

Schedule A - General Regulations For Research Degrees

AWARDS AVAILABLE

1. Programmes of research study may lead, as appropriate, to the award of one of the following degrees, appropriately designated:-

In all Subject Areas

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
The degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

In Arts & Social Sciences

The degree of Master of Letters (MLitt) (Research)
The degree of Master of Science (MSc) (Research)

In Education

The degree of Doctor of Education (EdD)
The degree of Doctor of Counselling (DCouns)

In Science and in Engineering

The degree of Doctor of Engineering (EngD)
The degree of Master of Science (MSc) (Research)

In Divinity

The degree of Master of Theology (MTh) (Research)

In Law

The degree of Master of Laws (LLM) (Research)

In Medicine

The degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD)
The degree of Master of Science (MSc) (Research)
The degree of Master of Surgery (ChM) (Research)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2. Before being admitted to a research degree candidates must possess one of the following in an appropriate discipline:

- (a) a Master's degree at postgraduate level of a University in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, or comparable degree, or
- (b) a first or upper second class Honours degree of a University in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, or
- (c) the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery of a University in the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, or
- (d) a degree of a University or College elsewhere recognised by the Senatus Academicus as equivalent, or
- (e) a diploma or certificate recognised in like manner as equivalent to a degree, or
- (f) such other qualification as in the opinion of the Senatus Academicus on the recommendation of the Head(s) of the School(s) concerned afford sufficient evidence of their availability to profit from the programme they propose to pursue.
- (g) Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Education must have in addition a minimum of 4 years relevant professional experience.
- (h) Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine or for the Degree of Master of Surgery shall either (a) be graduates of the University in Medicine and Surgery of at least two years' standing, and have been engaged since full registration for at least one year either in scientific work bearing directly on their profession or in the practice of medicine or surgery respectively, or (b) have held for not less than two years a registrable medical qualification; and have, for at least two years prior to their submission for the degree in accordance with Regulation 17, 18 and 19 below, held in Aberdeen or the vicinity thereof or in Inverness a research or teaching appointment approved for this purpose by the Senatus Academicus; and have been registered within that period with the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom. Candidates qualifying as eligible under section (b) of this Regulation must submit a thesis within two years of the termination of their research or teaching appointment in the vicinity of Aberdeen or in Inverness.

Where the degree held by an applicant is not awarded with classified Honours, the Senatus Academicus may accept such a degree for the purposes of this section, if satisfied that the applicant reached a sufficiently high standard.

3. Candidates may not be concurrently registered at the University of Aberdeen and another Higher Education Institution unless there is a collaborative agreement between the two institutions.

4. Current members of academic or honorary staff of at least 5 years standing may apply to submit a thesis of published work for the degree of PhD. In order to be accepted for admission, candidates must submit a Curriculum Vitae, copies of the publications it intended will be assessed (a minimum of 5), and a 1500 word synopsis outlining the extent, range, quality and coherence of the proposed submission. Candidates will normally be expected to be the first, corresponding or senior author on any publication they wish to be included in the submission for the degree, or to have made a major contribution to the conception, execution and writing of each paper. In cases of joint authorship, candidates must indicate the extent of their contribution. Only papers published in the 5 years immediately preceding registration may be included in the thesis for assessment. The published work must all be in the public domain.

Applications must be submitted to the Head of the relevant School who will make a recommendation to the Senatus Academicus via the Dean for Postgraduate Research (PGR) as to whether the application should be accepted or not. Final approval must be given by the Senatus Academicus.

Candidates will be required to register for a period of 12 months supervised study and will pay the appropriate tuition fee.

The intellectual standing and quality of a PhD by publication is equal to that of a standard PhD. The requirements for assessment and award, and the normal maximum word limit, of a PhD by publication are the same as a standard PhD. Candidates will be subject to normal monitoring requirements.

5. Every person admitted as a candidate for the degree shall be deemed to be a Research Student within the meaning of Ordinance No. 350 (General No. 12).

PROGRAMME REGULATIONS

6. Every candidate admitted shall undertake a programme of supervised research and training for a period to be specified in accordance with Regulation 8(ii). A programme of research may be in any field of study, provided that the programme: is capable of leading to scholarly research, which may include appropriate creative work, and can be assessed by the presentation of a dissertation and an oral examination. Every candidate will have a minimum of two supervisors (the supervisory team), one of whom is designated lead supervisor, appointed under Regulation 8(iii) for the purpose. There must always be one clearly identified point of contact for the student. All research students must complete the required programme of mandatory training and undertake regular skills and training audits throughout their prescribed period of study to determine research, transferable and generic skills requirements. Students in receipt of funding from any of the UK Research and Innovation funding bodies must, in addition, undertake a skills audit at the beginning of their programme of study which is to be completed by month six of study. Candidates admitted to European doctoral programmes must comply with additional requirements regarding overseas study, non-UK external examiners, an oral and submission of a thesis summary in a second language prescribed for the relevant doctoral degree, and on completion of their degree will be awarded the *European Doctorate* certificate in addition to their PhD of the University of Aberdeen. The Senatus Academicus will ensure that the requirements of both Aberdeen and European research degree regulations, as regards admission, supervision, progress and examination, are met.

7. Every candidate admitted shall be subject to the regulations concerning the payment of fees and the requirements regarding registration in force for the time being.

8. It is the duty of the Senatus Academicus, if it decides that an application be accepted:

- (i) to approve the subject of research to be pursued by the candidate, if admitted;
- (ii) to specify the period of research (including study) required in each case;
- (iii) to appoint a supervisory team to supervise the research;
- (iv) to specify the location the research is being undertaken in accordance with regulations 23 and 24.

9. The Senatus Academicus may direct that a candidate shall attend one or more credit-rated courses of study for a specified period and any such period shall be regarded as part of that specified under Regulation 8(ii). A candidate who under this provision completes successfully a programme of courses which has been approved by the Senatus Academicus for this purpose shall be entitled to the award of a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma in Research Methods, appropriately designated (60 or 120 credit points at level 5 respectively which can include courses taken elsewhere as part of a collaborative programme); This Certificate or Diploma shall be additional to any award made to the candidate on completion of the degree programme. A candidate who has completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Research Methods and who elects not to proceed to another research degree governed by these regulations, shall on completion of a dissertation (equivalent to 60 credit points at level 5) be entitled to the award of the Degree of Master of Research, appropriately designated. A completed MRes cannot however thereafter be used as grounds for reducing a candidate's period of research under Regulation 18. The provisions of General Regulations 4 to 12 for Taught Postgraduate students shall apply to candidates registered for a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, or Degree of MRes in Research for Professional Educators Methods. In some disciplines research training elements are compulsory. If not passed at an appropriate standard candidates may not be permitted to progress and their candidature terminated.

10. Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Education are required to complete 120 credits of prescribed courses at Masters level and a further 90 credits of prescribed courses at doctoral level before being permitted complete the thesis for the EdD programme. However, those who do not pass all the prescribed courses and who are not allowed to proceed may be eligible for the degree of Master of Research provided they have accumulated at least 180 credit points at Master's level or better in these prescribed courses. Applicants who have already embarked on a Doctor of Education degree at another university and who wish to transfer to the University of Aberdeen's EdD programme may be allowed advanced standing on the programme. This will be dealt with on a case by case basis but:

- (a) the level of assessed work attained by the applicant previously must indicate potential at doctoral level;

- (b) there must be a clear match between the learning outcomes of the work previously completed and the learning outcomes of the University of Aberdeen's EdD;
- (c) the applicant's work being considered has been completed within the last five years;
- (d) in no case will advanced standing be allowed for more than 50% of the EdD programme; and
- (e) the applicant will be required to be registered with the University of Aberdeen for a minimum of two years following entry on to the EdD programme.

11. Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Engineering shall normally be required to attend an approved programme of taught courses totalling 180 credit points before being permitted to embark on their research project for the degree. Students already in possession of the degree of Master of Science in an appropriate discipline may be admitted direct to the project stage of the programme, and exempted from this requirement.

12. Candidates for the Integrated Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Divinity shall normally be required to attend a programme of taught courses at Level 5, totalling 180 credit points and including a 60 credit dissertation, before being permitted to continue to the doctoral thesis stage of the programme. The doctoral thesis stage will have the same requirements as a non-integrated PhD. Candidates who successfully complete the required taught courses and wish to exit before the doctoral thesis stage will be eligible for the award of Master of Theology in Divinity.

13. Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Counselling (DCouns) are required to complete 180 credits of prescribed courses at Masters level and a further 120 credits of prescribed courses at doctoral level before being permitted complete the thesis for the DCouns programme. However, those who have completed 120 credits and 100 client hours will be eligible for the degree of PGDip Counselling, 180 credits and 100 client hours will be eligible for the degree of MSc Counselling, and those who complete a further 120 credits will be eligible for the degree of MPhil Counselling. These credits are specific to therapist training and are not transferable from other programmes of study.

The DCouns cannot be awarded until completion of 450 clinically supervised hours of client work

Entry/progression to the MPhil stage of the DCouns requires students to be registered practitioners in psychological therapy. Applicants who have qualified as registered practitioners at another institution may be allowed to enter with advanced standing to the MPhil stage of the programme. This will be dealt with on a case by case basis but:

- (a) the level of assessed work attained by the applicant previously must indicate potential at doctoral level;
- (b) there must be a clear match between the learning outcomes of the work previously completed and the learning outcomes of the University of Aberdeen's DCouns;
- (c) the applicant's work being considered has been completed within the last five years;
- (d) in no case will advanced standing be allowed for more than 50% of the DCouns programme; and
- (e) the applicant will be required to be registered with the University of Aberdeen for a minimum of two years following entry on to the DCouns programme.

14. Candidates will be required to complete registration for every academic year in which they are studying, up until completion of their thesis, including any minor corrections required after examination. Failure to complete re-registration within one month of the start of an academic year, or within one month of resumption from a period of suspension, may result in the termination of a candidate's studies at the University. The start of the academic year is defined as 1 October for research students.

FULL- AND PART-TIME STATUS

15. The Senatus Academicus shall permit a candidate to pursue a full-time or part-time course of research, if it is satisfied that a candidate will have sufficient opportunities for research and that adequate supervision can be provided.

16. If candidates' duties and responsibilities change while they are working for the degree, they must report the new situation to the Senatus Academicus, which may decide to alter the period specified under Regulation 8(ii) or may recommend to the Senatus Academicus that their candidature for the degree be terminated.

NORMAL MINIMUM PERIODS OF STUDY

17. The period specified under Regulation 8(ii) shall be as follows:

- (i) For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy – not less than 36 months full-time or 72 months part-time
- (ii) For the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (by publication) – for current and honorary members of academic staff) – not less than 12 months part-time
- (iii) For the degree of Doctor of Education – not less than 72 months part-time
- (iv) For the degree of Doctor of Counselling – not less than 36 months full-time or 72 months part-time
- (v) For the degree of Doctor of Engineering – not less than 48 months full-time or 96 months part-time [36 months full-time or 72 months part-time for students admitted directly to the Project stage of the programme]
- (vi) For the Integrated Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Divinity – not less than 48 months full-time or 96 months part-time
- (vii) For the degree of Master of Philosophy – not less than 24 months full-time or 48 months part-time
- (viii) For the degrees of Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery – not less than 24 months full-time or 48 months part-time
- (ix) For any other Master's degree – not less than 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time.

The Senatus Academicus shall have power to recognise as counting towards this period study undertaken elsewhere, provided that in no case shall the period of registration in the University of Aberdeen for any degree be less than 12 months (full-time) or 24 months (part-time).

EXCEPTIONAL MINIMUM PERIODS OF STUDY

18. The Senatus Academicus may on application by candidates for the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, or Doctor of Engineering, or Master of Philosophy reduce the period specified under Regulation 17, provided that:

- (i) no application to reduce the period of study may be submitted until a thesis is submitted for examination.;
- (ii) for full-time candidates the period shall not be reduced to less than 24 months (PhD, DCouns, EngD, Integrated PhD in Divinity) or 12 months (MPhil);
- (iii) for part-time candidates the period shall not be reduced to less than 48 months (PhD, EdD, DCouns, EngD, Integrated PhD in Divinity) or 24 months (MPhil).
- (iv) for the degrees of Doctor of Medicine— not less than 18 months full-time or 24 months part-time.
- (v) for part-time candidates for the degree of PhD (by publication) the period shall not be reduced to less than 3 months.

The period specified for those part-time candidates who are currently employed as members of the teaching and/or research staff of the University may be reduced similarly, allowing such candidates to submit after not less than 36 months (PhD, EngD), 24 months (MPhil) or 12 months (in the case of any other Master's degree), as appropriate.

NORMAL MAXIMUM PERIODS OF STUDY

19. A thesis must normally be presented within the period specified under Regulation 17, read with Regulation 18 for the PhD, EngD, DCouns, EdD, MPhil or any other Master's degree. Students funded by one of the UK Research and Innovation, or other funding bodies, must comply with the requirement of their funding body as regard length of period of study and deadline for submission of thesis. The period of study for a student funded by one of the UK Research and Innovation, or other funding bodies, will be equal to the period for which they are in receipt of funding, be it tuition fees or maintenance.

A student will not normally be permitted to submit their thesis for examination if they are not fully registered at the University.

Extensions beyond the period specified under Regulation 17, read with Regulation 18, can be sought under the terms specified in Regulation 20 and Regulation 21.

NORMAL PERIODS OF EXTENSION

20. Extensions can be granted up to a maximum of 12 months in the first instance, but the combined period of supervised study and Extension Period will not normally exceed the following:

- (i) PhD, DCouns, EdD (part time only) - 48 months (for previously full-time students) or 84 months (for previously part-time students)
- (ii) EngD, Integrated PhD in Divinity - 60 months (for previously full-time students) or 96 months (for previously part-time students)
- (iii) MPhil, MD or ChM - 36 months (for previously full-time students) or 60 months (for previously part-time students)
- (iv) Other Master's - 24 months (for previously full-time students) or 36 months (for previously part-time students)

Students submitting an application for an extension within the above time frames, following the completion of their supervised study, must be able to demonstrate evidence of progress in their research and must submit a thesis plan giving target dates for completion of each chapter making clear the feasibility of submitting their thesis within the period of extension being sought.

Applications for an Extension to the period off study must normally be made at least 3 months in advance of the termination of period of study.

EXCEPTIONAL PERIODS OF EXTENSION

21. The Senatus Academicus may, on the application of the candidate, extend the period of study and grant an "exceptional extension, but will not do so without good cause.

Extensions beyond the above limits will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, namely, where the candidate's work has been hampered by medical or personal or unexpected academic circumstances or exceptional circumstances arising from employment. In all such circumstances, supporting documentary evidence must be made available. Students submitting an application for an "exceptional extension" must also demonstrate clear evidence of progress and must submit a thesis plan giving target dates for completion of each chapter.

In no case will any extension be approved beyond the following maximum periods of study, which include the supervised period of study:

- (i) PhD, DCouns, EdD (part time only) - 60 months (for previously full-time students) or 96 months (for previously part-time students)
- (ii) EngD, Integrated PhD in Divinity - 72 months (for previously full-time students) or 108 months (for previously part-time students)
- (iii) MPhil, MD or ChM - 48 months (for previously full-time students) or 72 months (for previously part-time students)
- (iv) Other Masters - 36 months (for previously full-time students) or 48 months (for previously part-time students)

Applications for an Extension to the period off study must normally be made at least 3 months in advance of the termination of period of study.

FAILURE TO SUBMIT

22. Students who fail to submit a thesis or, in the case of candidates in Fine Art, a thesis and exhibit or, in the case of candidates in Musical Composition, a portfolio of compositions by the deadline specified in the Regulations will be deemed to have withdrawn and will have their registration recorded as lapsed.

LOCATION OF FULL-TIME RESEARCH STUDENTS

23. The research required by Regulation 8 shall, for full-time candidates, be conducted in the University of Aberdeen or in one of the following institutions:

A Unit within the University whose director is a member of the University
Marine Directorate
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), Aberdeen
NERC Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Hospitals of the Grampian Health Board
Hospitals of the Highland Health Board in Inverness
Regional Centres of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
James Hutton Institute
Trinity College Bristol with Bristol Baptist College

The project for the degree of Doctor of Engineering shall be undertaken in an approved industrial location.

24. Notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 23, full-time candidates may be permitted to study elsewhere if such study is desirable for the prosecution of their research and it can be shown that adequate supervision can be provided. If full time candidates wish to conduct their entire research elsewhere, then this must be declared and agreed with the supervisor(s) prior to admission. Candidates must agree a structure of regular contact with their supervisor and must be able to demonstrate that the facilities and infrastructure that are available to them off-campus are sufficient to enable their research to be completed at a distance.

25. Full time candidates who have not agreed to conduct their entire research elsewhere must seek the approval of the Senatus Academicus for each period that they wish to conduct research at a distance.

SUPERVISORS

26. Of the persons appointed to supervise the candidate's research at least one shall be a Professor, Reader, Senior Lecturer or Lecturer currently employed by the University, and if the candidate's research is conducted in one of the institutions named in Regulation 23, at least one shall be a member of the staff of that institution. Of the persons appointed to supervise, normally, one will be appointed as lead supervisor. The lead supervisor will, normally, be an employee of the University. For candidates undertaking their studies within the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition (MMSN), the lead supervisor appointed must be an employee of the University. The supervisors for the degree of Doctor of Engineering shall include an industrial supervisor engaged in Engineering practice.

27. All University employed supervisors, and supervisors employed at the institutions named in Regulation 23, are required to have undertaken mandatory supervisor training and refresher every 5 years to remain eligible to supervise. External supervisors are recommended to undertake supervisor training. All supervisors involved in recruitment interview panels are required to have completed Equality and Diversity and Recruitment and Selection training

28. If the Senatus Academicus permits or requires a candidate to work elsewhere under Regulation 23, it shall make directions regarding the supervision of the work conducted elsewhere.

MONITORING STUDENT PROGRESS

29. The Senatus Academicus shall in respect of candidates admitted for degrees by research obtain annual reports as to whether their progress and development have been satisfactory. If the Senatus Academicus is of the opinion on consideration of the report that a candidate's progress is unsatisfactory, it shall have the power to recommend to the Senatus Academicus that their candidature for the degree be terminated, or moved to a lower award, as appropriate. It is the duty of every candidate whose performance has been or is likely to be impaired by any circumstances to inform the Senatus Academicus and the Head(s) of the relevant School(s) accordingly in writing at the earliest opportunity, but in any case not later than the date on which the candidate submits the thesis for examination.

CLASS CERTIFICATES

30. A Class Certificate is confirmation that the candidate has duly performed the work prescribed for the degree. Notwithstanding this definition, a student who has been validly registered for a research programme, and who has not withdrawn from that programme prior to their viva examination (or been deemed to have withdrawn, in accordance with Regulation 30, or to have had their class certificate refused), is regarded as having obtained a Class Certificate for that course automatically.

31. **Validity of Class Certificates:** Except with the permission of the Senatus Academicus, candidates shall not be permitted to present themselves for the assessment of a research degree unless they have obtained a class certificate. Unless good cause is demonstrated, students who have not met the expected attendance and monitoring requirements will be refused a class certificate. Students not granted a Class Certificate under these circumstances will be barred from appearing for the assessment for the degree and will be withdrawn from study. It shall be for the Senatus Academicus to determine what constitutes good cause for absence.

TERMINATION

32. The Senatus Academicus shall have the power to terminate at any time a person's candidature, provided it is satisfied that there is sufficient reason for doing so. A person's candidature for the degree of Doctor of Engineering shall be terminated if they do not reach a pass standard in the courses prescribed under Regulation 11. A person's candidature for the degree of Doctor of Education shall be terminated if they do not reach a pass standard in the courses prescribed under Regulation 10. A person's candidature for the degree of Doctor of Counselling shall be terminated if they do not reach a pass standard in the courses

prescribed under Regulation 13. A person's candidature for the degree of Integrated Doctor of Philosophy in Divinity shall be terminated if they do not reach a pass standard in the courses prescribed under Regulation 12.

SUBMISSION OF THESES

33. All candidates shall present a thesis embodying the results of their research, which must be accompanied by a declaration signed by the candidates that it has been composed by themselves and is an accurate record of the research that was undertaken. Additionally, that any personal data has been processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018, and that all quotations have been distinguished by quotation marks and the sources of information specifically acknowledged. If any results were obtained partly in association with others, the nature and extent of this help, if substantial, must be specifically acknowledged in the declaration. The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools for any aspects of the thesis and the research undertaken must be disclosed in the declaration. This also applies to a thesis that is submitted as part of a programme, approved by the Senatus Academicus, as designed specifically to lead to the award of conjoint but separate degrees of the University of Aberdeen and of another institution.

34. Research students should note that, in the case of candidates examined by thesis only, unless the specific permission of the Senatus Academicus is obtained (such permission being granted only on the grounds of the exceptional nature of the subject matter or, in the case of candidates registered for a degree in Law, on grounds of exceptional circumstances) the normal maximum length of a PhD, EngD, Integrated PhD in Divinity, MD or ChM is 100,000 words; the normal maximum length of an EdD or DCouns thesis is 50,000 words, the normal maximum length of an MPhil thesis is 70,000 words; and the normal maximum length of a Master's degree thesis is 40,000 words.

For theses submitted in Gaelic language, the following normal maximum lengths apply: 120,000 words for a PhD; 84,000 words for an MPhil; and 48,000 words for a Master's by Research.

In each case this includes figure legends, appendices and footnotes but excludes table of contents, bibliographies, statistical and computational compilations, illustrative material necessary to an argument (diagrams, maps, tables etc.), and, where appropriate, other materials such as field notes and transcriptions of interviews. If in doubt, the student and supervisory team should consult, at the earliest opportunity, with the Senatus Academicus.

Any data compilation, or material such as field notes or transcriptions of interviews should not be included in a separate file to the final pdf thesis. This material must be anonymized, as appropriate, and then securely attached to the thesis prior to submission.

Notes: The above prescriptions do not apply to editions.

35. The thesis of a candidate for the PhD in Musical Composition may take the form of a portfolio or original composition, accompanied by a written commentary of 20,000 – 40,000 words on the work submitted. The thesis of a candidate for the PhD in Musical Performance may take the form of a portfolio of practice-based elements, accompanied by a written commentary of 50,000 words on the work submitted. If written in this form, the thesis can, where appropriate, be submitted electronically with a web link to the online commentary; a local, stand-alone version of the online commentary, including links to stereo "listening/review" versions of audio works; and audio files of works for downloading in original format (which may include multichannel works and ambisonics).

36. The thesis of a candidate for an MPhil/PhD in Film and Visual Culture, or Media and Communication may take the form of a written dissertation (of approximately 50,000-70,000 words in length) accompanied by a practice-based film or other visual culture element.

37. Candidates will not be permitted to submit a thesis to the University of Aberdeen that has been examined, or is intended to be examined, at another Higher Education Institution, unless there is a collaborative agreement between the two institutions.

38. All candidates shall be required to submit to *viva voce* examination unless there are exceptional reasons why the oral examination should be dispensed with. In such cases, the exceptional reasons for dispensing with the oral examination must be given in detail on the examiners' reports and be approved by the Senatus Academicus. The oral examination will normally take place only when a thesis is first submitted. Where a thesis has been re-submitted, a second oral examination will be held only if the Senatus Academicus approves a proposal to that effect, normally on the recommendation of the examiners. Unless approval has been given by the Senatus Academicus, the oral examination must be conducted in English.

EXAMINERS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

39. The Senatus Academicus shall appoint on the recommendation of the Head of School one or more persons, being Professors, Readers, Lecturers or academic staff of an equivalent employment grade in the University, to examine each thesis and report upon its merits, and, if the candidate's research has been conducted in one of the institutions named in Regulation 23, may in addition appoint as internal examiners one or more members of the staff of that institution. The University Court shall appoint at least one external examiner in accordance with the provisions of University Court Ordinance No. 404 (Aberdeen No. 80) to examine each thesis, provided (i) that if the candidate is a Lecturer in the University of Aberdeen or an academic member of staff undertaking a PhD by Publication two external examiners shall be appointed, and (ii) that if two external examiners are appointed the appointment of an internal examiner by the Senatus Academicus may be dispensed with, however a moderator will be appointed to oversee the examination. The supervisor(s) of a candidate shall not be eligible to serve as an internal examiner of that candidate. Where the candidate is a Lecturer in the University of Aberdeen and it has therefore been necessary to appoint two external examiners, the Senatus Academicus shall appoint a Professor, Reader, Lecturer or academic staff of an equivalent employment grade who is currently employed by the University, and is not the candidate's supervisor, to oversee the examination arrangements.

40. If the reports of the examiners do not substantially agree regarding the merits of the thesis, the Senatus Academicus may recommend the appointment of a further examiner, who shall be an external examiner appointed by the University Court in accordance with Ordinance 404 (Aberdeen No. 80).

QUALITIES OF A SUCCESSFUL THESIS

41. The Senatus Academicus shall not approve a thesis for the *degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Counselling, Doctor of Engineering, Doctor of Medicine or Integrated Doctor of Philosophy in Divinity* unless it is satisfied, having considered the reports of the examiners, that it makes a distinct contribution to knowledge and affords evidence of originality as shown by the exercise of independent critical powers. Nor shall the Senatus Academicus approve a thesis for the *degree of Master of Philosophy* unless it is satisfied, having considered the reports of the examiners, that it makes a contribution to knowledge and affords evidence of originality. Nor shall the Senatus Academicus approve a thesis for a *one-year Master's degree* unless it is satisfied, having considered the reports of the examiners, either that it displays evidence of originality or that it is a satisfactory, orderly and critical exposition of existing knowledge within the field concerned.

In applying these standards the Senatus Academicus will consider what can be properly achieved in the one, two or three years' full-time equivalent work which is required for the various degrees. Further, the Senatus Academicus shall not approve a thesis for any degree unless the thesis meets acceptable standards in the use of English, in quotation and citation, and in presentation.

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THESIS EXAMINATION

42. The Senatus Academicus, having considered the reports of all the Examiners appointed, may on first examination: (i) decide that the thesis be sustained, if appropriate, subject to minor corrections which should be submitted within a stated period, normally 3 months, but no more than 6 months; (ii) decide that, though they are unable to recommend that the thesis be sustained, a candidate may re-submit the thesis in a revised form, for the same degree, within a stated period, which shall not exceed twelve months; (iii) decide that a candidate, whose thesis does not meet the standards for the degree as specified in Regulation 41 but which does meet the standards specified for a lower degree appropriate to the discipline in which the candidate is registered, be awarded the latter degree without further examination; (iv) decide that they are unable to recommend that the thesis be sustained and that the candidate may re-submit the thesis in a revised form for a lower degree, within a stated period which shall not exceed twelve months; or (v) decide that the thesis be not sustained.

When the thesis is re-submitted (see (ii) and (iv) above), the Examiners, who shall normally be those appointed to examine the original submission, may: (vi) decide that the thesis be sustained, if appropriate subject to minor corrections (which should normally be completed within 3 months, but can be permitted up to 6 months on recommendation of the Examiners); (vii) decide that a candidate, whose thesis does not meet the standards for the degree as specified in Regulation 40 but which does meet the standards specified in Regulation 41 for a lower degree appropriate to the discipline in which the candidate is registered, be awarded the latter degree without further examination; or (viii) decide that the thesis be not sustained.

Only one re-submission of a thesis will be permitted, irrespective of the degree being considered.

Where a candidate has failed to meet the standards required for award of any degree but has produced work that, in the opinion of the Examiners, is of sufficient merit to warrant formal recognition, it shall be in the power of the Examiners to recommend the award of a Certificate of Postgraduate Research Studies in the discipline concerned.

Where the Examiners decide that, though they are unable to recommend that the thesis be sustained, a candidate may re-submit the thesis in a revised form, for the same degree, within a stated period which shall not exceed twelve months (see (ii) above), but where the candidate indicates that they do not wish to re-submit, the Examiners may decide that a candidate, whose thesis does not meet the standards for the degree as specified in Regulation 41 but which does meet the standards specified for another degree appropriate to the discipline in which the candidate is registered, be awarded the latter degree without further examination (see (iii) above).

DISTINCTIONS AND HONOURS

43. It is at the discretion of the examiners to recommend the designation of "Distinction" be awarded to a Master's Degree by Research other than MPhil which they judge to be of outstanding quality overall at Master's level in terms of presentation and, e.g., source discovery and interpretation, literature review, scholarly analysis, originality and/or contribution to knowledge. The degrees of Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery may be awarded with Honours, or with Commendation, on the unanimous recommendation of the Examiners concerned.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

44. The degree shall not be conferred on candidates unless:

- (i) they have completed the period specified under Regulation 17, read with Regulation 18;
 - (ii) they have paid the tuition fees required;
- OR**
- (iii) The Degree of Doctor of Medicine shall not be conferred upon persons who have not satisfied the conditions hereinbefore set forth, except that it shall be in the power of the Senatus Academicus to confer the Degree of Doctor of Medicine honoris causa tantum.

Every candidate who wishes to graduate in person must normally do so in the academic year following the date of completion of their studies and will only be permitted to graduate once for the same degree. Any student who fails to apply to graduate in the academic year following becoming eligible to graduate will automatically graduate in-absentia and will not normally be permitted to attend a future in-person ceremony.

LODGING OF THESES IN THE LIBRARY

45. An electronic copy of the approved thesis, in non-editable pdf format, shall be deposited in the University Library. Every candidate shall comply with the regulations for lodging of theses published in the *University Calendar*.