

# Posthumous and Aegrotat Award of Postgraduate Research Degrees Policy

## Summary of changes (May 2026 revision)

- **Clarified initiation of recommendations**
  - Explicitly extends who can recommend posthumous/aegrotat awards (supervisory/support staff as well as examiners), rather than only examiners.
- **Eligibility criteria refined**
  - Reframes the “50% completion” threshold to allow greater discretion, emphasising evidence of meeting award standards rather than strict completion proportion.
- **Clearer distinction between scenarios**
  - Strengthened structural differentiation between:
    - awards after submission/examination, and
    - awards before submission/examination, with clearer procedural expectations for each.
- **Explicit supervisor responsibilities introduced**
  - New requirement for a formal supervisor statement, including:
    - confirmation of authorship,
    - summary of progress,
    - justification for award recommendation.
  - Clarifies that supervisors must not add to or enhance the candidate’s work.
- **Defined process for handling incomplete work**
  - More detailed guidance on what constitutes acceptable submitted material (e.g. draft chapters, publications, reports) and decision-making where material is insufficient.
- **Formalised examination process (pre-submission cases)**
  - Introduces clearer steps for:
    - panel consideration prior to examiner nomination,
    - examiner briefings about circumstances,
    - structured joint examiner reporting.
- **Replacement of viva with structured examiner interaction**

- Codifies that:
  - no viva is required, and
  - examiners may seek clarification via written questions or optional meetings with supervisors.
- **Introduction of standardised examiner report template**
  - New Appendix providing a formal examiner report form, improving:
    - consistency,
    - transparency,
    - auditability of decisions.
- **Clarification of permitted recommendations**
  - Aligns both pathways (pre- and post-submission) to a consistent set of outcomes:
    - full award,
    - exit/lesser award,
    - no award.
- **Explicit statement on appeals**
  - Strengthens wording that refusal of an award or granting of an exit award does not constitute grounds for academic appeal.
- **Operational guidance for submission and records**
  - Adds new requirements on:
    - compiling submissions into a single PDF (where possible),
    - storing supporting documents in eProg/personal document store,
    - structured document handling.
- **New section on thesis submission and access**
  - Clarifies responsibility for final thesis upload by supervisors and specifies Pure/open access and embargo arrangements.
- **Minor clarification on certification**
  - Retains and reinforces that certificates do not need to indicate posthumous/aegrotat status.