 2023
5	Para 23 – addition relating to external funding requirements	Quality Enhancement & Assurance Team	Senate Sept 2024	Sept 2024

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## Glossary of Terms

<i>Academic Suspension</i>	An interruption of studies for an individual, on academic grounds.
<i>Compensation</i>	Where a student has failed to attain the pass mark in a module, they may, in specific circumstances, be granted a pass by compensation.
<i>Compulsory module</i>	A module which <i>must</i> be taken as part of the programme curriculum.
<i>Department/School</i>	Academic Departments or Schools within each Faculty.
<i>Faculty</i>	The University of Strathclyde has four faculties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engineering</li> <li>• Humanities and Social Sciences</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Strathclyde Business School</li> </ul>
<a href="#"><u>PEGASUS</u></a>	An online portal which provides a number of services for students and staff members.
<i>Programme Handbook</i>	Guide detailing specific programme-related Information.
<i>Programme Regulation</i>	Specific requirements for individual programmes of study.
<i>Senate</i>	The academic governing body within the University, responsible for all academic matters including academic standards and quality.
<a href="#"><u>University Regulations</u></a>	The Regulations describe the remit and composition of various University committees; regulate the academic work of the University, the education and discipline of its students, and such other matters as lie within the functions of Senate.  These Regulations stand separate to the General Academic Regulations.
<a href="#"><u>University Ordinances</u></a>	Regulatory document providing details on the way in which the University is governed.
<a href="#"><u>Voluntary Suspension</u></a>	A voluntary interruption of studies for an individual who is otherwise qualified for continued study.

## **Context**

1. These regulations apply to programmes of supervised research leading to one or more academic distinctions of the University of Strathclyde. The following awards are conferred by the University by the authority of the Senate under [Ordinance 3](#):

### Masters awards

- a. The degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
- b. The degree of Master of Research (MRes)

### Doctoral awards

- c. The degree of Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
- d. The degree of Doctor of Education (EdD)
- e. The degree of Doctor of Educational Psychology (DEdPsy)
- f. The degree of Doctor of Engineering (EngD)
- g. The degree of Doctor of Information Science (DInfSci)
- h. The degree of Doctor of Pharmacy (DPharm)
- i. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
- j. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy with Integrated Studies (PhDIntStj)
- k. The degree of Professional Doctorate (DProf)

### Higher Research awards

- k. The degree of Doctor of Science
- l. The degree of Doctor of Letters

2. These regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#), which expands on the processes mentioned within these Regulations.
3. Award of a Doctoral degree recognises a student's knowledge and understanding of their field of study and the ability to conduct future research without supervision, as assessed by the appointed examiners and evidenced by the work submitted for assessment, and which is the result of a supervised programme of research, and which contributes significant original knowledge or the application of existing knowledge to new situations.
4. Award of the degrees of Doctor of Business Administration, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Engineering, Doctor of Information Science, Doctor of Pharmacy, Doctor of Philosophy with Integrated Studies and Professional Doctorate recognises the completion of a structured programme of learning and/or skills development related to the subject, in addition to a supervised programme of research.
5. Award of the degree of Master of Philosophy recognises a student's significant contribution to knowledge, or the application of existing knowledge to new situations, in their subject, as assessed by the appointed examiners and evidenced by the work submitted for assessment, and which is the result of a supervised programme of research.
6. Award of the degree of Master of Research recognises a student's ability to conduct research in their subject, as assessed by the appointed examiners and evidenced by the work submitted for assessment, and which is the result of a structured programme of research methods, and/or a research project.
7. Award of the degree Doctor of Science or Doctor of Letters recognises a substantial contribution to a major field of study over a significant period of time as assessed by the appointed examiners and evidenced by the submission of a significant body of published works accompanied by a summary outlining the publications submitted and the contribution the publications have made to the field of research.

8. Joint or dual research degrees established by University Departments or Schools with external partners should comply with the [Policy & Code of Practice on Collaborative Provision](#) when establishing these arrangements to ensure due process is followed.

### **Admissions**

9. The standard admissions criteria for research degree programmes are set out in the University's [Admissions Policy](#). Any additional criteria to the standard admissions policy are set out in annually published Individual Research Degree Regulations.
10. Applicants for Higher Research degrees should follow the guidelines and procedures in the University's [Policy on Higher Doctorates](#).
11. Members of staff of the University of Strathclyde may apply for research degree programmes as described in the University's policy on postgraduate research study for staff. Staff applicants must be members of University of Strathclyde staff and remain members of staff for the duration of the research programme. The admissions criteria listed in the University's Admissions Policy will apply to University staff applicants.

### **Registration**

12. An applicant accepting an offer to study for a postgraduate research programme is required to register at the start of the programme and pay fees as applicable. Students are also required to re-register at the start of each new academic year.
13. A student can register at the start of any calendar month.
14. A student awarded funding must follow the terms and conditions set out by the funder and meet any reporting requirements.
15. Students will be registered within a single department/school, and the registering department/school is responsible for the management and oversight of the programme of supervised research. Students involved in multi-disciplinary research, or who have supervisors based in two or more departments/schools, will normally be registered within the first supervisor's department/school. Management and oversight of the programme of supervised research will be the responsibility of the registering department/school, but this will be executed in consultation with the other department(s)/school(s) concerned.
16. Students on the DProf are registered at Faculty level and the faculty are responsible for management and oversight of the programme overall. At the thesis stage, students will be supervised at School level.

### **Mode of Study**

17. Some research degree programmes are available to students on a full-time or part-time basis. Individual Research Degree Regulations specify the available modes of study for a programme, and whether changes to mode of study are allowed.
18. Students undertaking a full-time research degree programme are expected to dedicate the working week to their research and studies. The [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#) provides more information on working hours, annual leave, public holidays and University closures.
19. Part-time students will follow a pattern of working in line with that of full-time students, on a pro-rata basis.
20. Students may request a transfer from full-time to part-time study, or vice versa, by submitting an application to their Supervisor, for approval by the appropriate Vice-Dean (or nominee). Transfers to a different mode of study will only be permitted in instances where the transfer

does not impact on the research project adversely. The [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#) provides information about the process and criteria for changes to mode of study.

21. Students cannot change their mode of study when they have transferred to *completing* status.
22. Students can enter voluntary suspension once they have transferred to *completing* status, as stated in the [Voluntary Suspension Guidelines](#).

### **Period of Study**

23. Standard minimum and maximum periods of study are set out in Table A below. The minimum period of study will be used to calculate the expected submission date, and the maximum period of study will be used to calculate the final submission date. Individual Research Degree Regulations will establish if part-time study is available, and additional admissions requirements that might affect the minimum duration. Each registering student will receive confirmation of the minimum and maximum duration of their study. Where an external funder requests a different duration of study, applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Such requests, if approved, will be confirmed in writing taking into consideration any funding conditions in accordance with and alongside the institutional requirements and standards conditions.
24. Any periods of voluntary suspension during the minimum period of study will be added to the minimum period of study and the expected submission date and final submission date adjusted accordingly.

**Table A**

Award	Full Time (months)		Part Time (months)	
	Minimum period of study	Maximum period of study	Minimum period of study	Maximum period of study
DBA	N/A	N/A	48	60
EdD	36	48	60	96
DEdPsy	24	36	N/A	N/A
EngD	48	60	96	108
DInfSci	36	48	60	72
DPharm	36	48	48	60
PhD	36	48	72	84
MPhil	12	24	24	36
MRes	12	24	24	36
PhDIntSt	48	60	96	108
DProf	N/A	N/A	60	96

25. A student is required to submit their thesis within the maximum period of study. Students who receive funding that covers part or all of the completing period between the minimum and maximum period of study are still required to complete within the maximum period of study.
26. In exceptional circumstances, students can seek a regulation waiver to reduce the minimum period of study.
27. In exceptional circumstances, Vice-Deans may approve an extension to the maximum period of study.

### **Changes to Registration Status**

28. Students will have one of four registration statuses:

- a. Valid to register;
  - b. Registered;
  - c. Completed;
  - d. Terminated.
29. Once students have registered at the University for a research degree under these regulations, one of the following classifications will apply:
- a. Registered - Voluntary Suspension;
  - b. Registered - Academic Suspension;
  - c. Registered - Completing.
30. Students transfer to *completing* classification following the successful completion of a final annual review. The final annual review must happen before the final submission date, allowing sufficient time for the student to prepare the thesis for submission by the final submission date. The [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#) provides information on the review process and criteria for transferring to *completing* classification.
31. A final annual review will only be considered final if the student has completed all relevant research and training requirements as detailed in regulations 55 to 63 and has demonstrated that they will be able to submit the thesis by a planned submission date that falls before the final submission date.
32. A registration review should be held if the outcome of the final annual review is that the student is not ready to transfer to *completing* classification. Outcomes of the registration review are detailed in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).
33. Full-time and part-time students must submit before the final submission date regardless of when the transfer to *completing* occurs.
34. Submission reviews should be carried out during the completing period, following the guidelines in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).
35. Students who fail to submit before the final submission date without an approved extension following a submission review will be withdrawn from their programme of study, according to the guidelines in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).

### **Supervision**

36. A student will be allocated a supervisory team with a minimum of two supervisors, with one supervisor designated as the first supervisor. The supervisory team should always consist of two University staff but can also include qualified individuals from outside the University. Details of the process for joint supervision with other institutions can be found in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).
37. A supervisory team must include a member of staff at Grade 8 (or above), with previous experience as a first supervisor. The first supervisor must have relevant research expertise. All University supervisors must have undertaken appropriate training, as described in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#), to be recognised by the University as eligible supervisors.
38. The Head of School/Department, or nominee, will appoint the supervisory team, which will be responsible for supporting the student through the research programme, and monitoring the student's progress. Full details of the supervisory team's responsibilities can be read in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#). Supervisors will be familiar with

the policies, processes and responsibilities described in the more detail in the Code of Practice.

39. Changes to the supervisor team may be necessary at some point during the research programme. The Head of School/Department, or nominee, is responsible for initiating any changes to the supervisory team. The circumstances and criteria for changes to the supervisory team are listed in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).

### **Engagement**

40. The University expects research degree students to demonstrate the level of engagement with their studies. This includes regular communication with the supervisory team, engagement with formal progression monitoring processes and active participation in any of the taught elements of the programme of study.
41. Within each 12-month period of study, students are expected to satisfy the engagement criteria defined in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#) and successfully complete a formal review. The formal review requirements for each year are also detailed in the Code of Practice.
42. In addition to regulations 40 and 41 above, students with visa requirements should also comply with the engagement and attendance requirements of their visa.
43. A recommendation that the student transfer to an exit award, if available under Individual Research Degree Regulations and regulations 88-90, may be made under the following circumstances:
- a. academic withdrawal, based on one of the following reasons:
    - i. an unsatisfactory outcome from an annual review, or;
    - ii. insufficient progress following the remedial period established by an interim or annual review, or;
    - iii. sustained lack of engagement under the terms of regulations 40 and 41 between reviews, or;
  - b. recommendation of examining committee, or;
  - c. the student elects to voluntarily withdraw.
44. In all cases, an exit award must be available as detailed in the Individual Research Degree Regulations and the student must have completed or be able to complete the requirements of the exit award within a timeframe set by the registering school/department, and no longer than the minimum duration of the exit award. In cases where a student is compulsorily withdrawn due to misconduct, the misconduct process should consider if the student is eligible to submit for an exit award and justify why regulation 89 should be waived.

### **Collaborative Provision**

45. For students engaged in collaborative provision arrangements, usually off-campus, an agreement must be in place that establishes the format and frequency of engagement and supervision, as well as research and training activities. Agreements must comply with the requirements and have the approval of the Collaborative Provision Agreement subgroup and Senate. Agreements should be compatible with the overall Postgraduate Research Degree Programme regulations, specifically regulations 40 and 41. Details of the process for setting up an agreement for Off campus students can be found in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).
46. Jointly supervised students and students on a joint PhD programme with another institution must have an agreement in place that establishes the amount of time spent at each institution, and the format and frequency of communication and supervision, as well as

research and training activities while at each institution. Agreements must comply with the requirements and have approval of the Collaborative Provision Agreement subgroup and Senate. Agreements should be compatible with the Postgraduate Research Degree Programme regulations, specifically 40 and 41. Details of the process for setting up an agreement for Joint PhD Awards can be found in the Framework for Joint PhD Awards.

### **Paid employment**

47. A full-time student may undertake work not directly related to their research programme, which is undertaken in their own time outside of their degree and does not exceed the limits specified in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).
48. The supervisory team may request that the student change their mode of study from full-time to part-time if the student's progress is affected by any additional work during the expected period of study, and a change of mode of study is permitted by the Individual Research Degree Regulations.
49. A part-time student is expected to meet any curriculum, training and engagement requirements specified by their programme alongside any other commitments outside of their research programme, paid or otherwise.

### **Research-related paid employment**

50. A student may also undertake additional paid research work at the University of Strathclyde, based on their area of research, if the conditions of any funding allow it. Such work will require a formal contract establishing the student as a member of research staff. The student will be required to transfer to part-time study when the period of paid research work exceeds the limits set out in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#) but does not exceed the requirements for part-time study. The student should enter voluntary suspension for the period of employment if the additional research work is equivalent to full time employment and does not exceed the maximum duration of voluntary suspension. Studentships, fees and funding will be adjusted to reflect the change to the student's mode of study. Students who are studying on a visa must comply with the restrictions placed on their working hours at all times, as detailed in the Code of Practice.

### ***Teaching-related paid employment***

51. Students may be given the opportunity to engage in the support of teaching and learning activities through teaching, lecturing, demonstrating practical classes, project supervision, tutorials, and formative and summative assessments. This should not exceed the limits set out in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).
52. The student's teaching responsibilities will be clearly defined in writing.
53. All students will complete mandatory and any other appropriate training provided by their department/school before commencing any teaching and/or assessment.
54. Students will be fairly paid for any teaching work, as per University policy.

### **Professional Development**

55. Students are required to engage with the personal and professional development component of their programme.
56. Professional Development activities are an integral component of the taught elements of the following programmes:
  - a. Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
  - b. Doctor of Education (EdD)

- c. Doctor of Engineering (EngD)
  - d. Doctor of Information Science (DInfSci)
  - e. Doctor of Pharmacy (DPharm)
  - f. PhD with Integrated Studies (PhDIntSt)
  - g. Professional Doctorate (DProf)
57. The personal and professional development content should be specified along with the taught element of each programme in the Individual Research Degree Regulations and/or handbook.
58. Students registered in the Engineering, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences Faculties on a standard PhD programme with no formal taught curriculum, have to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Researcher Professional Development (PG Cert RPD). The University's [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) outlines the procedure for applying for exemption from programmes and modules on the basis of prior experiential or accredited learning.
59. Students registered in the Strathclyde Business School on a standard PhD programme are required to complete the Postgraduate Certificate in Research Methodology for Business and Management.
60. Students registered for DProf, EdD, DLitt and DSci are not required to undertake accredited transferable skills training.
61. MPhil students will be required to take and pass 20 credits of professional development training comparable to the Postgraduate Certificate in Researcher Professional Development to complete their research degree programme.
62. Visiting students are expected to engage with appropriate personal and professional development activities in line with the amount of time spent at the Institution. The registering department are responsible for establishing the scope and nature of the visit, and for monitoring engagement during the visit.
63. Non-graduating students will have personal and professional development activities built into the collaborative agreement, some of which may occur while the student is based at Strathclyde.

### **Assessment**

64. All taught elements of the University's research programmes listed in regulation 1 must conform to the principles outlined in the Postgraduate Taught Course Regulations issued by Senate.
65. A student registered on a programme with a formal curriculum listed in regulation 1 will normally have to satisfy the requirements of the taught element before progressing to the research component, as described in the Individual Research Degree Regulations. Any outstanding taught elements of the programme must be completed before submitting their thesis for examination.
66. A student registered on a standard PhD programme must satisfy the requirements of the professional development programme specified in regulation 58 before submitting their thesis for examination. Any student who successfully completes the associated professional development programme element will be eligible to receive the appropriate award, at the appropriate time.
67. A student registered on an MPhil programme must satisfactorily complete the 20-credit professional development requirement in regulation 61 before they can submit their thesis for examination.

68. All doctoral research degree programmes require a thesis to be submitted for examination. The thesis will be assessed in an oral examination conducted by an examining committee, unless the student's personal circumstances require an alternative format acceptable to the examining department and committee.
69. All masters research degree programmes require a thesis to be submitted for examination, in addition to any formal curriculum requirements. The thesis will be examined by an examining committee and may also require an oral examination conducted by the examining committee.
70. The thesis must be submitted for examination by the final submission date. The [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#) provides detailed information on the scope, content and format of the thesis, and planned and final submission dates.
71. Failure to submit by the final submission date, or to secure an extension using the process outlined in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#), will result in the student being withdrawn from the programme of study and ineligible for examination.
72. With the exception of students registered for joint or dual degrees, a student will not be permitted to submit a thesis which has been or will be submitted for a degree or comparable award of this or any other university or institution.
73. The greater proportion of a student's research must have occurred during the period of registration. The contribution of any work from before the period of registration must be clearly established in the thesis, and all appropriate acknowledgements and attributions made, as detailed in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#). Any previous work included in the thesis cannot have formed any part of a prior assessment for any type of award, and if the work has been previously published it must be cited in the same manner as any other published work.

### **Examining Committee**

74. The purpose of the oral examination and the role of the examining committee is to determine that:
  - a. the thesis is a record of the candidate's original research or other advanced scholarship on primary data sources or similar;
  - b. the thesis makes an identifiable contribution to knowledge leading to original insight or understanding of a specific topic within the field of study;
  - c. the performance of the student in the oral examination was satisfactory;
  - d. the literary style and presentation of the thesis is satisfactory;
  - e. the thesis is worthy of publication, in part or in whole;
  - f. the candidate possesses a good general knowledge and understanding of the field of study and has demonstrated an ability to conceptualise, design and implement an appropriate research strategy and programme.
75. The examining committee is appointed for each individual candidate and includes:
  - a. A convenor
  - b. at least one internal examiner; and
  - c. at least one examiner external to, and independent of, the University.
76. Internal examiners are members of the academic staff of the University. No Supervisor or member of the supervisory team member can be appointed as a convenor or internal examiner for their student.
77. External examiners are appointed in line with criteria approved by Senate, taking into

account national expectations of the role, and the management of potential conflicts of interest and externality. Departments/Schools should follow the [policies and processes](#) for appointing the examining committee.

78. At least one examiner will be qualified to the level of degree for which the candidate is being examined unless they are a Professor and therefore deemed to have equivalent expertise and experience to undertake this role.
79. The examining committee may also act as the board of examiners for any taught or training components of the degree programme. Individual Research Degree Regulations and the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#) indicate how taught or training components are examined.

### **Results of Examination**

80. The outcome of the first oral examination will be one of the following:

- a. Pass with final award made;
- b. Pass subject to minor amendments assessed by the internal examiner only;
- c. Pass subject to minor amendments assessed by the full examining committee;
- d. Resubmission following major amendments assessed by the full examining committee;
- e. Resubmission following major amendments assessed by the full examining committee and a second oral examination;
- f. Resubmission following further research and re-examination of the thesis by the full examining committee and a second oral examination;
- g. Fail with a lower, related exit award made at this point;
- h. Fail with lower, related exit award made at this point with minor corrections being required and assessed by the internal examiner only;
- i. Fail with transfer to a lower, related exit award with the requirement to resubmit assessed by the full examining committee;
- j. Fail with transfer to a lower, related exit award with the requirement to resubmit assessed by the full examining committee and a second oral examination.
- k. Fail with no award and compulsorily withdrawn.

81. Details on the process and deadlines following each of these outcomes are provided in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).

82. Failure to meet the deadlines for resubmission set by the examining committee will result in the student being withdrawn from the registered programme unless the student has informed the examining committee of any extenuating circumstances and the committee have agreed to an extension.

83. A student will have one further opportunity to resubmit the thesis for examination following outcome *d, e, f, g, h, i and j* of regulation 80.

84. Following re-submission under points *d, e and f* of regulation 80, the outcomes available to the examining committee are:

- a. Pass with award made;
- b. Pass with minor corrections assessed by the internal examiner only;
- c. Fail with transfer to a lower, related exit award with the award being made at this point;
- d. Fail with no award and compulsorily withdrawn.

85. Following resubmission for a lower, related award for *i and j* of regulation 80, the outcomes available to the examining committee are:

- a. Pass and award made;
- b. Pass subject to minor amendments assessed by the internal examiner only;
- c. Fail with no award and compulsorily withdrawn.

86. Following outcomes *i and j* of regulation 80, the student can be transferred to one of the possible exit awards listed in regulation 90 and confirmed in the Research Degree Regulations for individual programmes.

### **Student Conduct and appeals**

87. Students should abide by the academic, research and professional conduct standards defined by the University. Any breaches in conduct will be investigated according to University procedures, provided in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#). Students have a right to appeal against any decisions made about their academic, research or professional conduct. The appeal process for each type of conduct is detailed in the Code of Practice.

### **Exit Awards**

88. A student can achieve an exit award through the following routes:

- a. Progress is deemed unsatisfactory at a formal review and student is recommended to submit and be examined for an exit award;
- b. the examining committee recommend that the student be considered for an exit award following the oral examination;
- c. the student requests a transfer to an exit award during the period of supervised research, or under the circumstances described in regulation 82.

*NB: In each case, the student must have completed the requirements, or be able to complete the requirements for the exit award. The specific requirements for an exit award are provided in the programme specification for the research programme.*

89. A student withdrawn from their programme on the grounds of academic, professional, or research misconduct will not be eligible for an exit award.

90. The following exit award levels may be available, depending on Individual Research Degree Regulations:

<b>Registered award</b>	<b>Possible exit awards</b>
Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)	MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert
Doctor of Education (EdD)	MEd/MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert
Doctor of Educational Psychology (DEdPsy)	MPhil
Doctor of Engineering (EngD)	MPhil/MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert
Doctor of Information Science (DInfSci)	MPhil/MSc/PG Dip
Doctor of Pharmacy (DPharm)	MPhil/MRes
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	MPhil
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (SBS only)	MPhil/PG Dip/PG Cert
PhD with Integrated Studies (PhDIntSt)	MPhil/MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert
Master of Philosophy (MPhil)	No exit award
Master of Research (MRes)	PG Cert
Professional Doctorate	MSc/PG Dip/PG Cert

### **Availability of Thesis**

91. Following the ratification of an awarded research degree undertaken at the University, the thesis will be electronically available within the public domain. Students should also comply with the University Research Data Policy to safeguard data during the period of registration, and where possible and appropriate or mandated by a funder, make the data available after the thesis has been made publicly available.

92. A student may request a delay to the release of a thesis under limited and specific circumstances relating to publication, commercial exploitation or patenting, or where the thesis includes material which is of significance to national security or personal safety. The request for a delay to the release of a thesis must be compatible with the terms and conditions of any funding the student has received. A maximum delay of 5 years from the date of the award may be agreed.
93. A permanent moratorium may be sought on very limited grounds relating to personal or national security or where permission to include third party copyright material could not be obtained, and exclusion of this material would significantly reduce the academic value of the thesis.
94. The request to delay the release of thesis must be made in advance of the thesis submission, following the process described in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).
95. Theses funded by a UKRI training grant must be placed in the public domain within a maximum of 12 months following award. Students receiving funding from another body should comply with the terms and conditions of their funding award.

#### **Commercialisation of Research and Intellectual Property (IP)**

96. Students must accept one of three options regarding their intellectual property rights when registering. Students can agree to the University's Policy, not agree to the University's Policy because their funder has stipulated different requirements, or the student can choose not to agree to accept the University's policy for personal reasons. Students who disagree on personal grounds must establish with their supervisor what those grounds are, and the supervisor will have to determine, with the approval of the Head of Department/School, if the student can be accepted for supervision. Students should read the Policy before completing registration and understand the options available to them. More information can be found in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).

#### **Enhancement and continuous improvement**

97. Senate defines mechanisms for the regular monitoring, review and validation of the quality and standards of research student support provision, and where appropriate the partnership arrangements involved in the delivery of such programmes. Further details can be found in the [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#).