

The University of Manchester

Senate: 25 June 2014

Person reporting

Professor Chris Taylor, Associate Vice-President (Research & Innovation)

Synopsis

This paper sets out proposed revisions to the regulations for Postgraduate Research Degrees.

1. Removal of requirement to provide a printed final version of the thesis

This revision affects the following documents:

- [Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy](#) (PhD)
 - [Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Business Administration](#) (DBA)
 - [Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine](#) (MD)
 - [Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Published Work](#)
 - [Regulations for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy/Master of Research](#) (Econ) (PhD/MRes(Econ))
 - [Regulations for the Master of Philosophy](#) (MPhil)
 - [Regulations for the Master of Surgery](#) (ChM)
 - [Regulations for the Professional, Engineering and Enterprise Doctorate degrees](#)
- The regulations have been revised such that print versions of the final version of the thesis will no longer be required and students will be required to submit their final thesis in electronic format only.
 - It will still be possible for a student or their supervisor to order printed and bound copies of the final version of the thesis via eScholar for their own purposes.
 - This revision has the full support of the library, who from 1st July 2014 will no longer accept print versions of final theses.
 - Faculties and schools have been consulted and final wording in relation to the revision has been approved by the MDC committee in May 2014.
 - There are two references to thesis submission requirements throughout the regulations and further references within policy/guidance documents. All instances will be updated to reflect the new requirements. The updated sections of the regulations will read as follows:

*"10b. A PhD thesis submission (**examination version**) shall consist of one electronic copy in Portable Document Format (PDF) with a plain-text metadata record, and two paper copies downloaded and printed directly from the submitted electronic copy. The University shall have the right to retain both the electronic and paper copies. ~~Full details of thesis presentation requirements can be found in the Presentation of Theses Policy.~~ **The final PhD thesis submission shall consist of one electronic copy in Portable Document Format (PDF) with a plain-text metadata record.** Full details of thesis presentation requirements can be found in the [Presentation of Theses Policy](#).*

12a. Candidates shall submit one electronic copy and two paper copies of the examination version of the ~~a~~ thesis embodying the results of the research undertaken during the degree. The thesis may embody reprints of published material, must be free from restrictions on publication, and must be presented and bound in a satisfactory manner. The University shall have the right to retain both copies."

2. Revisions to the Ordinances and Regulations: Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Published Work

Summary of Key Changes:

- i. A candidate for the degree must have been in post as a member of staff at the University of Manchester for at least 5 years at the time of first submission which is a change from the previous regulations where it only required 3 years.
- ii. Candidates are required to submit an electronic-only version of their final thesis; the requirement for 2 paper copies has been removed (see point 2f).
- iii. There is further emphasis for a candidate to play a major role in having directed the research.