

**LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO REGULATIONS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES**

**2019/2020**

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These are also available through the medium of Welsh

1. Regulations have been restructured to aid readability and allow easier navigation for the reader.
2. 1 – PGR Degree Awards

Replaces chapters on ‘Programmes’ and ‘Quality Assurance’.

* New section ‘General principles’ which includes main committees and name changes to Research Degrees Committee (RDC) and Faculty Research Degrees Committee (FRDC) (previously RPSC and FRPC);
* New section on ‘Creative works’ (page 9);
* New sections on PhD by publication and portfolio (with examples) (pages 9-10).

1. 2 – Selection and Admission

Replaces chapter on ‘Applications and Qualifications’.

* New section ‘Selection principles’ including expectations for timely completion, resources for duration of project, equal opportunities and objective indicators for supervisor appointment (page 12);
* P.13 ‘General entry requirements’ section simplified and new regulation 2.2.3 added for applicants who do not have the expected qualifications;
* P.13-14 – New ‘Additional entry requirements for publication and portfolio routes’ added (although existing practice taken from approved guidance documents);
* P.15 – regulation 2.3 - English language entry requirements – as published by University i.e. 6.5 overall with minimum of 5.5 in reading and writing although some subject areas may require higher. Also accept a recent Masters from an English speaking country as evidence of English language requirements (as this is existing practice);
* P.15 – regulation 2.4.5 – Refers to new risk matrix and where university approval is needed prior to a candidate enrolling.

1. 3 – Postgraduate Research Candidate Enrolment and Project Registration

Replaces ‘Initial registration’ and ‘Registration period’ chapters.

* P.16 – regulations 3.1.9 – Confidentiality period for thesis extended from 2 to 5 years.
* P.17 – New section on Induction and Orientation.
* P.17 – regulation 3.3 – Expected project registration periods added.
* P.18 – regulation 3.3.4 – Transfer of candidature adjustment added (although existing practice).
* P.18 – ‘Write-up’ status section added (previously in CoP Students) but 3.3.8 (c) - no longer require lab/desk space - is new.
* P.19 – regulation 3.4.2 – Specifies the change in the form of submission part-way through registration is not permitted.
* P.19 – regulation 3.4.4/5 – Where a student applies for a ‘Suspension’ this is now referred to as ‘Interruption to Studies’. Also reference to consequences for International students added.
* P.20 – regulation 3.4.7-9 – New regulations added where a student chooses to withdraw.
* P.20 – 24 – New sections added for student engagement (including expected attendance, data collection away from the university, authorised absence, annual leave), discontinuation of studies and other requirements and conditions of registration.

1. 4 – Supervision

* P.25 – regulation 4.1.9 – New regulation about monitoring supervisor performance and eligibility.
* P.25-26 – regulation 4.1.10 (a) and (b) - DoS responsibilities amended to complement new requirements and conditions of enrolment and registration.
* P.26 – regulation 4.2.1 – Maximum supervisor capacity amended to headcount of 10 including no more than six as DoS (previously by FTE).
* P.26 – regulation 4.2.2 – New regulation about University responsibilities when a supervisor leaves.
* P.27 - regulation 4.3.1 – Shared responsibility for maintaining contact between student and supervisor.

1. 5 – Progression Review Arrangements

New – previously within ‘Registration period’ chapter.

* P.28 – regulation 5.2 – Six month progress review by supervisor formalised (although existing practice).
* P.28 – regulation 5.3.2 – Now five progress ‘grades’ instead of four.
* P.29 – regulation 5.3.6 – New regulations about monitoring progress against an action plan (although existing practice) which enables discontinuation of study if unsatisfactory.
* P.29 – regulation 5.3.8 – Reference to appealing a decision of progress board under certain criteria with signposting to new appeals regulations.

1. 6 – Transfer from MPhil to PhD

The intention is to review this chapter more thoroughly during 19/20.

* P.30 – regulations 6.1.1 – Transfer application submission time changed to ‘within 12 months’ for FT (previously 9-15 months) and ‘within 24 months’ for PT (previously 18-24 months).
* P.30 – regulation 6.2.1 – ‘Independent specialist’ is now ‘Independent subject specialist’, transfer viva to be observed by a member of the supervisory team (previously DoS).
* P.31 – regulations 6.2.6 (e) – Option for candidate’s study to be discontinued replaces option for candidate being ‘requested to withdraw’.
* P.31 – regulations 6.2.9 – Reference to appealing outcome of transfer added with signposting to new appeals regulations.

1. 7 – The Thesis

Replaces ‘The Submission’ chapter.

* P.32 – regulation 7.1.2 – Submission for examination required electronically and if printed version required by examiners this will be determined at appointment of examiners stage.
* P.32 – regulation 7.1.3 – Reference to IPR policy added.
* P.33 – regulation 7.2.2 – Increased word limit for MPhil which involves creative works.
* P.33 – 35 – new section *Presentation and format of submission* - removed requirement to submit English summary for Welsh submission, increased abstract word length from 300 to 500 words, font size specification – no longer in mm, specific requirements for presentation / format added.
* P.33 - regulation 7.3.1 – Candidate has the right to submit thesis in Welsh (due to new Welsh language requirements).
* P.36 - regulations 7.4.2 and 7.4.4 – Final version of thesis to be submitted within one month of approval and where submission involves creative work a permanent record must be included.
* P.37 – regulation 7.5.3, 7.5.4 and 7.5.6 – Additional requirement for confidentiality added, considerations when submitting confidentiality request added and possibility of applying for extension to confidentiality period.

1. 8 – Examination

Reviewed extensively in 17/18 and only the presentation has been updated except on page 38 (regulation 8.2.2) where reference to alternative form of examination and the need for DS to confirm this.