

Posthumous and Aegrotat Award of Postgraduate Research Degrees Policy

June 2014

**Research Degrees and Researcher Development
Directorate of Research and Business Engagement**

1. Introduction

The following policy relates to the award of a postgraduate research degree in the event of the death or diagnosed terminal illness of the candidate prior to completion of their degree. It applies to the following full-time and part-time postgraduate research degree programmes at the University of Manchester:

- Master's level research degrees: Master of Science (MSc) by Research; Master of Enterprise (MEnt); Master of Philosophy (MPhil).
- Doctoral degrees: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Doctor of Medicine (MD).
- Professional, Engineering and Enterprise Doctorate degrees: Doctor of Engineering (EngD); Doctor of Enterprise (EntD); Doctor of Business Administration (DBA); Doctor of Clinical Psychology (ClinPsyD); Doctor of Counselling (DCouns); Doctor in Education (EdD); Doctor of Educational Psychology (DEdPsy); Doctor in Educational and Child Psychology (DEdChPsy); Doctor of Practical Theology (DPT); Professional Doctorate in Applied Theatre (PDAT).

Enquiries about this policy should initially be directed to the appropriate graduate office in the School, and then to the Faculty graduate office and Associate Dean for Graduate Education. If necessary, cases may be referred to the Associate Vice-President for Graduate Education and/or the Manchester Doctoral College (MDC) Committee.

Enquiries to the Associate Vice-President for Graduate Education and/or the MDC committee should be directed to the Graduate Education Team based in the University's Research Office. Contact details for the Graduate Education Team and Faculty graduate offices can be found at: <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/graduate/contacts/>

This policy should be referred to along with the relevant general University policy relating to the examination of postgraduate research degrees and the Posthumous award guidance document held by the Student Systems office:

- [Examination of Doctoral Degrees Policy](#)
- [Examination of Master of Philosophy \(MPhil\) Degrees Policy](#)
- [Posthumous Award SSO Guidance document](#)

2. Posthumous awards

A postgraduate research degree may be awarded in the event of the death of the candidate in the following circumstances:

- i. *After the thesis has been examined or submitted for examination but before the oral examination (where required) can be held.*

If the thesis has been submitted but not yet examined, examiners must be nominated and the thesis assessed in the usual way. The supervisor/s and other members of the supervisory team will be required to confirm that the work is the candidate's own. The appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel will consider the examiners' reports and may recommend that an award be made.

- ii. *Before the thesis has been submitted for examination.*

In such cases, a sufficient amount of work must have been completed of a standard equivalent to the requirements of the degree under examination. The supervisor is responsible for presenting the candidate's work for consideration by the appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel; it is not the supervisor's role to enhance the work.

The supervisor must put forward a written statement of support giving reasons why the degree should be recommended. The candidate's work and the report will be considered by the appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel, and if the panel is satisfied that there is a case for an award to be made, examiners will be nominated to assess the work. The appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel will consider the examiners' reports and may recommend that an award be made.

3. Aegrotat awards

A postgraduate research degree may be awarded should the candidate be prevented from completing their programme of study due to the diagnosis of a terminal illness.

In exceptional circumstances where an Aegrotat award is recommended, the University should be satisfied that, but for the candidate's illness, there is satisfactory evidence (including a satisfactory medical certificate) to conclude that the student would have completed the doctoral degree.

The student will be required to confirm that they will accept an Aegrotat award before the examination process begins. The award will be considered as the conclusion of a student's registration on the programme, and the student will agree that they waive the right to any further re-

assessment. Where the student is currently on a programme of study which includes a professional component, an alternative exit award will be offered; the Aegrotat award will not include the professional award.

A postgraduate research degree may be awarded in the event of the diagnosis of a terminal illness of the candidate in the following circumstances:

- i. *After the thesis has been examined or submitted for examination but before the oral examination (where required) can be held and the student is not capable of attending an oral examination:*

If the thesis has been submitted but not yet examined, examiners must be nominated and the thesis assessed in the usual way. The appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel will consider the examiners' reports and may recommend that an award be made.

- ii. *Before the thesis has been submitted for examination.*

In such cases, a sufficient amount of work must have been completed of a standard equivalent to the requirements of the degree under examination. There should normally be sufficient evidence to show that the student has completed at least 50% of the doctoral programme and shown evidence of significant progress commensurate with the award. The student is responsible for presenting their work for consideration to the appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel with support from their supervisor; it is not the supervisor's role to enhance the work.

The supervisor must put forward a written statement of support giving reasons why the degree should be recommended. The candidate's work and the report will be considered by the appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel, and if the panel is satisfied that there is a case for an award to be made, examiners will be nominated to assess the work. The appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees panel will consider the examiners' reports and may recommend that an award be made.

APPENDIX ONE: [Faculties and Schools contact details](#)

NB: queries should be directed to the appropriate School Office within the relevant Faculty in the first instance.

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Equality relevance outcome: High / Medium (delete as applicable)	
Related policies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination of Doctoral Degrees Policy• Examination of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Degrees Policy
Related procedures:	Posthumous Award SSO Guidance document
Related guidance and or codes of practice:	Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Degrees http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/graduate/code/
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