Plymouth University

Regulatory Framework for Postgraduate Research Degrees

Section 1: Introduction to Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Degree Students (PGR)
(changes since 2014-15 in bold and underlined)

NOTE: Current Regulations for Approved Programmes of Study Leading to the Plymouth University’s Awards will apply to all candidates. These can be found from the Faculty Office or at http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/studenthandbook.

These Regulations and Code of Practice should be read in conjunction with the University-wide quality procedures for Research Degrees (available at https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/student-life/your-studies/the-graduate-school) and the University Student Handbook, available at http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/studenthandbook.

Research degree students are also required to read and adhere to the following policies and procedures:
- students and intellectual property/intellectual property policy (www.plymouth.ac.uk/research),
- Plymouth University Research Ethics Policy (www.plymouth.ac.uk/research), which includes, among others, Procedure in the Case of Research Misconduct and Good Practice in Research

Where “Local Research Coordinator” and/or “Head of School” and/or “Dean of Faculty” and/or “DTC Director” appears then “Head of Research” and/or “Vice Principal” and/or “Principal” should be read as equivalent for the Accredited Partner College (Falmouth University).

Additional requirements and regulations apply to candidates registered for the degrees of Doctor of Medicine (MD) and Master of Surgery (MS) and for Professional Doctorates Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) and Doctor of Public Administration (DPA). Separate additional regulations apply for Doctorate of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy).

1.1. The Plymouth University Research Degree Regulations and Code of Practice have been prepared to help define the obligatory aspects of research degree registration. This document is intended to provide research degree candidates and supervisors with guidance through the research degree registration process and to assist Research Degree Management Units to establish good management practice.

1.2. These regulations are to be used in conjunction with the approved University-wide quality procedures and the Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) quality procedures which have been approved by Graduate Sub-Committee http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/researchdegreehandbook). Appendices to the University procedures take account of the differences between subject areas. The document provides guidance on the processes for research. A copy of these procedures will be made available at enrolment by the Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) Administrator.
1.3. Research degree administration will be referred to in this document as the Research Degree Management Unit. In all cases final responsibility rests with the relevant Deputy Vice Chancellor in consultation with the Dean of Faculty.

1.4. Definition of a research student – all research degree candidates are referred to as research students and are recorded in the University student records system (UNIT-e).

1.5. A Research Degree Coordinator is nominated at School or Faculty level. This person is responsible for dissemination of information between the School and the Graduate Sub-Committee. This person will normally be the main contact for research degree matters at school level and will act as an advisor to applicants, candidates and supervisors.

1.6. **The DTC Director, in conjunction with subject area Research Student Coordinators, are** responsible for over-arching research student matters and will ensure that the DTC meets the Minimum Benchmarks for research students, that all research students are allocated to a research group, and that the research group will provide a seminar series, journal clubs and access to appropriate facilities. This **personnel** will be responsible overall for admission and selection procedures, supervision team nomination, quality assurance, annual monitoring and upgrade from MPhil to PhD or from ResM/MD to PhD (if appropriate) and examinations. Subject specific skills training will also be the responsibility of the DTC and where appropriate developed collaboratively across DTCs. Researcher Development training delivery will be the responsibility of the Graduate School. The DTC nominees are also responsible for ensuring that the DTC is meeting requisite standards and will provide Graduate Sub-Committee with appropriate reports and updates.