

Ordinance 6 & 8: Ordinance  
governing the Degrees of Doctor of  
Philosophy, Master of  
Philosophy and Professional Doctorates



# UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

1. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and the Degree of Master of Philosophy may be conferred only upon candidates who have enrolled on and completed an approved programme of research and have satisfied the examiners of the degree. The Professional Doctorate may be conferred only upon candidates who have enrolled on and have completed an approved programme of study and have satisfied the examiners for the degree
2. Except under conditions prescribed by the Regulations for Research Degrees, before beginning a programme of research for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Degree of Master of Philosophy or a Professional Doctorate, a candidate must apply for registration for the degree.
3. The following are eligible to apply for registration as candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate:
  - i. Candidates who have obtained a Degree of Bachelor with First or Upper Second-Class Honours of an approved university or of any other approved degree-awarding body.
  - ii. Candidates who have obtained a higher degree of an approved university, or of any other approved degree-awarding body, or in the case of the Professional Doctorate as specified in the individual course regulations.
  - iii. Exceptionally, candidates who have obtained a lower qualification than those listed above but whose experience and training can be regarded as suitable preparation for the degree.

Furthermore, a candidate for the Professional Doctorate may be permitted to import specific academic credit for prior certificated learning and/or experiential learning, subject to the conditions prescribed in the individual regulations for that particular course of study.

4. The following are eligible to apply for registration for the Degree of Master:
  - i. Those who have obtained a Degree of Bachelor of an approved university or of any other approved degree-awarding body.
  - ii. Those who have obtained by assessment a professional qualification approved by the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee as of the standard of a university degree and whose general education and training can be regarded as suitable preparation for research.

In exceptional circumstances, applicants who cannot satisfy the requirements of the Ordinance as set out in paragraph 4 i and 4 ii above, but who have otherwise satisfied the requirements for enrolment and who are able to give satisfactory evidence of having obtained an adequate standard of knowledge, may be accepted by the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee for registration as candidates for the Degree of Master.



5. A candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate must have pursued an approved programme of research for not less than thirty-six months from the date of registration in the case of a full-time candidate or for not less than forty-eight months in the case of a part-time candidate. The Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee may reduce these periods as appropriate but to no less than twenty-four and thirty-six months respectively in the case of candidates who have formally submitted their thesis to the University.
6. A candidate for the Degree of Master of Philosophy must have pursued an approved programme of research for not less than twelve months from the date of registration in the case of a full-time candidate or for not less than twenty-four months in the case of a part-time candidate.
7. All candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy will register directly for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Eligibility to continue on the PhD programme will be determined by a School Panel, in accordance with procedures outlined in the Regulations for Research Degrees.
8. A candidate who is not eligible to apply for registration as a candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy under Ordinance may, if suitably qualified, register initially for the Degree of Master of Philosophy. Under the Research Degree Regulations, a Master of Philosophy candidate shall be permitted to apply for transfer/progression of their registration to that for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This will be subject to a decision by a School Panel, in accordance with procedures outlined in the Regulations for Research Degrees.
9. Candidates for the Professional Doctorate will be required to satisfy other requirements as set out in the Regulations for Research Degrees.
10. A candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Degree of Master of Philosophy or for a Professional Doctorate shall be required to work under the supervision of a minimum of two members of the academic staff of the University, approved by the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee. Candidates are required to present a thesis for examination.
11. Part or the whole of the research for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy or the Degree of Master of Philosophy may, with the prior approval of the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee, be undertaken away from the University while remaining under the direction of the University under conditions prescribed by the Regulations for Research Degrees.
12. For all research degrees, if the supervisors consider a candidate's progress is unsatisfactory, they should follow procedures as outlined in the Regulations for Research Degrees. Exceptionally, this may result in a recommendation being put forward to the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee, Research Degrees Sub-Committee and thence to Senate, that the registration of the candidate be terminated.



13. The following requirements for the thesis shall be met:
  - i. For all research degrees, the thesis must be written by the candidate and in the candidate's own words except for quotations from published and unpublished sources which shall be clearly indicated and acknowledged as such.
  - ii. For candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy and the Professional Doctorate, the thesis shall embody their own research and must form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and show evidence of the discovery of new facts or the exercise of independent judgement.
  - iii. For all research degrees, the thesis may describe work done in conjunction with a Supervisor or any other person but the extent of a candidate's personal contribution to the work must be certified by the Supervisor concerned.
  - iv. For all research degrees, the incorporation of material from other works or a paraphrase of such material without acknowledgement will be treated as plagiarism subject to the custom and usage of the subject.
  - v. For all research degrees, the source of any photograph, map or other illustration shall also be indicated, as shall the source, published or unpublished, of any material not resulting from the candidate's own experimentation, observation or specimen collecting.
  - vi. For all research degrees, the literary presentation of the thesis must be satisfactory.
14. Candidates for research degrees may be permitted to incorporate their own published work in a thesis under conditions prescribed by the Regulations for Research Degrees. Candidates shall not, however, be permitted to incorporate in a thesis material which has been included in a thesis submitted in support of a successful application for a degree of this or any other University or any other approved degree-awarding body.
15. The thesis must be written in English. In language subjects, however, it may, at the discretion of the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee, be in the language concerned.
16. Before the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Degree of Master of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate is conferred, the candidate must lodge with the University copies of the thesis as prescribed by the Regulations for Research Degrees.
17. The thesis for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy must normally be presented within four calendar years from the date of registration in the case of a full- time candidate and within seven calendar years in the case of a part-time



candidate, but these periods may be extended following recommendation by the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee and approval by Research Degrees Sub-Committee.

18. The thesis for the Degree of Master of Philosophy must normally be presented within two calendar years from the date of registration in the case of a full-time candidate and within four calendar years in the case of a part-time candidate, but these periods may be extended following recommendation by the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee and approval by Research Degrees Sub-Committee.
19. The thesis for a Professional Doctorate Degree must normally be presented within four calendar years from the date of registration in the case of a full-time candidate, and within seven calendar years in the case of a part-time candidate, unless otherwise specified in individual course regulations, but these periods may be extended following recommendation by the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee and approval by Research Degrees Sub-Committee.
20. For all research degrees, the Faculty Postgraduate Research Sub-Committee shall recommend appointment, for each thesis, at least two examiners, of whom one shall be an External Examiner and one shall be a member of the academic staff of the University, who will not be the candidate's Supervisor. Appointment of Examiners will be approved by Research Degrees Sub-Committee. Exceptionally, a candidate may be examined by two External Examiners and not by a member of academic staff of the University in circumstances as specified in the Regulations for Research Degrees.
21. A candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy or a Professional Doctorate shall be required to satisfy the examiners that their thesis contains original work of merit, worthy of publication in full or in part and to satisfy the examiners of their competence in independent work or experimentation, of their understanding of the appropriate techniques and of their ability to make critical use of published work and source materials, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
22. A candidate for the Degree of Master of Philosophy shall be required to satisfy the examiners of their competence in independent and original work or experimentation, of their understanding of the appropriate techniques and of their ability to make critical use of published work and source materials, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice.
23. On the occasion of the first assessment of a candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Degree of Master of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate the examiners, after reading the thesis, shall examine the candidate by oral examination and may, if they see fit, also examine the candidate by written or practical examination or both. The candidate's Supervisor(s) may, with the student's permission, attend the oral examination but shall withdraw before any formal decision on the thesis is taken as specified in the Regulations for Research Degrees.



24. On the occasion of the first assessment of a candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Degree of Master of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate, the examiners shall make one of the recommendations as set out in the Regulations for Research Degrees.
25. Candidates for the Professional Doctorate who fail to attain the assessment requirements relating to the taught component may, with the approval of the Senate on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and Faculty Board, submit themselves for re-assessment on one occasion, with or without attendance. Candidates who fail to attain the assessment requirements on re-assessment, may be eligible for the award of an alternative degree on the basis of modules completed under previous stages, as laid down in individual programme specifications.
26. In the event of a candidate for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Degree of Master of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate undergoing further assessment on the original or revised thesis as permitted under the Regulations for Research Degrees, the procedure shall be the same as on the first assessment except that in the case of a candidate permitted to re-present their thesis that was at the first examination deemed unsatisfactory it shall be at the discretion of the examiners whether the candidate is required to undergo an oral examination. The examiners shall make one of the recommendations as outlined in the Regulations for Research Degrees.
27. Where it has been recommended that the degree be not awarded a statement shall be made available to the candidate indicating those areas in which the thesis was found to be unsatisfactory.
28. Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Degree of Master of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate may appeal against a decision not to award the degree under circumstances prescribed in Regulations made by the Senate.
29. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the Degree of Master of Philosophy or the Professional Doctorate shall not be conferred upon any candidate, otherwise eligible, who has not fully discharged his or her financial obligations to the University.