



UCL Academic Manual 2016-17

Chapter 8: Derogations and Variations

Masters by Research (MRes) Additional Regulations

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The following regulations apply to students enrolled on Masters by Research programmes at UCL **in addition to** the main Taught Programme regulations detailed in the UCL Academic Manual and in particular in Chapter 1: Admissions, Registration and Student Conduct and Chapter 4: Assessment Framework for Taught Programmes.

1.1 Introduction

1. These additional academic regulations for students of Masters By Research (MRes) programmes should be read together with the regulations for Taught Postgraduate programmes described in the following chapters:
Chapter 1: Admissions, Registration and Student Conduct:
 - Taught Programme Admissions
 - Taught Programme RegistrationChapter 2: Qualifications and Credit Framework
Chapter 4: Assessment Framework for Taught Programmes
2. Students who are enrolled on MRes programmes that are integral to an MPhil/PhD or EngD programme should also refer to the regulations for Research Degrees described in the following chapters:
Chapter 1: Admissions, Registration and Student Conduct:
 - Research Degree Admissions
 - Research Degree RegistrationChapter 2: Qualifications and Credit Framework
Chapter 5: Assessment Framework for Research Programmes
3. Students who are enrolled on MRes programmes that are integral to an EngD or MPhil/PhD programme should also consider their research element in the context of undertaking further research as part of an integrated programme from the outset.

4. MRes students should also be aware of the requirement to comply with UCL's Code of Practice for Graduate Research Degrees.

1.2 Period of Registration

1. The general academic year starts on the first day of September and ends on the last day of August in the following year.
2. Some MRes programmes begin in January and end on the last day of December.
3. The approved period of registration for a one-year Masters by Research (MRes) degree is one calendar year of full-time study and two calendar years of full-time study for two-year programmes.
4. Programmes that offer a part-time mode of study have double the period of registration of the full-time programme.

Further guidance

1. Students should refer to programme-specific literature for information about available modes of attendance.
2. If students wish to change their mode of attendance, guidance should be sought from Programme Directors and from the Student Centre.

1.3 Approved Structure of a Masters by Research Programme (MRes)

1. The credit and qualification requirements of Masters by Research programmes are defined in Chapter 2: Qualifications and Credit Framework.
2. Research Supervision: Two approved research supervisors must be recorded on the student record database for all MRes students. Further information about Research Supervision is set out in Chapter 1, Section 5.16: Supervisory Arrangements.
3. Transferable Skills: MRes programmes must include 30 credits of identifiable taught transferable skills
4. Dissertation/Research Project UCL Credit Value: The dissertation/research project credit value of a one-year MRes programme must be between a minimum of 105 and a maximum of 150 credits. The dissertation/research project credit value of a two-year MRes programme must be proportionate.
5. Dissertation/Research Project Word Length: The dissertation/research project word lengths must be proportionate to the credit value and learning hours for the programme research element and be between a minimum of 15,000 and a maximum of 20,000 words.

1.4 Re-Entry to Examinations or to other Forms of Academic Assessment for MRes Students

1. Students on MRes programmes that are integral to a doctoral programme will be offered re-entry to an examination, part of an examination or any other form of academic assessment before or in August of the same academic year as the initial attempt. Students enrolled on MRes programmes that are not integral to a Doctoral programme will be offered a re-sit opportunity at the next following assessment period.
2. Students should be allowed to resit examinations until the beginning of the following academic session where medical or other Extenuating Circumstances have prevented them from sitting the initial re-sit examination.
3. In exceptional circumstances a student may defer re-entry until a subsequent assessment period if prescribed by the relevant programme or with an approved suspension of regulations.

4. MRes students who fail the dissertation can resubmit the dissertation by the end of the first term of the following academic year.
5. The timing of re-entered other forms of academic assessment is at the discretion of the department/division, with Faculty approval.

Further guidance

1. The assessment for a deferred module must be completed within two years of attending that module. This period of two years may be extended at the discretion of UCL by way of an approved suspension of regulations.
2. Applications for a suspension of regulations should be made in writing by the Departmental/Divisional Programme Tutor via the Faculty Office and submitted to Assessment and Student Records for consideration by the Vice-Provost (Education and Student Affairs).
3. If a student fails the dissertation and resubmits by the end of the first term of the following academic year, the Board would then reconsider the award for these students in January.

1.5 Progression Threshold for MRes Programmes Associated with a Doctoral Programme

1. For automatic progression from MRes to MPhil/PhD or EngD, students should achieve an average mark of not less than 60% in the independent, original research components of the programme, and not less than 50% in the taught elements.

Further guidance

1. This regulation relates to automatic progression from MRes to MPhil/PhD or EngD programmes.
2. However, in cases where a student did not meet these requirements, but who has the support of the MPhil/PhD or EngD programme organisers, a case in writing can be made to the Chair of the Research Degree Committee for the consideration of suspension of regulations on a case-by-case basis.