

Examination of Doctoral Degrees Policy and Examination of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Degrees Policy

Minor changes have been requested from Faculty and School colleagues since the launch of the revised examination policies as approved by Senate in July 2016.

The minor changes detailed below were approved by MDC in September 2016 by Senate in November 2016.

1. **Section 17xx** - Amendment to the text to remove the 'end of year 2' deadline

"The oral examination should normally be conducted in English. In exceptional circumstances, the internal examiner may request permission from the Faculty Graduate Office to conduct the oral examination in a language other than English. Permission must be sought ~~before the end of year two of the students programme~~ **from the relevant faculty office** and be supported by a clear academic justification. **It is advised that students discuss this with their supervisors as early as possible.** The examiners' report must still be written in English."

2. **Section 22.3** - Amendment to the text for Cii timeframes to fall in line with the timeframe allowed under Aii recommendations (NB: this only applies to the doctoral exams policy, not the MPhil exams policy as Cii awards are not permitted following examination of an MPhil):

"The time permitted for minor corrections to be completed by the candidate is **normally no more than four weeks** from the date the candidate receives the list of ~~revisions~~ **corrections in the University's progression monitoring system**. **In exceptional circumstances**, where there are more than four weeks of work required of the student the candidate may be given 12 weeks to complete the ~~corrections~~ **revisions**. ~~The notification that the minor corrections have been approved by the internal examiner must be submitted to the University's progression monitoring system within this timeframe.~~ The **examiners'** decision to allow 12 weeks for minor corrections to be completed, must be based on the quantity of the work required and length of time of which it is feasible to complete the corrections."

3. **Terminology** - The text has been updated to ensure consistency in that Ai, Aii, Ci, Cii award recommendations refer to 'corrections' and Bi, Bii, Biii, Ciii award recommendations refer to 'revisions'

4. **Section 24.3** - The recommendation Bii has been removed from the list of recommendations which would normally be considered at the next meeting of the panel. The panel normally only reviews recommendations where further research is required or a downgrade to MPhil has been recommended and neither of these apply to the Bii recommendation.

"The recommendations of category ~~B(ii)~~, B (iii) (referral with further research and a further oral) and categories C(i)-C(iv) (reject), will normally be considered at the next meeting of the appropriate School or Faculty postgraduate research degrees committee, where members will discuss individual cases and review examiners' reports."

Nomination of Examiners and Independent Chairs for Postgraduate Research Degrees Policy

1. Section 8.1v Amendment to the text for clarification. Students can contest the nomination of the person appointed to independent chair as detailed in section 4.1, but they cannot contest the inclusion of an independent chair on the panel. Section 8.1v has been updated to clarify that candidates do not have any say in the inclusion of an independent chair on the examination panel.

“The candidate does not have any say in the decision to **include** ~~involve~~ an independent chair **in the examination panel**. However, the candidate and all parties involved with the examination process should be informed of the appointment of the independent chair and their role in the process **(see 4.1 in relation to candidate involvement in the nomination of the independent chair)**.”