

# 1. General Regulations for Research Awards

## 1.1 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR MASTERS

### 1.1.1 MA - MASTER OF ARTS

1.1.1.1 Candidates seeking the degree undertake one year of supervised research (two years if studying part-time), at the end of which they submit a thesis embodying the results of their research.

1.1.1.2 Candidates for the degree of MA must already hold a good honours degree or equivalent. The candidate, with the help of the Supervisor, refines the proposal for the research, including developing a work plan and identifying requirements for support and resources and how these will be met.

1.1.1.3 Candidates submitting a successful (i.e. passing) thesis for the degree award of MA by Research must have demonstrated in their final written submission:

- (a) Familiarity with and systematic understanding of their chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline or field of study
- (b) Critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities
- (c) Their ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences
  - understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research
  - an ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses
  - originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic
- (d) Their ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- (e) Presentation of their research in a coherent and organised manner, at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)

## GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Examiners are asked to consider a thesis submitted for the award of MA by Research according to the following criteria. It is not necessary for the candidate to meet each criterion at the appropriate level in order to achieve the corresponding grade – slight weakness in one area may be balanced by strength in another.

### 70%+ DISTINCTION

1. detailed familiarity with and systematic understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities
2. sophisticated analysis which is at the forefront of the academic discipline or field of study
3. precise critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities
4. full capacity to deal with their subject in a highly professional and scholarly manner that evidences
  - 4.1 excellent understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research
  - 4.2 advanced ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses
  - 4.3 consistent originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic
5. notable ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings persuasively to specialist and non-specialist audiences
6. fully coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)

### 60%+ MERIT

1. broad familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities
2. analysis which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, or field of study
3. sound critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of sources and authorities
4. capacity to deal with their subject in a professional and scholarly manner that evidences
  - 4.1 good understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research
  - 4.2 good ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses
  - 4.3 frequent originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic
5. clear ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings well to specialist and non-specialist audiences
6. coherent and well organised presentation of material, at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)

### 50%+ PASS

1. familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities, that is satisfactory though not always comprehensive

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. analysis which is informed by, if not consistently aware of, the latest developments in the academic discipline, or field of study</li> <li>3. a degree of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of sources and authorities</li> <li>4. capacity to deal with their subject in a competent if not always professional manner that evidences <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 fair understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research</li> <li>4.2 ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses</li> <li>4.3 occasional originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. fair ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences</li> <li>6. reasonably coherent and organised presentation of material, usually at a professional level (e.g. by means of adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)</li> </ol>
<p>&lt;50% FAIL</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. limited familiarity and understanding of the chosen research subject, its primary and secondary sources and its principal authorities</li> <li>2. analysis which is seldom at or informed by the latest developments in the academic discipline, or field of study</li> <li>3. lack of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of sources and authorities</li> <li>4. limited capacity to deal with their subject in a competent professional manner, that evidences <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1 poor understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research</li> <li>4.2 reluctance or inability to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses when appropriate</li> <li>4.3 little or no originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. difficulties in carrying out independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and in communicating their findings clearly to specialist or non-specialist audiences</li> <li>6. organization of material that is not consistently coherent, or presented at a professional level (e.g. because of inconsistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)</li> </ol>

## 1.1.2 MSc – MASTER OF SCIENCE

1.1.2.1 Candidates seeking the degree on the basis of research undertake one year of supervised research (two years if studying part-time) on a topic in an area for which the first degree would normally be the degree of Bachelor of Science. At the end of this period, they submit a thesis embodying the results of their research and normally have a viva (oral examination).

1.1.2.2 Candidates for the degree of MSc must already hold a good honours degree or equivalent. The candidate, with the help of the Supervisor, refines the proposal for the research, including developing a work plan and identifying the requirements for support and resources and how these will be met.

1.1.2.3 Candidates submitting a successful (i.e. passing) thesis for the degree of MSc by Research must have demonstrated in their final written submission:

- (a) Familiarity with, and understanding of, the chosen research subject
- (b) Critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study
- (c) Analysis of research issues in the field of study, which is informed by current knowledge
- (d) The formulation of a hypothesis or research question to address a research issue
- (e) Understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research
- (f) The design and conduct of experiments or studies that provide data which could contribute to publications or conference presentations
- (g) An ability to analyse data, to interpret it in relation to current understanding of the field, and to discuss its limitations
- (h) An ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings clearly
- (i) The coherent and organised presentation of material at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)

GRADE DESCRIPTORS
<p>All students for the degree of MSc by research will have a viva with the Internal and External Examiners. Examiners are asked to consider a thesis submitted for the award of MSc by Research according to the following criteria. It is not necessary for the candidate to meet each criterion at the appropriate level in order to achieve the corresponding grade – slight weakness in one area may be balanced by strength in another. However, Examiners should allow little flexibility regarding standards for understanding of the research subject, design of experiments, and analysis and interpretation of data.</p>
<p><b>70%+ DISTINCTION</b></p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. detailed familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject</li> <li>2. precise critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study</li> <li>3. sophisticated analysis of current research issues in the field of study</li> <li>4. excellent formulation of a hypothesis or research question to address an important research issue</li> <li>5. excellent understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research</li> <li>6. design and conduct of experiments or studies that would generate sufficient data to form the core of a publication/presentation in/at a good quality journal or conference</li> <li>7. production of such data</li> <li>8. excellent analysis of data, including appropriate statistics</li> <li>9. excellent interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field</li> <li>10. excellent analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work</li> <li>11. notable ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings persuasively to specialist and non-specialist audiences</li> <li>12. fully coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)</li> </ol>

60%+ MERIT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. broad familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject</li> <li>2. sound critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study</li> <li>3. sound analysis of current research issues in the field of study</li> <li>4. good formulation of a hypothesis or research question to address a research issue</li> <li>5. good understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research</li> <li>6. design and conduct of experiments or studies that would generate sufficient data to contribute to a publication/presentation in/at a good quality journal or conference</li> <li>7. production of such data</li> <li>8. good analysis of data, including appropriate statistics</li> <li>9. good interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field</li> <li>10. good analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work</li> <li>11. clear ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings well to specialist and non-specialist audiences</li> <li>12. coherent and well-organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)</li> </ol>
50%+ PASS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject</li> <li>2. a degree of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study</li> <li>3. analysis of research issues in the field of study, which is informed by but not consistently aware of current knowledge</li> <li>4. formulation of a reasonable hypothesis or research question to address a research issue</li> <li>5. fair understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research</li> <li>6. design and conduct of experiments or studies that would generate data upon which others could build for a publications or conference presentations</li> <li>7. fair analysis of data</li> <li>8. fair interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field</li> <li>9. fair analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work</li> <li>10. fair ability to conduct research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and to communicate findings clearly</li> <li>11. reasonably coherent and organised presentation of material, usually at a professional level (e.g. by means of adherence to an established style guide)</li> </ol>
<50% FAIL
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. limited familiarity with and understanding of the chosen research subject</li> <li>2. lack of critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others in the field of study</li> <li>3. analysis of research issues in the field of study, which is seldom informed by current knowledge</li> <li>4. failure to formulate a reasonable hypothesis or research question to address a research issue</li> <li>5. poor understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to own research</li> <li>6. inability to design and conduct experiments or studies that would generate data upon which others could build for a publications</li> <li>7. poor analysis of data</li> <li>8. poor interpretation of data in relation to current understanding of the field</li> <li>9. poor analysis of limitations of work conducted and ideas for future work</li> <li>10. difficulties in conducting research independently in a self-directed, autonomous manner, and in communicating findings clearly</li> <li>11. organisation of material that is not consistently coherent, or presented at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide)</li> </ol>

### 1.1.3 LLM - MASTER OF LAWS

1.1.3.1 Candidates seeking the degree on the basis of research undertake one year of supervised research on a topic relating to law (two years if studying part-time) at the end of which they submit a thesis embodying the results of their research.

1.1.3.2 Candidates for the degree of LLM must already hold a good honours degree or the equivalent in law or with a substantial law component. The candidate, with the help of the Supervisor, refines the proposal for the research, including developing a work plan and identifying the requirements for support and resources and how these will be met.

1.1.3.3 The subject should be dealt with in a competent and scholarly manner. Candidates who are awarded the degree of LLM will have demonstrated their ability to conduct independent research using a range of primary and/or secondary sources and to present this in an organised, coherent, and scholarly manner.

#### GRADE DESCRIPTORS

Examiners are asked to consider a thesis submitted for the award of LLM by Research according to the following criteria. It is not necessary for the candidate to meet each criterion at the appropriate level in order to achieve the corresponding grade – slight weakness in one area may be balanced by strength in another.

#### 70%+ DISTINCTION

1. Detailed knowledge and sophisticated understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas
2. High level of ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations
3. Deep understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context
4. Detailed familiarity with, and in-depth systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic
5. Strong critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities
6. Notable ability to produce a clear and accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them
7. High degree of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and a sophisticated articulation of the reason for and merit of the research question addressed
8. Notable ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences, as necessary:
  - 8.1 Excellent understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research
  - 8.2 Advanced ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses
  - 8.3 Consistent originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic.
9. Notable ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences

10. Fully coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)
60%+ MERIT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Good knowledge and broad understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas</li> <li>2. Good level of ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations</li> <li>3. Good understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context</li> <li>4. Broad familiarity with, and good systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic</li> <li>5. Competent critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities</li> <li>6. Clear ability to produce a clear and accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them</li> <li>7. A good degree of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and a good articulation of the reason for and merit of the research question addressed</li> <li>8. Good ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences, as necessary: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 Good understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research</li> <li>8.2 Good ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses</li> <li>8.3 A good measure of originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. Good ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences</li> <li>10. A coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional level (e.g. by means of consistent adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)</li> </ol>
50%+ PASS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Knowledge and general understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas</li> <li>2. Some ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations</li> <li>3. Some understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context</li> <li>4. General familiarity with, and adequate systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic</li> <li>5. Some critical discrimination and sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities</li> <li>6. Some ability to produce a fairly accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them</li> <li>7. A fair degree of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and some articulation of the reason for and merit of the research question addressed</li> <li>8. Some ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences, as necessary <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 Understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research</li> <li>8.2 Some ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses</li> <li>8.3 A small measure of originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

9. Some ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
10. A coherent and organised presentation of material throughout, at a professional level (e.g. by means of adherence to an established style guide or scholarly house style)

<50% FAIL

1. Limited knowledge and little understanding of the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and ability to explain the relationships between them in a number of complex areas
2. Poor level of ability to apply the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic to concrete data and factual situations
3. Limited to no understanding, when needed, of the relationship between the legal concepts, values, principles and rules relevant to their research topic and the relevant economic, social, commercial or political context
4. Little familiarity with, and poor systematic understanding of, the primary and secondary sources and authorities relevant to their research topic
5. Little to no critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of such sources and authorities
6. Little ability to produce a clear and accurate presentation of the law relevant to their research topic and to use techniques of legal interpretation to complex issues arising from them
7. A poor level of understanding of why their research topic is of interest and poor articulation of the reason for, and merit of, the research question addressed
8. Little ability to deal with their subject in a competent and scholarly manner that evidences
  - 8.1 Little understanding of the methodologies and techniques applicable to their own research
  - 8.2 Little to no ability, when appropriate, to critique such methodologies and techniques, and to propose new hypotheses
  - 8.3 Little to no measure of originality in the application of knowledge to their specific research topic
9. Limited ability to conduct independent research in a self-directed, autonomous manner, exercising judgement and discrimination, and to communicate their findings clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
10. A poorly organised presentation of material throughout, at a non-professional level (e.g. a failure to consistently adhere to an established style guide or scholarly house style)

## 1.2 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR RESEARCH DOCTORATES

### 1.2.1 MPhil - MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

1.2.1.1 The degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is awarded on the basis of a thesis embodying the results of supervised research. Despite the name of the degree, it may be awarded in any subject or discipline.

1.2.1.2 Candidates for the degree must already hold a Master's and a good honours degree or equivalent. The candidate, with the help of the Supervisor, refines the proposal for the research, including developing a work plan and identifying the requirements for support and resources and how these will be met.

1.2.1.3 Candidates spend a period of two years full-time or four years part-time undertaking supervised research, at the end of which they submit a thesis embodying the results of that research. A viva (oral examination) is mandatory.

#### 1.2.1.4 The thesis:

- (a) Must demonstrate familiarity with, and an understanding of, the subject, its principal sources and authorities.
- (b) Should display critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the judgements of others.
- (c) Must advance understanding in the field or area of study concerned, e.g. through a contribution to knowledge or by means of a commentary on existing knowledge.
- (d) Should deal with the subject in a competent and scholarly manner.

### 1.2.2 PhD - DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

1.2.2.1 The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is awarded on the basis of a thesis embodying the results of supervised research. Despite the name of the degree, it may be awarded in any subject or discipline.

1.2.2.2 Candidates seeking the degree of Doctor of Philosophy must already hold a Master's and a good honours degree or equivalent. The candidate, with the help of the Supervisor(s), refines the proposal for the research, including developing a work plan and identifying the requirements for support and resources and how these will be met.

1.2.2.3 Students are registered initially for the degree of PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), although their status is probationary until the first Annual Review has taken place normally between 12 and 18 months from first registration. Probationary status ends once the student has demonstrated through the submission of draft written work that he or she has the ability to conduct research at the advanced level required for the award of the degree, through the normal procedures for Annual Reviews (see **Section 4. PhD Regulations**).

1.2.2.4 The period of study required for the award of a PhD is three years full-time or six years part-time. At the end of this period (or earlier in exceptional cases), the candidate submits a thesis embodying the results of the research. A viva (oral examination) is mandatory.

#### 1.2.2.5 The thesis:

- (a) Must demonstrate familiarity with, and an understanding of, the subject, its principal sources and authorities.
- (b) Should display critical discrimination and a sense of proportion in evaluating evidence and the opinions of others.
- (c) Must embody a significant and original contribution to the knowledge of the discipline, either by the discovery of new knowledge, or by the exercise of a new and independent critical approach, e.g. through the discovery of new knowledge, the connection of previously unrelated facts, the development of new theory, or the revision of older views.
- (d) Should contain matter worthy of publication, although it need not be submitted in a form suitable for immediate publication.

### 1.2.3 DProf – PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE

1.2.3.1 The Professional Doctorate with Specialisms is a unique part-time professional

doctoral degree. It is designed to enhance executive and professional practice through the application of sound theory and rigorous research into real and complex issues in contemporary business and management, within the elected specialism fields of Operational Excellence, Accounting and Finance or Business Administration.

1.2.3.2 The programme provides an opportunity for business and management professionals to understand their own working contexts more critically, and to find solutions to key challenges in their working environment through the application of rigorous research. It is envisaged that students holding the Professional Doctorate will ultimately lead communities of practice in their specialist profession. Students will initially be registered for the degree of DProf. Their status will be probationary until all taught modules have been passed and the proposed research has been assessed as viable, normally two years from first registration.

1.2.3.3 The degree is designed to be undertaken on a part-time basis over four plus years. The first two years of the programme comprise taught modules that prepare students for doctoral level research in their subject specialism. The taught modules are delivered through a series of nine 2.5 day seminars / workshops. Students who successfully complete all taught modules will be eligible to graduate with a step-off award of MBusRes (Master of Business Research) if doctoral level research is not pursued.

1.2.3.4 The Professional Doctorate award is distinct from the PhD award in the following respects:

- (a) The Professional Doctorate typically focuses on research 'in' organisations rather than research 'on' organisations
- (b) The thesis produced by Professional Doctorate students will make an original contribution to knowledge within the relevant area or areas of professional practice
- (c) Considerable weight is given to the taught components of the programme, which provide research skills necessary for doctoral research
- (d) Employers will benefit from supporting students on the programme by building knowledge for competitive advantage and developing and retaining key talent

1.2.3.5 The key assessment output is:

- (a) A 60,000-word research thesis and 2 papers presented at internal or external peer reviewed academic or practitioner conferences (or the equivalent) OR
- (e) A practical outcome of articles (e.g. 6 papers comprising 2 articles in 2\* or above peer-reviewed academic journals, 2 academic peer-reviewed conference papers, 2 trade magazine or professional papers, patents) equivalent to 30,000 words accompanied by a 30,000-word thesis

1.2.3.6 The thesis will be defended in a traditional doctoral viva (oral) examination. Each of the taught modules will be summatively assessed by an individual written assignment submitted at the end of the module. Some modules also include a summatively assessed presentation. All taught modules are designed to support students in developing their ability to articulate and defend their research. The programme builds the thesis throughout the taught modules. It is anticipated assignments developed during the taught component will form the foundation of the first three chapters of the final thesis.

1.2.3.7 Progression to and registration for the level 8 component of the programme will be achieved via a successful presentation of the proposed research to a Research Panel.

Students who successfully complete all taught modules will be eligible to graduate with a step-off award of MBusRes (Master of Business Research) if doctoral level research is not pursued.

#### 1.2.4 EdD – DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Please refer to the EdD Handbook available from the Course Director.

### 1.3 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR DOCTORATES BY PUBLISHED WORK

1.3.1 Candidates seeking a Doctorate by Published Work must be University of Buckingham graduates or members of staff. Graduates of other universities seeking to obtain a Doctorate by Published Work should contact the university from which they graduated.

1.3.2 The candidate must submit published scholarly work which gives clear proof of a significant and original contribution to the knowledge of the discipline. This contribution should consist of the discovery of new knowledge, or the exercise of a new and independent critical approach, e.g. the connection of previously unrelated facts, the development of new theory, or the revision of previously held views.

1.3.3 The candidate must show, by means of a 20,000 word commentary on the submitted work and in a viva (oral examination), that they appreciate the relationship of their special work to a wider field of knowledge. Registration must be for a period of one year, during which time the candidate will have regular supervisions with the Supervisor and be guided in accordance with the same process and provision as if registered for a PhD by research programme.

1.3.4 The degree of PhD by Published Work may be conferred on:

- (a) graduates of this university of not less than five years standing
- (b) graduates of another university of not less than five years standing who have also held an appointment as a member of staff of this university for at least two years
- (c) graduates of another university of not less than five years standing who have also held a Fellowship of this university for at least two years

1.3.5 The degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD) by Published Work may be conferred on:

- (a) holders of the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB BS), or equivalent approved medical qualifications, of not less than five years standing who have held an appointment as a member of staff of this university for at least two years
- (b) holders of the degrees of MB BS, or equivalent approved medical qualifications, of not less than five years standing who have held a Fellowship of this university for at least two years

1.3.6 In the first instance, a person wishing to pursue a Doctorate by Published Work should submit an application through the University website in the discipline in which they wish to be considered, including, in place of the usual research proposal, a summary of their published work and an explanation of how it meets the criteria for the award. This application will be forwarded for consideration to the appropriate Research Officer. If the application is approved, the Research Officer will identify a supervisory team, who will be appointed for a

term of 12 months and be responsible for providing assistance to the student in preparing the submission for the degree. The fee shall be equivalent to one year at the typical PhD fee rate.

1.3.7 By the end of the registration period, the submission for the degree will be delivered to the Research Administrator, and will comprise:

- (a) A list of the published works upon which the application is based. The list should indicate whether and with what result any of the works have previously been submitted for any degree of any university or awarding body
- (b) A supporting 20,000 word commentary indicating the area of knowledge to which the published work relates and the ways in which it makes a significant and original contribution to learning meriting the award of the degree
- (c) Where any of the works submitted have been produced jointly with others, a written statement signed by the other contributors to the works concerned indicating the share which the candidate took personally in the work
- (d) The published works upon which the application is based
- (e) A curriculum vitae

1.3.8 The works submitted as part of the application must be published and freely available. Unpublished work, or material in the course of being published, will not be accepted. Work which has been successfully submitted for the award of a degree at this or any other university or awarding body can only be considered as supporting material explaining the context or background to other works submitted. All works submitted shall be written in English, except where the prior approval of the University Research Committee has been given for the submission of work in another language.

1.3.9 There shall be three Examiners for the degree, at least two of whom shall be External Examiners. The usual examination procedure shall be followed as per **Section 6. Examination and Vivas.**

## 1.4 GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR HIGHER DOCTORATES

1.4.1 These degrees represent the pinnacle of academic achievement and are awarded to candidates who have already established a position as a leading authority through their contribution to scholarship. Candidates must have published work which gives clear proof that they are a leading authority in the field of study concerned, and have made an original and distinguished contribution to the advancement or application of knowledge in that field.

1.4.2 Candidates must be University of Buckingham graduates or members of staff. Graduates of other universities seeking a higher doctorate should contact the university from which they graduated. The degrees awarded as higher doctorates are the LLS (Doctor of Laws), the DLitt (Doctor of Letters), and DSc (Doctor of Science).

1.4.3 The degrees of Doctor of Laws (LLD), Doctor of Letters (DLitt), and Doctor of Science (DSc) may be conferred on:

- (a) graduates of this University of not less than seven years standing
- (b) holders of a higher degree of this University of not less than four years standing

- (c) graduates of another University of not less than seven years standing who have also held an appointment as a member of staff of this University for at least two years

1.4.4 A person wishing to be admitted to the degree shall submit to the Research Administrator:

- (a) A list of the published works upon which the application is based. The list should indicate whether and with what result any of the works have previously been submitted for any degree of any university or awarding body
- (b) A supporting statement indicating the area of knowledge to which the published work relates and the ways in which it makes a significant and original contribution to learning meriting the award of the degree
- (c) Where any of the works submitted have been produced jointly with others, a written statement signed by the other contributors to the works concerned indicating the share which the candidate took personally in the work
- (d) The published works upon which the application is based

1.4.5 The works submitted as part of the application must be published and freely available. Unpublished work, or material in the course of being published, will not be accepted. Work which has successfully been submitted for the award of a degree at this or any other university or awarding body can only be considered as supporting material explaining the context or background to other works submitted. All works submitted shall be written in English, except where the prior approval of the University Research Committee has been given for the submission of work in another language.

1.4.6 Any application shall first be considered by the relevant Faculty Dean who, after necessary consultation, shall determine whether there is a prima facie case for the award of the degree. Where the Dean is of the opinion that a prima facie case has been made, they shall proceed to nominate Examiners for the degree to be appointed by Senate. Where the Dean is not of the opinion that there is a prima facie case for the award of the degree, the candidate shall be so informed and the published works submitted shall be returned.

1.4.7 There shall be three Examiners for the degree, at least two of whom shall be External Examiners. The usual examination procedure shall be followed as per **Section 6. Examination and Vivas**. The examination shall consist of a consideration of the works and prescribed materials submitted. In cases where the Examiners consider it desirable, the candidate may be given a viva (oral examination) on the works submitted and on the general area of knowledge to which they relate.

1.4.8 If the Examiners decline to award the degree, no further application for the award of the degree may be made until the expiry of at least two calendar years from the date upon which any previous application was made.