

Quality and Standards Manual

Handbook G: Postgraduate Research Degrees

Outcomes of a Postgraduate Research Examination

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1. Purpose

The Examiners use their academic judgement to determine the outcome of PGR examinations.

2. Outcomes available to Examiners

2.1 To award the degree applied for.

2.2. To award the degree applied for; subject to the Candidate making minor modifications to the thesis within three months of the formal notification of the outcome of their viva examination by the University.

2.2.1 The outcome of minor modifications is appropriate when the modifications:

- do not change the substance of the thesis in any significant or fundamental manner;
- correct minor errors, omissions of substance, typographical errors, occasional stylistic or grammatical flaws, corrections to references, addition/modification to a limited number of figures and minor changes to layout;
- may lead to limited further analysis;
- do not need new data collection.

2.3. To award the degree applied for; subject to the Candidate making major modifications to the thesis within six months of the formal notification of the outcome of their viva examination by the University.

2.3.1 The outcome of major modifications is appropriate when:

- the thesis needs a large amount of minor modifications;
- the chapters need to be re-ordered (without substantive change to the central argument of the thesis).

2.4. To permit the Candidate to resubmit their thesis with a further viva examination. The deadline for the resubmission is one calendar year from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of their viva examination by the University. This outcome cannot be used where the viva examination is for a resubmitted thesis as a student is only allowed to resubmit on one occasion.

2.4.1 The outcome of resubmission is appropriate when the thesis needs:

- a substantial rewrite;
- additional data collection;
- a substantially altered conclusion.

2.4.2 A Candidate cannot ask to make a resubmission. The Examiners decide whether a candidate should be allowed to resubmit.

3. Additional Outcomes for a Doctor of Philosophy Examination

3.1 To award the degree of Master of Philosophy. The Examiner can ask the candidate to make minor or major modifications to the thesis. If so, the deadline for submitting the modifications is either three or six months (as applicable) of the formal notification of the outcome of their viva examination by the University.

3.2 To allow the candidate to resubmit their thesis for the degree of Master of Philosophy with a further viva examination. The deadline for the application is one calendar year from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of their viva examination by the University. This outcome cannot be used where the viva examination is for a resubmitted thesis as a student is only allowed to resubmit on one occasion.

3.3. A student offered a resubmission is only allowed to resubmit on one occasion in total, regardless of whether this is for the Doctor of Philosophy or Master of Philosophy.

4. Failure to Agree an Outcome

If the Examiners cannot agree on a decision, see the **Policy on Appointment of Examiners and Conduct of Viva**

5. Re-submission

For information on re-submission, See the **Policy on Appointment of Examiners and Conduct of Viva**.