

F REGULATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREES BY RESEARCH

F1 General

- F1.1 Bournemouth University is responsible for ensuring that the research awards granted and conferred are consistent and comparable in standard with awards granted and conferred throughout higher education in the United Kingdom.
- F1.2 Programmes of research may be proposed in any field of study (including where the principal focus is the preparation of a scholarly edition of a text or texts, musical or choreographic work or other original artefacts) provided that the proposed programme is capable of leading to scholarly research and to its presentation for assessment by appropriate examiners. The written thesis may be supplemented by material in other than written form. All proposed research programmes will be considered for registration on their academic merits and without reference to the concerns or interests of any associated funding body and will reflect the University's capacity to provide appropriate supervision.

F2 Awards

- F2.1 A list of awards of degrees by research and their definitions are provided in section A6.8.

F3 Period of registration

- F3.1 The maximum and minimum periods which a student may take to complete the programme, from first registration, are outlined in the *Code of Practice for Research Degree Students*.
- F3.2 Candidates whose work forms part of a larger group project may register for a Research Award. In such cases each individually registered project must in itself be distinguishable for the purposes of assessment and be appropriate for the award being sought.

F4 External links

- F4.1 The University encourages co-operation with other educational institutions and with industrial, commercial, professional or research establishments for the purposes of research leading to research awards. Such co-operation is intended to:
- i encourage outward-looking and relevant research;
 - ii extend the candidate's own experience and perspectives of the work;
 - iii provide a wider range of experience and expertise to assist in the development of the project;

- iv be mutually beneficial;
 - v provide an opportunity, whenever possible, to enable the candidate to become a member of a research community.
- F4.2 Co-operation may be formalised with one or more bodies external to the University. For the purpose of the research award regulations these are referred to as collaborating establishments.
- F4.3 Formal collaboration normally involves the candidate's use of facilities and other resources, including supervision, which are provided jointly by the University and the collaborating establishment.
- F4.4 Where a body external to the University is contributing facilities and other resources to a project, that body may be recognised formally as a collaborating establishment and acknowledged as such in the candidate's thesis and degree certificate. In such cases a formal letter from the collaborating establishment confirming the agreed arrangements should be submitted with the application, except where collaboration is an integral part of the project, as for example with NERC/SERC CASE awards and Teaching Company schemes.

F5 Overseas study

- F5.1 In exceptional circumstances student may carry out their research programme outside the UK when the University is satisfied:
- i that there is satisfactory written evidence to show that the student will have access to all facilities required to enable the student to conduct and complete their research programme in an efficient and safe manner;
 - ii that the first supervisor is based at the University;
 - iii that the arrangements proposed for supervision enable frequent and substantial contact between the student and the supervisor;
 - iv that collaborating overseas institutions have agreed to provide the necessary support;
 - v that the candidate should normally spend not less than 6 weeks per year at the University.

F6 Additional programmes of study

- F6.1 Candidates for the Degree of PhD (or those registered for MPhil with possibility of transfer to PhD) may undertake an integrated programme of work which includes a programme of postgraduate study on which their performance is formally assessed, as well as the research element. Such a course of study must not occupy more than one third of the total period of registration and must complement the research. A candidate on an integrated programme may not submit a thesis for examination until the assessment of the programme of postgraduate study has been completed to the satisfaction of its examiners.
- F6.2 A candidate for the DBA will normally undertake an organisation-based investigation, requiring formal agreement with one or more collaborating establishments. Where appropriate, a candidate may be required to follow a programme of supplementary studies.

- F6.3 A candidate for the Degree of MPhil or PhD shall be required to follow a programme of related studies, where this is necessary for the attainment of competence in research methods and of knowledge related to the subject of the thesis. This programme shall have the following objectives:
- i to provide the student with the skills and knowledge necessary for the pursuit of the proposed research;
 - ii to provide a body of knowledge normally associated with a degree in the field of study of the proposed research;
 - iii to provide breadth of knowledge in the related subjects.
- F6.4 Where the programme of related studies includes an approved programme of studies leading to another award, and a candidate is registered for that programme and fulfils all its requirements, he/she may be recommended for that award in addition to the degree of MPhil or PhD.

F7 Assessment regulations

- F7.1 Assessment Regulations including the criteria for the appointment of examiners are set out in the current version of the *Code of Practice for Independent Chairs, Internal and External Examiners of Candidates for Research Degree Awards* and the *Code of Practice for Research Degrees*.

F8 Appeals

- F8.1 Students wishing to appeal against the decision of the Examining Team may do so in accordance with the *Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure for Research Awards*.

F9 Assessment Offences

- F9.1 Where an allegation or evidence of an assessment offence comes to light prior to the recommendation of the examiners it will be dealt with in accordance with the *Code of Practice – Misconduct in Academic Research*.
- F9.2 Where evidence of an assessment offence in the preparation of the thesis, or other irregularities in the conduct of the examination, comes to light subsequent to the recommendation of the examiners, Senate shall consider the matter, if necessary in consultation with the examiners, and take the necessary action, in accordance with the University policy on assessment offences.

F10 Publication

- F10.1 Following the award of the degree of a PhD, DProf or DBA one unbound copy of the thesis is sent by the University to the British Library.
- F10.2 Following the award of the degree of MPhil, PhD, DProf or DBA, one copy of the thesis must be lodged in the library of the University, and any collaborating establishment

F11 Confidentiality

F11.1 Where a candidate of the University wishes the thesis to remain confidential for a period of time after completion of the work, application for approval must normally be made at the time of registration. In cases where the need for confidentiality emerges at a subsequent stage, a special application for the thesis to remain confidential after submission must be made immediately through the appropriate University channel.

F11.2 Where the University has agreed that the confidential nature of the candidate's work is such to preclude the thesis being made freely available in the Library of the University (and of the collaborating establishment, if any) and in the case of a PhD or DBA, the British Library, the thesis shall, immediately on completion of the programme of work, be held by the University on restricted access (and only be available to those who were directly involved in the project)

F12 Termination

F12.1 Continued enrolment (and registration if appropriate) is subject to the following;

- i an annual report from the student's supervisor that the student is still actively engaged on their research programme;
- ii confirmation that the student is in frequent and regular contact with their supervisor;
- iii confirmation that the student is making sufficient academic progress;
- iv adherence to the Research Codes of Practice;
- v the University's capacity to continue appropriate supervision.

F12.2 Should any of the conditions above not be met, the students' enrolment may be terminated subject to the appropriate termination procedures being followed (as detailed in the *Code of Practice for Research Degrees*).