Summary of changes (September 2026 - Version 6.1)

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Published Work

Purpose. This document summarises the principal eligibility changes made to the regulations and explains their effect and rationale. The amendments correct unintended restrictions and introduce proportionate flexibility for long-serving staff and candidates nearing completion.

Change type	Previous position	Revised provision	Effect of change	Rationale
Correction	Eligibility for the PhD by Published Work had historically been intended to apply to a broad range of staff. During the previous review, however, the regulations were amended to refer specifically to "academic staff".	Eligibility has been revised to refer to a "current member of staff", rather than "academic staff" or a "current research-active member of staff".	Broadens and clarifies eligibility by restoring the original intent of the regulations.	Corrects unintended wording introduced during the previous review and ensures that eligibility is not unnecessarily restricted to academic staff where other staff members may also have an appropriate body of published work.
Addition	The regulations did not clearly provide for individuals with substantial service whose employment status may fall outside the standard eligibility criteria.	An exception route has been introduced for individuals without five years' continuous employment.	Creates a defined route for long-serving staff who may not otherwise meet the standard eligibility requirements.	Recognises sustained institutional contribution and provides flexibility where an individual has a strong connection to the University but falls outside the main eligibility category.
Addition	The regulations did not explicitly address situations where a candidate's employment changes during the final stages of their doctoral submission.	A continuation route has been introduced for candidates whose employment changes close to completion.	Protects candidates from becoming ineligible late in the process because of a change in employment status.	Promotes fairness and avoids disadvantaging candidates who have already made substantial progress towards submission and examination when their employment circumstances change.