

Appendix 1

General regulations governing research degree programmes (PhD/MPhil and other doctoral degrees)

1 Authority

- 1.1 These regulations are issued by the Senate under the authority granted to it by section 13(1)(c) of the Ordinance to regulate the admission of persons to courses of study offered by the University and their continuance thereon.
- 1.2 The Senate, or any committee of the Senate empowered by it to do so, may adopt implementing measures and procedures to any Regulations provided that such measures and procedures will have force only in so far as they are consistent with the Ordinance and these Regulations.

2 Research Degrees Committee

- 2.1 The Research Degrees Committee (referred to in these Regulations as 'the RDC') shall approve applications for and oversee the progress of all students registered on the programme as required in these regulations.

3 Admissions

- 3.1 An applicant seeking admission to a research degree programme shall satisfy the entry requirements of the research degree programme concerned.
- 3.2 An applicant shall satisfy the RDC that he/she has sufficient command of the language (normally Chinese or English) in which the course of study and research is to be undertaken and in which the thesis is to be presented. At the time of admission, the RDC shall stipulate whether the thesis is to be presented in Chinese or English.
- 3.3 No applicant who is already a candidate for a research degree at this or another institution may be admitted to the programme, unless the express permission of the RDC is obtained.

4 Registration

- 4.1 The RDC may approve or prescribe special conditions for any applicant or student, including but not limited to the requirement to undertake a preliminary course of study and/or performing satisfactorily in an oral or written examination, either before the date of commencement, or during the period of, the programme of study and research.
- 4.2 The RDC shall determine the date of commencement of study. For the PhD and MPhil programmes, the date shall normally be the term commencement date of the Autumn or Spring term after the date of approval of the application by the RDC and payment of all fees due. For professional doctoral degree programmes involving coursework, the date of commencement of study shall normally be the term commencement date of the Autumn term.
- 4.3 A registered student shall, subject to the approval of the School Research Degrees Committee (SRDC), re-register annually throughout the period of study and research in accordance with arrangements prescribed by the Registrar.

- 4.4 A registered student shall follow under supervision a prescribed programme of study and research for the specified period in a field approved by the RDC.
- 4.5 A registered student may not register or enroll for any other research degree of the University or of any other institution during the period of study and research, unless the express permission of the RDC is obtained.
- 4.6 The Senate may, on the recommendation of the RDC, terminate the registration of any student at any time on the grounds of unsatisfactory performance or of failure to comply with the Academic Regulations of the University.
- 4.7 Interruption of studies — applications for leave of absence should be submitted by the students to the Registrar. Approval for leave of absence would be granted on valid grounds.

5 Period of Study

- 5.1 The maximum period of study and research from admission to the programme to the satisfactory completion of the thesis, including periods of leave of absence and/or suspension of studies (if any), shall be subject to the following time frame:

Programme	Full-time	Part-time
MPhil	Three years	Six years
PhD	Four years	Eight years
Professional doctoral degrees	Four years	Eight years

5 Submission of Thesis

- 6.1 For part-time students, submission of the thesis for examination shall be subject to the following time frame:

Programme	Time frame for submission of thesis
MPhil (part-time)	No less than two and no more than five years after a student's first registration for the thesis of the MPhil degree
PhD (part-time)	No less than two and no more than six years after a student's first registration for the thesis of the PhD degree
Professional doctoral degrees (part-time)	No less than two and no more than five years after a student's first registration for the thesis of the doctoral degree with coursework components

Submission of thesis outside the stipulated timeframe should require the approval of the RDC.

- 6.2 For full-time students, submission of the thesis for examination shall be subject to the following time frame:

Programme	Time frame for submission of thesis
MPhil (full-time)	No less than one and no more than two years after a student's first registration for the thesis of the MPhil degree
PhD (full-time)	No less than one and no more than three years after a student's first registration for the thesis of the PhD degree
Professional doctoral degrees (full-time)	No less than one and no more than two years after a student's first registration for the thesis of the doctoral degree with coursework components

Submission of thesis outside the stipulated timeframe should require the approval of the RDC.

- 6.3 A registered student who wishes to be examined for the degree shall give notice, as specified by the University, of the intention to present a thesis. The student shall be required to attend an oral examination, and present the thesis in the form prescribed by the University. Once submitted, the thesis shall become the property of the University. Consultation of the theses shall follow the policies of the University.

7 Place of Study and Research

- 7.1 A candidate may, subject to the recommendation by the Principal Research Supervisor, undertake all or part of the programme of study and research elsewhere than at the University provided that:
- 7.1.1 the place where the study and research is to be conducted is considered appropriate by the RDC;
 - 7.1.2 the Principal Research Supervisor is able to effect proper control of the student's study and research.