



## UCL Academic Manual 2022-23

### Chapter 5: Research Degrees Framework

# Part B: Professional Doctorate Regulations

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Covering DCCS, DClinPsy, DDent, DEdPsy (Brain Sciences),  
DOrth and DPsychotherapy programmes

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# 1 Admissions

## 1.1 Standard Qualifications for Admission

1. The normal minimum entrance qualification for registration for professional doctorate programmes is:
  - i) An upper second class honours degree of a UK university or an overseas qualification of an equivalent standard obtained after a programme of study extending over not less than three years in a university (or educational institution of university rank), in a subject appropriate to that of the programme to be followed; or
  - ii) A registrable qualification appropriate to the programme to be followed awarded by a UK university, or a qualification of an equivalent standard appropriate to the programme to be followed awarded by a university (or educational institution of university rank) outside the UK; or
  - iii) A Masters degree from a UK university in a subject appropriate to the programme to be followed; or
  - iv) A professional or other qualification obtained by written examination and approved by UCL as an appropriate entrance qualification for the degree in question.

### *Further guidance*

1. Specific qualifying criteria and additional requirements (such as relevant work experience) may also be required for applicants to individual programmes.
2. Students applying for entry to professional doctorate programmes should refer to relevant literature provided by individual programmes.
3. For programmes where students may potentially come into unsupervised contact with children and/or vulnerable adults, the programme will seek an enhanced disclosure certificate from the [Disclosure and Barring Service](#).
4. In addition to an enhanced disclosure certificate, some programmes require further checks under the provisions of relevant legislation covering individuals who work with vulnerable individuals (e.g. the Protection of Children Act and Protection of Vulnerable Adults Act). UCL reserves the right to bar applicants or de-register students who are given an unsatisfactory review by the [Disclosure and Barring Service](#).
5. Applicants who have a disability should inform the programme of this on their application. This will ensure that any special requirements can be put in place.
6. Applicants with disabilities should contact UCL's [the Disability, Mental Health and Wellbeing team in Student Support and Wellbeing \(SSW\)](#) if they have any general queries about facilities at UCL before submitting their application.

## 1.2 English Language Requirements

1. Applicants are required to meet UCL's [English Language Proficiency Requirements for Postgraduate Degrees](#).

## 1.3 Programme-specific Entry Criteria

1. **DClinPsy Clinical Psychology:** The minimum entrance qualification for registration for the degree of Doctor in Clinical Psychology is an upper second class honours degree with Psychology as the main field of study, or an appropriate Masters Degree or Diploma, qualifying the applicant for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) registration with the British Psychological Society (or an equivalent overseas qualification). Applicants should also have at least one year's relevant clinical experience. In exceptional circumstances (and subject to the approval of the authorities of UCL), consideration may be given to those without such clinical experience.
2. **DDent Paediatric Dentistry:** The entrance requirements are an approved dental qualification plus a minimum of two years' clinical experience prior to the commencement of studies.

3. **DEdPsy Educational and Child Psychology:** The minimum entrance qualification for registration for the degree of DEdPsy is an upper second class honours degree with Psychology as the main field of study, or an appropriate Masters degree or Diploma of a United Kingdom university (or an equivalent overseas qualification), qualifying the applicant for graduate basis for chartered membership (GBC) with the British Psychological Society. Candidates will normally be required to have gained at least one year's experience of working with children within educational, childcare or community settings. In exceptional circumstances (and subject to the approval of the authorities of UCL), consideration may be given to those without such relevant work experience.
4. **DEdPsy Educational Psychology:** The entrance qualification for registration for the degree of DEdPsy for holders of the MSc Educational Psychology is:
  - A Masters (or equivalent level) qualification in Educational Psychology; and
  - An appropriate proposal for training which identifies a topic for the thesis, linked to the candidates current occupational responsibilities as an applied psychologist.
5. **DPsychotherapy Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy:** The minimum entrance qualification for registration for the degree is a Masters degree in psychoanalytic developmental psychology or an equivalent postgraduate qualification. Candidates will normally be required to have gained at least one year's experience of working with children within educational, mental health or community settings. In exceptional circumstances (and subject to the approval of the authorities of UCL), consideration may be given to those without such relevant work experience.
6. **Doctorate in Orthopaedics Trauma and Orthopaedics:** The entrance requirements for the Doctorate in Orthopaedics Trauma and Orthopaedics is a medical degree (either MBBS or equivalent) with General Medical Council registration, or Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS), or Higher Surgical Training number in Trauma and Orthopaedics.

## 1.4 Alternative Qualifications for Admission

1. Applicants possessing alternative qualifications may also be considered by UCL for registration.
  - i) Applicants who possess a degree or overseas qualification of equivalent standard obtained after a programme of study extending over three years or more in a university (or educational institution of university rank) in an appropriate subject and who, although they do not meet the normal entry standard defined in [Sections 1.1 and 1.2](#), but by evidence of their background and experience satisfy UCL as to their fitness to follow the programme. Where such an applicant cannot present evidence that they possess the necessary background and experience, they may be considered by UCL for registration, provided they meet appropriate qualifying conditions prescribed by UCL.
  - ii) Applicants who possess a qualification obtained by written examination other than those covered above, if UCL is satisfied that the student's general education, scholarship, training and experience are suitable for the programme which they wish to follow and that they are at least as well qualified as the students who are able to satisfy the entrance requirements in one of the ways prescribed above.
2. UCL may prescribe a qualifying examination for such an applicant prior to admission.

### *Further guidance*

1. Departments/divisions wishing to admit such an applicant, as described above, must obtain written authorisation from the appropriate Faculty Graduate Tutor via [Admissions in Student & Registry Services](#). An applicant for registration may also be required to pass a qualifying examination.
2. Applicants are required to meet UCL's English Language proficiency requirements. Information about English Language proficiency requirements is available from the [Prospectus](#).
3. Where the English Language proficiency requirements of relevant professional or regulatory bodies are more stringent, these will apply. Students should refer to literature provided by individual programmes for further information.
4. The regulations and criteria for the Recognition of Prior Learning, including the types of prior learning that might be considered by UCL, are defined in Chapter 1: Student Recruitment and Admissions.

## 2 Registration

### 2.1 Application and Initial Registration

1. An applicant will be registered initially at the level of degree specified by the professional doctorate programme.
  - i) Applicants should consult relevant literature provided by individual programmes for information about application procedures.
  - ii) An applicant for registration is required to produce for inspection by UCL the original documentary evidence of their qualifications either before or at registration i.e. the original diploma or certificate of the awarding body.

### 2.2 Course of Study – General

1. All students undertaking professional doctorates are required to pursue a course of study prescribed by UCL.
2. Programmes of study will require the completion of a specified number of taught components and (where applicable) practicum assignments, in addition to a research thesis, and may require attendance at lectures.
3. A student's registration on a programme will be dependent upon their continued satisfactory progress as determined by UCL.

#### *Further guidance*

1. Students should refer to individual programme regulations for details of course of study and the requirements for progression between each year of the programme.
2. Where an appropriate Masters level exit award is specified in individual programme regulations, a student who has passed the taught (and where applicable) practicum elements in any academic year, but is deemed unable to progress to the subsequent year, may be eligible for the award of the Masters qualification. This could apply both to students who have not met the criteria for progression, and to those who have met the progression criteria but who are unable to continue for financial or any other reasons.
3. It will be the responsibility of the Board of Examiners to decide on eligibility for the award of the Masters qualification.

### 2.3 Attendance Requirements

1. A programme must be pursued continuously except by special permission of UCL.
2. Students must be in a position to meet all the requirements determined for their studies.

#### *Further guidance*

1. Students, whether full-time or part-time, are expected to centre their academic studies on UCL.
2. Students should reside within a distance that enables them to attend personally for studies and meetings as required by their supervisors.
3. Students must obtain approval before they leave to collect or study material remote from UCL or work in remote facilities.

### 2.4 Duration of a Programme of Study

1. The length of full-time professional doctorate programmes is normally three years' full time.
2. Students may not interrupt their period of registration without prior permission from UCL.
3. Unless prior exemption from a part of the programme has been agreed, students must be registered for the duration of the programme before they will be eligible to adopt Completing Research Status (see [Section 5](#)).

### *Further guidance*

1. Students should refer to individual programme regulations for details of the duration of study and of any arrangements for part-time study.
2. The minimum registration period for Professional Research Doctorates or Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Doctorates for holders of Masters professional qualifications in the same area of professional practice is two years full time or four years part time.

## 2.5 Annual Leave

1. Annual Leave entitlement for doctoral students should be in-line with staff entitlements. For a full-time student this equates to 41 days over the year including 27 days of Annual Leave, 8 Public and Statutory Holidays, and 6 Closure Days. For part-time students these entitlements should be pro-rata.
2. Students and supervisors should agree a way to record and monitor Annual Leave in-line with Departmental practises where appropriate.
3. Students should ensure their supervisors are aware of any Annual Leave planned in advance and ensure any required cover is put in place.
4. Where the programme includes any Taught or time-sensitive elements this should be taken into consideration when planning Annual Leave.
5. Funded Students must ensure they continue to meet their funder Terms & Conditions.
6. Students on a Student Visa must ensure they continue to meet their Visa requirements.

## 2.6 Interruption of Study

1. Interruption of study may be granted on the authorisation of the Director of Student Administration, on behalf of the Research Degrees Committee, provided that a statement of support from the Principal Supervisor and/or Head of Department/Division is received. If approved, the period of interruption of study granted will be initially not more than one calendar year and any further period of interruption of study will be considered one year at a time. UCL may, at its discretion, grant an interruption of study to a student on grounds of illness or other adequate reasons. The need to take up or pursue employment during the programme will not normally be considered grounds for interruption of studies.
2. Interruption of study for a period in excess of two calendar years may be granted by the Chair of the Research Degrees Committee subject to the following conditions:
  - i) The period requested will be considered on an annual basis and will not exceed five calendar years from the date when the period of interruption starts;
  - ii) The date when the submission of the thesis falls due following resumption of study falls within ten years of the date of original registration;
  - iii) Written assurances that the research will still be valid are provided by the supervisor and/or the Head of Department, with supporting documentation.
3. The [Students website](#) provides further detail on the Interruption of Study Procedure.

## 2.7 Change of Degree Programme

1. For professional doctorate students, transfers between degree programmes are not normally permitted, except where procedures for transfer are explicitly described in individual programme regulations.

## 2.8 Proof of Identity

1. All students are required to present an accepted form of identification for verification before they can be enrolled. In the absence of this verification, enrolment cannot occur.

## 2.9 UK/EU/EEA-Based Students

1. UK/EU/EEA Based Students are required to present an accepted form of identification for verification before they can be enrolled. In the absence of this verification, enrolment will not be confirmed.

### *Further guidance*

1. UCL's preferred form of identification is a valid passport. However, in the absence of a valid passport, the following will be accepted forms of identification for students who do not require a visa to study in the UK:
  - a) A UK photo driving licence, a European National Identity Card or Armed Forces Identity Card; or
  - b) An original birth certificate, adoption certificate or certificate of naturalisation.
2. No other forms of identification are acceptable.
3. If the family name or other personal details are different from those on the document provided, proof of the reason for any differences will be required at enrolment. This should be in the form of a marriage certificate/civil partnership certificate, divorce document, deed poll, adoption certificate or statutory declaration.

## 2.10 Students Who Require a Visa to Study in the UK

1. Under UK immigration requirements, presentation of a valid passport is a mandatory requirement for students who require a visa to study in the UK, and no other forms of identification will suffice. Enrolment will not take place without presentation of a valid passport and visa.
2. For further details on UK immigration requirements see the UCL [Immigration and Visa Information](#) webpages.

## 2.11 Dual Registration

1. Students are not permitted to be formally registered for one programme of study at UCL at the same time as being formally registered (or re-sitting examinations) for another programme of study at UCL or any other Higher Education Institution.

# 3 Structure of a Professional Doctorate

1. The structure of a professional doctorate will normally contain the following programme components:
  - A taught component
  - A research component
  - Practicum assignments and assessments
2. Each element of the programme will be assessed separately and the student will be expected to build a satisfactory portfolio of passed assessments which will be examined both during the programme and at its conclusion.
3. In order to be awarded a professional doctorate, students must demonstrate satisfactory attendance and performance in each component.

## *Further guidance*

1. Satisfactory performance in each component of the professional doctorate is described in the regulations provided by each department/division which specifies the minimum requirements to qualify for the award associated with each programme of study.
2. In all cases assessment will include a thesis describing an original piece of research completed to doctoral standards.
3. Individual programmes will specify the range of further assessments which may include unseen examinations, observed performance in practicum assignments and coursework related to the assessment of the practicum.
4. Oral examinations will consider the student portfolio, including the outcomes of practicum assignments and assessments and related coursework, and the research dissertation.

# 4 Supervisory Arrangements for the Research Thesis

## 4.1 Supervisors: General

1. Each UCL student registered for a professional doctorate shall have appointed a Principal Supervisor who shall be a member of staff of UCL or an appropriately qualified member of staff of an institution with an approved agreement with UCL.
  - i) Principal Supervisors shall be appointed by the departmental/divisional postgraduate committee specific to the doctoral programme, and their appointment approved by the Faculty Graduate Tutor on behalf of the Faculty Postgraduate Teaching Committee.
  - ii) Individual programmes will appoint a Subsidiary Supervisor to each student whose role will be to keep acquainted with the progress of the student's work, to be present at, at least, annual supervisory meetings, to provide for continuity of supervision in the event of the absence or departure of the Principal Supervisor and (where the Principal Supervisor considers it desirable) to contribute a second opinion or additional areas of expertise. Their appointment will be approved by the departmental/divisional Graduate Tutor.
  - iii) The oversight associated with the role of Subsidiary Supervisor can be carried out by a named individual acting on behalf of the programme, whose function will be to monitor the quality of supervision and the consistency and continuity of supervision offered by the Principal Supervisor, and to take action to remedy any concerns in these areas. This person should satisfy the eligibility requirements for the Principal Supervisor, but will not be subject to any limits in the number of students to whom they are allocated. This arrangement will be approved by the departmental/divisional Graduate Tutor.
  - iv) Students should refer to individual programme documentation for details of supervisory arrangements.
  - v) Honorary members of academic staff may be appointed as Principal or Subsidiary Supervisors. However, approval must be obtained from the appropriate departmental/divisional postgraduate committee. The appointment of an honorary member of staff as a Principal or Subsidiary Supervisor will be subject to consideration of adequate research expertise (e.g. publications, grant income and professional experience). Honorary members of staff appointed as Principal or Subsidiary Supervisors are also governed by eligibility requirements set out in [Section 4.2 below](#).
  - vi) Retired members of staff shall not be appointed as supervisors except by the specific agreement of the Faculty Graduate Tutor. Supervisors who retire from UCL after appointment shall be permitted to act as supervisors to their current research students until such students submit their theses for examination.
  - vii) Supervisors can be appointed from institutions with an approved agreement with UCL, e.g. Cancer Research UK (CRUK). Principal and Subsidiary Supervisors must have the status of honorary members of UCL academic staff. In all circumstances UCL has an expectation that these supervisors will undertake their role in accordance with the Doctoral School's [Code of Practice for Graduate Research Degrees](#) and within the framework of UCL's regulations for Research Degrees.

## 4.2 Supervisors: Eligibility

1. The list of UCL staff categories eligible to act as Principal and/or Subsidiary Supervisors can be found in Eligible Staff Categories for Supervising Research Students on the Chapter 5 webpage of the UCL Academic Manual.
2. UCL determines the eligibility of staff in these categories to supervise research degree students using the following criteria:
3. A Principal Supervisor should normally:
  - i) Have satisfactorily completed any probationary period attached to his/her appointment;
  - ii) Have expertise in the area of the proposed research;

- iii) Have had previous experience of at least one successful doctoral supervision, as appropriate, within a supervisory team (defined as having taken a student all the way through to a research degree award);
- 4. A Subsidiary Supervisor should normally:
  - i) Have expertise relevant to the area of proposed research;
  - ii) Be familiar with the standards required for doctoral research.
- 5. A probationary member of academic staff may be appointed as Principal Supervisor if supervision is undertaken within the context of an experienced supervisory team comprising at least one demonstrably active researcher with experience of at least two successful supervisions.
- 6. A Research Fellow (Grade 7) may be invited to act as a Subsidiary Supervisor but must, in addition to the requirements specified for Subsidiary Supervisors:
  - i) Have a research contract lasting at least three years from the time the supervised student commences his/her programme of study;
  - ii) Be able to provide evidence of good quality publications for which they have had a substantial degree of responsibility.
- 7. Research Fellows on Grades 8 and above may be invited to act as Principal or Subsidiary Supervisors.

*Further guidance*

- 1. Principal Supervisors who are probationary members of staff must also have participated in an appropriate UCL supervisor's workshop.
- 2. Supervisors who have completed a probationary period but have not previously supervised a research student should also meet the requirements outlined above. New senior members of academic staff with experience of doctoral supervision at other institutions are expected to attend an appropriate UCL supervisor's workshop.

## 4.3 Number of Students per Supervisor

- 1. A supervisor, whether Principal or Subsidiary, may supervise up to the equivalent of six full-time doctoral students at any one time.
- 2. Calculating the number of full-time supervisees is based on the formula that each professional doctorate student is equivalent to 0.75 of an MPhil/PhD student.
  - i) The maximum number of supervisees, whether full- or part-time, that may be supervised by an individual as either Principal or Subsidiary Supervisor will be six, using the following formula:

<b>For Principal Supervisors:</b>	
1 full-time professional doctorate student	0.75
1 part-time professional doctorate student	0.4
1 full-time MPhil/PhD student	1.0
1 part-time MPhil/PhD student	0.5

<b>For Subsidiary Supervisors:</b>	
1 full-time professional doctorate student	0.4
1 part-time professional doctorate student	0.2
1 full-time MPhil/PhD student	0.5
1 part-time MPhil/PhD student	0.25

3. For example, an individual may act as Principal Supervisor to four full-time professional doctorate students (equivalent to three full-time MPhil/PhD students) and one full-time MPhil/PhD student, while also acting as Subsidiary Supervisor for two full-time MPhil/PhD students (equivalent to 1.0 full-time MPhil/PhD student). This is the equivalent of supervising five full-time MPhil/PhD students and is within the overall limit of six doctoral students at any one time.
4. Departments/divisions may wish to recommend an upper limit on the number of students supervised by a single member of staff that is lower than that set out above.

## 4.4 Declaration of Personal Interest

1. All members of staff are required to declare any personal relationships with any student they are asked to supervise, or are already supervising, in accordance with the [UCL Personal Relationships Policy](#).

## 4.5 Transfer of Supervisor to another Institution

1. Where a Principal Supervisor transfers to another institution, students assigned to that supervisor shall be assigned to another Principal Supervisor.

# 5 Completing Research Status

## 5.1 General

1. Where permitted by individual programmes all students who have completed their approved period of registration may register as CRS students while they write up their theses or complete outstanding practicum requirements. Transfer to CRS status is only permitted with the approval of the programme or appropriate departmental authority.
2. CRS is permitted for a maximum period of one calendar year (full-time) or two calendar years (part-time). CRS registration cannot be interrupted; a student who is prevented from completing the programme for reasons beyond his or her control may apply for an extension, as detailed in [Section 5.3](#) below.
3. A student must be registered for the full duration of the programme of study before he or she will be eligible to take up CRS status. A student who changes from full- to part-time during the approved period of registration must have been registered for a minimum of one year part time before being entitled to two years of part-time CRS status.
4. In addition to completing their approved programme of study, students must meet the following conditions before they will be allowed Completing Research Status:
  - a) They are in a position to submit their thesis and/or outstanding assignments within 12 months (full-time students) or 24 months (part-time students);
  - b) They have met any other conditions set by the programme, Department or Division.
5. Completing research status is permitted for the following programmes:
  - i) DClinPsy Clinical Psychology
  - ii) DEdPsy Educational Psychology
  - iii) DPsychotherapy Child and Adolescent Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy
6. Completing research status is not permitted for the following programmes:
  - i) DDent Paediatric Dentistry
  - ii) DEdPsy Educational and Child Psychology
  - iii) Doctorate in Orthopaedics Trauma and Orthopaedics
7. Further guidance is available from the [Completing Research Status webpages](#).

## 5.2 CRS Student Entitlements

1. During the period of CRS students are entitled to have at least one draft of all or any part of his/her thesis read and commented upon by his/her Principal Supervisor and/or Subsidiary Supervisor before submission, with a similar level of oversight in relation to the practicum assignment.
  - i) CRS status for students undertaking professional doctorates refers both to completion of research and outstanding practicum assignments.
  - ii) Once enrolled, CRS students will continue to be able to use, or will be reissued with, a UCL identity card and be entitled to the use of all the general UCL facilities and services.
  - iii) CRS students in laboratory-based research may be admitted to a laboratory and be given use of UCL equipment where such admission and use will materially enhance the quality of the thesis or will expedite its completion. Such admission and use shall, however, be on the condition that this does not significantly interfere with the use of the laboratory or equipment in question by other students or staff of UCL or incur additional expense. The student's Principal Supervisor, with the approval of the Head of Department/Division, shall be responsible for making any arrangements necessary to comply with this condition. In the event that a Completing Research Student is refused admission or use, they shall have the right of appeal to the Faculty Graduate Tutor who shall consult the student's supervisor and Head of Department/Division.
  - iv) The student's department/division may, at its discretion, give any other supervisory assistance during the completion period. CRS students will be expected to comply with all the duties and responsibilities of any other research student as set out in the [Code of Practice for Graduate Research Degrees](#).

## 5.3 Submission of Thesis and/or Evidence of Completion of Outstanding Practicum Assignments

1. Students must submit their thesis and/or submit documentation evidencing completion of practicum assignments for examination before the end of his/her CRS period.
2. Students will remain registered after the submission of his or her thesis and/or documentation evidencing completion of practicum assignments until the award of the degree. He or she will be entitled to a UCL student identity card and will be able to use all the general UCL facilities and services while preparing for an oral examination or making minor revisions to a thesis.

## 5.4 Extensions to the Completing Research Period

1. Students who cannot submit a thesis for examination and/or complete outstanding practicum assignments before the end of CRS, due to circumstances outside the student's control, may apply for an extension. The maximum period of extension is one year full time and two years part time.
  - i) Applications must be supported by a student's department/division and may be made on the grounds of illness of student or close relative, maternity leave, bereavement, responsibilities as a primary carer or academic circumstances out of the student's control.
  - ii) Work commitments or any duties carried out for a department/division are not considered grounds for extension; submission of a thesis is expected to be a priority.
  - iii) Applications on the grounds of the illness or termination of employment of the Principal Supervisor may be considered but departments/divisions are expected to make arrangements for alternative supervision under such circumstances.
  - iv) Applications for extension to CRS must be made on [Portico](#).

## 5.5 Submission of Thesis and/or Documentation Relating to Outstanding Assignments after the End of CRS

1. Students who submit after the end of their CRS registration will require permission to do so. This must be supported by a student's supervisor or other departmental/divisional authority. If granted, the student will be permitted to submit but will not be re-registered unless his or her department/division require this.
2. Students who submit the thesis and/or documentation relating to outstanding assignments after the end of their CRS period will be liable for a Submission Extension Fee (see [Submission Extension Fees for Research Students](#)).
3. Students who do not submit before the end of their CRS registration will cease to be registered as a student at the end of this CRS period. They will not be entitled to access to UCL facilities and services and will not be entitled to supervisory advice.

### *Further guidance*

1. Students who submit after the end of their CRS registration will pay a fee equivalent to the part-time home fee current at the time.
2. This fee will come into effect the day after the end of their CRS registration and will increment after three months, six months and nine months.
3. For submission at any time over nine months after the end of CRS, the fee will be equivalent to 12 months home part-time fees current in the year of submission (see [Submission Extension Fees for Research Students](#)).

## 5.6 Resubmission of a Thesis

1. Students whose thesis is referred by their examiners for substantial revision within 12 months will remain registered as a submitted student on the basis of [5.3 above](#), provided the original submission was not after the expiry of a period of CRS status.
2. Under these circumstances students will have access to UCL facilities and will be entitled to have at least one draft of their thesis read and commented on by their Principal Supervisor and/or Subsidiary Supervisor before re-submission.
3. When a student's revisions require more supervision or further access to UCL laboratories or other facilities, they may be required to re-register as a fee-paying student for the period of this supervision or access.

# 6 Assessment

## 6.1 Taught Element

### 6.1.1 Successful Completion of a Professional Doctorate Programme

1. In order to complete successfully a professional doctorate programme at UCL, students must complete all specified taught components of their degree programme, as follows:
  - a) For the coursework and/or practicum components, a threshold for completion will be set by the programme and be clearly publicised to students.
  - b) In the event that any threshold set is not reached, the result for the component will be “incomplete” regardless of the mark obtained.

### 6.1.2 Unseen Examinations

1. An unseen examination component is deemed complete if a student has submitted an answer that can be academically assessed. The mark awarded, however, might be zero. If a student makes little or no attempt at the examination, this will be deemed “incomplete”.
2. A taught component is complete when a student has been declared complete on all relevant assessments for that component using the criteria specified in the relevant programme regulations.

## 6.2 Academic Assessment

1. For the purposes of these regulations, ‘examination’ refers to the assessment of taught and practicum assignments other than research, whether by written examination and/or by coursework, or other means of academic assessment.
2. The assessment of the research thesis is discussed under Section 2.3 below.
3. These regulations should be read together with [Chapter 4: Assessment Framework for Taught Programmes](#) and the *Examination Guide for Candidates* on the [Examinations and Awards website](#).

### 6.2.1 Anonymity of Assessed Work

1. With the exception of the circumstances set out in item 4 below, unseen summative written examinations must be assessed anonymously against an anonymous identifier such as candidate numbers or SRN.
2. A summative coursework element that constitutes more than 40% of a module must be submitted and assessed on an anonymous basis where possible.
3. Once marks have been finalised for an element of summative coursework, for example by agreement between first and second markers, anonymity may be lifted to facilitate feedback to students.
4. Anonymity may not be practical when assessing laboratory work, oral examinations, exhibitions, marking clinical work with patients, portfolios of work, dissertations/ research theses and group work etc.
5. Anonymity is not required for an element of summative assessment that constitutes 40% or less of a module.
6. Consideration by Boards of Examiners of all summative assessed marks, progression decisions and awards must be conducted anonymously.

#### *Further guidance*

1. In this context a coursework element is either part of or the entire coursework component for a taught module. For example, one essay weighed at 40% of a taught module is one element and therefore makes up the entire 40% coursework component for that module, the remainder being other component(s) weighted at 60%. However, as another example, 10 individual weekly problem sheets weighted at 40% of a taught module are 10 elements of the

40% coursework component of that module the remainder being other component(s) weighted at 60%.

2. Reports listing names and candidate numbers will be available via Portico to designated departmental/divisional staff in the first term.
3. The student SRN may be used as an anonymous identifier when departments/divisions wish to reserve use of candidate numbers for unseen written examinations.
4. Since students benefit from feedback on their coursework, anonymity is not required when the coursework element constitutes 40% or less of the assessment for a taught module.
5. Anonymity is required when a coursework element constitutes 40% or more of a taught module and SRN or candidate numbers may be used as appropriate. However, anonymity may be relaxed once marks have been agreed to facilitate feedback to students.
6. Candidate numbers should be used for all unseen written examinations and at meetings of Boards of Examiners.

### 6.2.2 Examination Entry Criteria

1. UCL's attendance requirements are defined in Annex 3.2: UCL Student Attendance Policy.
2. Minimum attendance requirements are set at Faculty level and must be published in the Student Handbook or equivalent.
3. Students whose attendance falls below their faculty's minimum attendance requirement may be subject to the regulations in Chapter 6, Section 3: Academic Insufficiency Procedure, subject to faculty policy.

### 6.2.3 Authorised Absence from Assessment

1. A student, who is prevented owing to illness or the death of a near relative or other cause judged sufficient by UCL from completing an examination at the normal time, may at the discretion of the examiners either:
  - i) Enter the examination in those elements in which they were not examined on the next occasion when the examination is held in order to complete the examination; or
  - ii) Be set a special examination in those elements of the examinations missed as soon as possible and/or be permitted to submit any work prescribed (e.g. report) at a date specified by the Board of Examiners concerned.

#### *Further guidance*

1. The special examination shall be in the same format as specified in the programme regulations for the elements missed.

### 6.2.4 Unauthorised Absence from Assessment and Non-Submission of Assessed Work

1. Students who are absent without permission from other forms of assessment or who do not submit work for assessment will be awarded a mark of zero.
2. If a student is absent from an examination without permission or, although present at an examination, either does not attempt the paper or attempts so little that it cannot be assessed and provides no evidence of extenuating circumstances, the normal procedure should be that the student is awarded a mark of zero for the missed/non-attempted examination (i.e. a mark of zero would be counted in any average and it would be treated as an attempt: the overall result for the module would be recorded as absent or incomplete, as appropriate).

### 6.2.5 No Attempt or Minimal Attempt at Assessment

1. Students who do not attempt a paper or other form of assessment, or who make an attempt that is academically un-assessable, will be awarded a mark of zero.

### 6.2.6 Re-Entry to Assessment

1. Students who obtain a mark below the condoned mark range will be required to re-enter that examination at the next normal occasion.
2. The mark achieved will apply even if this is lower than the original mark.

### 6.2.7 Number of Permitted Attempts

1. Students who, at their first entry, do not successfully complete an examination may re-enter for the examination or other forms of assessment on one more occasion.
2. This does not apply if a student has been awarded a degree, or been excluded from UCL on the grounds of academic insufficiency or as a result of examination misconduct or professional misconduct.

### 6.2.8 Programme Regulations and Syllabus for Re-entered Examinations

1. Students who re-enter for any part of an examination shall be subject to the programme regulations and syllabus current at their first attempt. This is providing that:
  - i) Appropriate examiners for the course are available.
  - ii) For students wishing to enter or re-enter examinations after satisfactory completion of the programme of study, such entry or re-entry is made within two calendar years of the completion of the programme of study.
  - iii) For students wishing to enter or re-enter examinations following a period of interruption of study, such entry or re-entry is made within two calendar years of the completion of attendance on the course unit.
  - iv) Examination according to the method(s) of assessment operating at the time of the original registration for that course does not disadvantage the student.
2. Where one or more of the conditions set out at i)-iv) above cannot be met, the following will apply:
  - i) The student will be notified in writing of any changes to the method(s) of assessment since the time of their original registration for the course.
  - ii) The student must signify in writing that they understand that the method(s) of assessment have changed as notified.

### 6.2.9 Format of the Reassessment

1. Students will only re-take failed assessment components unless the regulations for their programme require students to re-take all assessed components of a module.
2. Students will be automatically re-entered for assessment components that they have failed to pass or complete, unless they have been granted permission not to re-enter by UCL or have been excluded from UCL. If a student passes assessed coursework components but fails an examination, the normal expectation is that the student would only re-sit the examination, unless specific programme regulations require otherwise. However, following academic advice, a recommendation may be made by the Departmental/Divisional Programme Tutor that a student can re-sit all assessment components of the module, including those previously passed. Evidence of support by the Faculty Tutor should be sent to [researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk).

### 6.2.10 Late Submission of Coursework

1. Deadlines for submission of coursework will be set by individual programmes, and are absolute.
  1. Coursework submitted after the deadline will be deemed to have failed, and a new piece of work will need to be submitted in place of the original.
  2. Where there are extenuating circumstances that have been recognised by the Board of Examiners or its representative, these penalties will not apply until the agreed extension period has been exceeded.
  3. For further information see Chapter 2, Section 2: Short-term Illness and Other Extenuating Circumstances.

### 6.2.11 Over-length Coursework, including Research Projects, Dissertations and Final Reports

1. Prescribed word counts for each piece of work will be set by individual programmes, and are absolute.

- i) Coursework with a stated word count above the maximum will not be accepted for submission (i.e. it will not be date-stamped or otherwise recorded as formally submitted), but will be immediately returned to the student with instructions to reduce the word length.
- ii) If submitted work is subsequently found to have an inaccurately stated word count it will be failed. At the discretion of individual programmes the student may be permitted to re-present the coursework in a revised form that meets the prescribed word count.

## 6.2.12 Approved Format for Examinations

### **Assessment – General**

1. Assessment is a general term used to describe the mechanism to measure student achievement. A variety of assessment methods may be applied to reflect an integrated curriculum design. At UCL there is an expectation that a mixture of formative and summative assessment methodologies will be applied to test different skills and to enable students to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Formative assessment can also provide experience of a programme's summative assessment.
2. **Summative assessment** provides a clear statement of achievement or failure that can be made in respect of an individual student's performance. The outcome of summative assessment is used to classify a degree award and is recorded on student transcripts.
3. **Formative assessment** provides feedback to individual students about their progress towards achieving the intended learning outcomes for specified course units and modules. In addition, innovative formative assessment methodologies make an important contribution to the overall development of student skills and transferable knowledge.

### **Examination of a Programme**

1. Students entering an examination must be examined in all parts of the examination prescribed for the programme. Therefore (unless prevented by illness or other adequate cause for which certification must be provided) students must register for each prescribed assessment and submit sufficient work to enable them to be examined. For components examined either in full or in part by coursework, students may be regarded as having been examined in all parts of the examination, that is having completed the assessment of the component, provided that:
  - a) All parts of the assessment have been completed at the time that the component is assessed.
  - b) Individual departments/divisions may prescribe the proportion of unseen written examination and coursework. In every case, the percentage of coursework which must be completed shall be clearly specified in appropriate documentation and clearly indicated to the students concerned.

### **Examination of Coursework**

1. Criteria for the assessment of coursework will be published by individual programmes.
2. The coursework component will examine both the taught and practicum components of the programme.
3. Coursework has to be passed independent of the examinations of other course components.
4. The examiners may specify changes to a piece of coursework and require these to be carried out before these are accepted as part of the student's portfolio.

#### *Further guidance*

1. Where coursework is required to be resubmitted students should be given clear feedback indicating the revision required.
2. Students whose performance falls below the required standard will normally be allowed one resubmission.
3. External examiners should be involved in the examination process and where failure is indicated their advice should be sought.

### **Examination of Practicum Assignment and Practicum Assessments**

1. The practicum assignment will be assessed by criteria published by the department/division at least once a year, and must be passed according to written criteria published by the programme.
2. Attendance requirements for professional doctorate programmes must be met in order to allow entry into the examination.
3. The evaluation is based on observation of the performance of the student on the practicum assignment by either a member of the programme staff and/or a member of the profession formally recognised and designated by the programme as possessing the appropriate qualifications for examining the student.
4. Failure of the practicum assignment will normally lead to failure of the course, but at its discretion the Board can permit students to re-take the relevant assignment. There will only be one opportunity to retake an assignment.
5. If students are deemed not to be meeting criteria, they need to be informed that this is the case. If their performance continues to be unsatisfactory they may be required to attend an oral examination.
6. Students may appeal against failure of the practicum component.

*Further guidance*

1. The frequency of assessment of the practicum assignment will be specified in the regulations of individual programmes.
2. The person examining the practicum component will normally be specified before the student is sent on the practicum assignment.
3. The criteria for satisfactory performance in a practicum assignment will be specified by the programme and made available both to students and assessors of the practicum.
4. Reports of the student's progress and the oral examination (if conducted) will be considered by the Board of Examiners of the programme.

### 6.2.13 Examination Conduct

1. The conduct of examinations will follow UCL norms as set out in Chapter 4, Part A: Assessment Framework for Taught Programmes.

### 6.2.14 Reasonable Adjustments

1. Under the Equality Act 2010, UCL is required to make Reasonable Adjustments to learning, teaching and assessment to ensure that disabled students are not put at a substantial disadvantage. UCL can also provide Reasonable Adjustments for students who might not consider themselves to have a 'disability' but who nevertheless would benefit from additional support with their studies due to an ongoing medical or mental health condition. For further information about Reasonable Adjustments, and how to apply, please see Chapter 2, Section 3: Reasonable Adjustments for Disabilities and Long-Term Conditions.

### 6.2.15 Publication of Examination Results

1. The Publication of Examination Results will follow UCL norms as set out in Chapter 4, Section 12: Award of Degrees.

### 6.2.16 Prescribed Scheme of Award

1. Every professional doctorate will have an associated prescribed Scheme of Award that is a statement of the means by which the degree is awarded. The Scheme of Award will be published in the student information handbook for the programme.
2. Students will be considered for an award according to the Scheme for Award in place at the time of their registration on the programme.

*Further guidance*

1. The Scheme of Award is the method by which the award of the degree is calculated. Teaching departments/divisions are required to publish their local award scheme rules in the Student Handbook for each programme, and students are expected to familiarise themselves with these local rules.

### 6.2.17 Changes to a Prescribed Scheme of Award

1. Students will have signified in writing that they have understood that changes have been made to the Scheme for Award as notified.

### 6.2.18 Date of a Degree Award

1. The date of award for professional doctorates will be no longer than one month after the Board of Examiners has recommended to UCL Student Records that a student be passed.

### 6.2.19 Provision of Degree Certificate

1. A UCL degree certificate will be sent to each successful student who is awarded a degree.
2. Students should ensure that their contact address is kept up to date, via Portico, as this address will be used for the despatch of certificates. For students gaining a UCL award, certificates are despatched by UCL Student Records, within approximately three months of the date of award.

### 6.2.20 Students with an Outstanding Debt to UCL

1. All students who will, if successful in their examinations, qualify for the award of a degree, should note that UCL will withhold the award in the case of any student who is in debt to UCL in regards to tuition fees.
  - i) No report will be made on the student's results record until the tuition fee debt has been settled in full, and attendance at a Graduation Ceremony will not be permitted unless all tuition fees have been settled by the due date.
  - ii) All other students who hold a debt to UCL in relation to tuition fees will have their official results withheld and/or not be permitted to enrol at any future session until that tuition fee debt has been settled in full.
  - iii) For the avoidance of doubt, the term 'tuition fees' does not include, without limitation: accommodation charges, charges for childcare services, library charges, examination and submission fees, student loans and other fines and penalties.

### 6.2.21 Award of Degrees

1. The Academic Committee of UCL is authorised to award research degrees.

### 6.2.22 Revocation of Degrees

1. UCL may revoke any degree, diploma or certificate awarded, if discovered at any time and proved to the satisfaction of UCL, that:
  - a) There was an administrative error in the award made under the procedures required by UCL, including an error in calculating the results.
  - b) Subsequent to award, a Board of Examiners, having taken into account information that was unavailable at the time its decision was made, determines that a student's or students' classification should be altered.

## 6.3 Requirements of the Research Thesis

### 6.3.1 Theses: General

1. The greater proportion of the work submitted in a thesis must have been undertaken after the registration of the student for the professional doctorate.
2. The work in the thesis submitted by students must be their own work and the submission of a thesis for examination will be regarded as a declaration of that fact.
3. Students will not be permitted to submit a thesis that has been submitted for examination for a degree, or comparable award, of this or any other university or institution.

4. Students may submit the results of work done in conjunction with their supervisor and/or with fellow research workers provided that their own contribution in the investigation is clearly stated and a statement of confirmation is certified by the supervisor.
5. Students should include in the thesis submission form a signed declaration that the work presented is their own. This may be inserted between the title page and the contents page of the thesis in the following terms:  
*'I, [student's full name], confirm that the work presented in this thesis is my own. Where information has been derived from other sources, I confirm that this has been indicated in the thesis.'*

### 6.3.2 Requirements of the Research Thesis

1. A thesis for the award of a professional doctorate shall be examined in accordance with the criteria prescribed by UCL and the thesis shall demonstrate that it:
  - i) is genuinely the work of the student;
  - ii) shows a student's capacity to pursue original research in the field of study based on a good understanding of the research techniques and concepts appropriate to the discipline;
  - iii) embodies the results of research which may reasonably be expected of a student after the period under research supervision, formulated and carried out by the student in consultation with the supervisors;
  - iv) consists of a student's own account of their investigations, the greater proportion of which shall have been undertaken during the period under research supervision for the degree;
  - v) represents a distinct and significant contribution to the subject, whether through the discovery of new knowledge, the connection of previously unrelated facts, the development of new theory, or the revision of older views;
  - vi) shows the exercise of critical judgment with regard to both a student's own work and that of other scholars in the field;
  - vii) includes a critical assessment of relevant literature, including a description of the method of research and its findings, discussion of those findings and indicates in what respects they appear to the student to advance the study of the subject and, in so doing, demonstrates a deep and synoptic understanding of a field of study, objectivity and the capacity for judgment in complex situations and autonomous work in that field;
  - viii) is satisfactory in its literary and/or technical presentation and structure with a full bibliography and references;
  - ix) the report of research takes due account of previously published work on the subject;
  - x) makes clear the sources from which information has been derived, the extent to which the work of others has been used, and the areas which are claimed as original;
  - xi) contains an element which might, after any necessary revision, merit publication in a medium appropriate to the discipline (for example as a monograph or as a number of articles in learned journals);
  - xii) shows a student's ability to design and implement an independent research project.

#### *Further guidance*

1. Supervision of the research component of a professional doctorate normally starts after students have undertaken other elements of the programme, and hence the period of registration is usually longer than the period during which the student is under research supervision. Students and staff should consult individual programme regulations for details of the period of research supervision.

### 6.3.3 Language of a Thesis

1. All these must be written in English and the oral examination must be conducted in English.

### 6.3.4 Word Length of a Thesis

1. The maximum word length of professional doctorate theses is 100,000 words, including all component parts, footnotes, tables and figures but excluding bibliography, appendices and supporting data.
  - i) The above prescribes the maximum allowable length for the thesis, not necessarily the preferred length. Individual programmes may recommend a shorter length and give specific advice on partitioning the submitted thesis. Students should refer to the regulations for individual programmes for advice on the usual length and specified components of theses in their subject area.
  - ii) The signature of the student on the Examination Entry Form to the examination for the specialist doctorate shall be taken as confirmation that the thesis submitted is within the required word limit.
  - iii) "Supporting data" refers largely to raw data which is not essential to the argument of the thesis. Appendices are not in the word count and should only include material which examiners are not required to read in order to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish. Examiners are not required to read beyond the maximum word limit.
  - iv) Students should refer to the specific programme regulations for their thesis word lengths and other elements of their programmes that are examined as part of the doctorate.

### 6.3.5 Format of a Thesis

1. The thesis should be submitted in the format determined by the home department/division of the programme at the time of submission.
2. Further information and guidance on the format and presentation of theses is available from the individual programme literature.

### 6.3.6 Availability of a Thesis

1. After the examination has been completed and before the degree is awarded, successful students must submit one electronic copy to UCL, via the [Research Publications Service](#) (RPS), for lodging in the UCL library.
2. A soft-bound copy of the thesis may also be submitted to the UCL Library, if desired. This may include artefacts related to non-traditional formats of a thesis. Further information and guidance is available on the [Thesis Formatting webpages](#).
3. The process of final thesis submission, both the electronic and optional hard copy, is managed by the [Open Access Team](#).
4. A student may apply to UCL at the time of registration or thereafter, for restriction of access to their thesis and/or the abstract of their thesis on the grounds of commercial exploitation or patenting. In very exceptional circumstances, if the thesis includes material that is significant for national security, subject to approval of UCL, copies of the thesis placed in the public domain, with the agreement of the graduate concerned, may have certain parts excised from them. Applications to restrict access to a thesis should be made via the [Library](#).

## 6.4 Examination Entry

### 6.4.1 Thesis Submission Form

1. Prior to the time of submission of a thesis for examination, a thesis submission form must be submitted to the home department.
  - i) Information about the submission of the form, and when submission is required, should be available from the home department/division.
  - ii) The form, which requires a short description of the content of the thesis in about 300 words, must be submitted to the Departmental/Divisional Postgraduate Committee to assist in the nomination of suitable examiners.

### 6.4.2 Thesis Submission

1. Prior to examination, candidates are required to submit their e-thesis to UCL for dispatch to their examiners. Further information and guidance is available on the [Thesis Formatting webpages](#).
2. After the examination and before the award is made, candidates entering for a UCL award are required deposit one e-thesis in the UCL Institutional Repository.
3. Students are required to bring to the oral examination a copy of their thesis which is identical to the copies submitted to UCL.

### 6.4.3 Dispatch of Theses to Examiners

1. A thesis will be sent to both examiners at least four weeks in advance of an oral examination.
2. Examiners will normally use an electronic copy of the thesis, but an Examiner may request the student provide a hardcopy, if required. Further information and guidance is available on the [Thesis Formatting webpages](#).
2. Direct submission of theses to examiners by students or supervisors is not permitted.

#### *Further guidance*

1. All theses will be submitted to UCL using the procedures identified by the programme. Supervisors and students should note that theses will only be sent to examiners who have been formally appointed by UCL and only after the thesis submission form has been submitted in accordance with the examination entry guidelines. Further information is available from individual programmes.
2. The Departmental/Divisional Postgraduate Committee and the student should ensure that all examination entry requirements have been met in good time before a planned oral examination takes place.
3. Oral examinations cannot proceed if the requirements for the examination entry, including the formal appointment of examiners, have not taken place in accordance with UCL regulations. The outcome of any examination conducted in such an instance would be void.

## 6.5 Appointment of Examiners

### 6.5.1 The Appointment of Examiners for Professional Doctorates

1. The Chair of the Board of Examiners for the professional doctorate will nominate external examiners for the taught and practicum components of the programme.
2. In making a nomination, the Chair will take account of the appointment criteria specified by UCL Research Degrees Committee including confirmation of approval of the nomination from UCL Research Degrees Committee and the Faculty Graduate Tutor on behalf of the Faculty Postgraduate Teaching committee.

#### *Further guidance*

1. Upon receipt of the confirmation of appointment of the nominated examiner by UCL, the Chair of the Board of Examiners should ensure that the newly-appointed examiner receives the following, together with any additional information required:
  - i) Name of departmental/divisional board contact (e.g. Examinations Liaison Officer);
  - ii) Departmental booklet such as a Student Handbook or syllabus information;
  - iii) Composition of the Board of Examiners (e.g. number of internal examiners and any interdepartmental involvement);
  - iv) Number and subject area of other external examiners appointed to the Board;
  - v) Scheme of award;
  - vi) Marking scheme for papers (when known);
  - vii) Criteria for practicum requirements (where appropriate);
  - viii) Criteria for the research component;
  - ix) Date(s) of meetings of Board of Examiners to which the external examiner is invited (when known);
  - x) Outline of procedures of Board of Examiners (e.g. point of contact for external examiner, time allowed for marking, procedures for setting and scrutinising papers).

## 6.5.2 Confirmation of External Examiner Continuing Appointment

1. Chairs of Boards of Examiners will confirm that external examiners are continuing in their role on an annual basis for a total period of four years.
2. The task of the annual review and confirmation of external examiners continuing appointment is conducted via Portico (the Student Record Management Database).
3. Chairs or their nominees should use the functionality found in the “Examiners” header of their staff home page.

## 6.5.3 The Appointment of External Examiners

1. An external examiner must be from outside UCL and must not be involved in regular teaching on the programme they examine.
2. A member of the academic staff of a college of the University of London other than UCL, or any other external institution with which UCL has service teaching arrangements, may be appointed as an external examiner, providing that no students from the appointee’s college, so far as can be anticipated, are being examined by the Board of Examiners at UCL on which the appointee will serve and the appointee is not involved in teaching on the programme examined by the Board to which they will be appointed.

### *Further guidance*

1. Departments/divisions should avoid, where possible, appointing an external examiner where there is a risk that students from their home institution will register on modules examined by the Board of Examiners at UCL on which they will serve.
2. This risk is high in the case of external examiners from other colleges of the University of London. If such a situation occurs, however, and is known only after the external examiner is appointed, any assessed work by these external students cannot be referred to an external examiner from the same institution.

## 6.5.4 The Criteria for the Appointment of External Examiners

1. An external examiner is normally expected to be a member of staff in the same discipline as the professional doctorate in another UK university. Where they are not current members of the academic staff they should have experience of professional training and be senior members of the profession. They should also be competent in assessing students’ knowledge and skills at higher education level, expert in the field of study concerned and have appropriate academic or professional experience and authority.
2. In order to have sufficient time for the proper performance of their function, external examiners are normally not expected to hold more than the equivalent of two substantive external examinerships at the same time.
3. An external examiner shall not normally be appointed from a department/division in which a member of UCL staff is serving as an examiner, although exceptions may on occasions be unavoidable, for example, in the case of subjects taught only in a very small number of institutions or subjects with an unusually high number of specialisms.
4. External examiners shall be asked at the time of appointment or continuation in appointment to declare any interest in or connection with any student on the programme for which they are acting as examiner whether that interest or connection is personal or professional. If such an interest or connection exists, the examiner in question should not normally be appointed.
5. After serving for a period of four consecutive years (or five years if an extension to service was approved), an examiner is not eligible for re-appointment for a period of two further years. The period of service is defined as the period of service as an external examiner at UCL and not as the period of service as external examiner to a particular Board of Examiners.
6. After serving for a period of not more than four normally consecutive years, or, in exceptional circumstances, for such limited extension of this period as UCL Research Degrees Committee may determine, the examiner shall not be eligible for re-appointment to any external examiner appointment for a professional doctorate at UCL (including an external examiner appointment at UCL in a related subject area) until after a lapse of two further

years. The period of service shall be defined as the period of service as an external examiner at UCL, not as the period of service as external examiner to a particular Board of Examiners.

### 6.5.5 Additional Criteria for the Appointment of Examiners for the Thesis Component

1. The thesis submitted as part of the professional doctorate will be examined by at least two examiners. One of these will be an external examiner appointed in accordance with the procedure identified at [Sections 6.5.1 to 6.5.4](#), and the other shall be a member of staff of UCL.

#### *Further guidance*

1. For each student, two faculty-approved examiners shall be appointed by the appropriate Postgraduate Departmental/Divisional Committee.
2. In the case of a student who is a member of staff of UCL, no examiner may be appointed who is internal to UCL if they are from the same department as the student or supervisor(s). However, where nobody else is available with sufficient expertise an examiner from the same department may be appointed if a Viva chair is used.
3. It is expected that external examiners for each thesis will normally be selected for their specialist knowledge of the field rather than knowledge of the precise area of research study.
4. Nominated examiners should not have acted as either a Principal or Subsidiary Supervisor of the thesis to be examined, nor have been involved in any collaborative academic or professional work with the student on the project to be examined. In addition, examiners should not be nominated if there is a close personal relationship between themselves and either the student or supervisors, or if there is an apparent conflict of interest of any kind.
5. Reciprocal examination arrangements are not permitted: staff from equivalent programmes should not be appointed as external examiners if a member of staff in the home department/division is currently serving as an external examiner in that programme. However exceptions may on occasion be unavoidable, for example, in the case of subjects taught only in a very small number of institutions or subjects with an unusually high number of specialisms.
6. Examiners will not normally examine more than five theses in a single cohort.

## 6.6 Conduct of the Oral Examination

### 6.6.1 Format of the Oral Examination

1. The oral examination will usually consider the student portfolio, including the outcomes of practicum assignments and assessments, related coursework and the research dissertation.
2. All oral examinations shall be conducted in the English Language.
3. If an oral examination is prescribed for the assessment of an element, all students enrolled on the element are expected to be examined accordingly.
4. Decisions relating to failed performance in the practicum assignment can be informed by an additional oral examination. This possibility should be clearly indicated to students as part of programme documentation. The outcome from the oral examination should inform the decisions of the Board of Examiners, alongside other assessments relevant to that assignment.
5. Where individual programmes examine only specific elements of the portfolio in the oral examination, this will be specified in their regulations.

### 6.6.2 Conduct of the Research Degree Examination

1. The examiners shall prepare independent preliminary reports on the thesis, conduct an oral examination and submit a final, joint report to UCL.
2. The candidate's supervisor shall be invited, unless the candidate indicates otherwise on his/her entry form, to attend the oral examination as an observer. The oral examination will otherwise be conducted in private.

2. The oral examination should be held at UCL or held remotely and the agreed configuration noted on the Examination Entry Form.
3. Where no configuration can be agreed the oral examination should be held at UCL by default.
4. Where the oral examination is held remotely it is recommended that the supervisor or other designated contact in the student's department is available at the time of, and after, the viva to provide technical and emotional support if needed.

#### *Further guidance*

1. The examiners shall prepare independent preliminary reports on the thesis to assist in conducting the oral examination. After the examination copies of the preliminary reports together with the final, joint report should be submitted to [researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk) in UCL Student and Registry Services. The final report will be released to students. Examiner report forms and procedural information are available from the individual programme.
2. Each final, joint report by the examiners shall indicate whether the thesis meets the requirements specified in [Section 6.3](#), and shall include a statement on the examiners' judgment of the student's performance. Examiners have the right to make comments in confidence to UCL in a separate report. Such comments should not be concerned with the performance of the student but may cover matters which they wish to draw to the attention of UCL.
3. All matters relating to the examination must be treated as confidential. Examiners are not permitted to divulge the content of material contained in a student's thesis until such time as any restrictions on access to the thesis, which have been granted by UCL, have been removed.
4. The supervisor does not have the right to participate in discussion of students at the Board of Examiners but may contribute if invited to do so by the examiners.

### 6.6.3 Outcomes of the Oral Examination

1. Students must submit a thesis and any other aspects of the portfolio requested by the examiners and be examined orally.
2. The following options are open to examiners in determining the result of an examination:
  - a) If the thesis fulfils the criteria (set out in [Section 5.3](#)) and the student satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners will report that the student has passed the research component of the award.
  - b) If the thesis otherwise satisfies the criteria (set out in [Section 5.3](#)) but requires minor amendments and if the student satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners may require the student to make, within a maximum of one month, amendments specified by them. The amended thesis shall be submitted to the examiners or one of their number nominated by them for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory.
  - c) If the thesis otherwise satisfies the criteria set out above, but requires stipulated amendments and if the student satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners may require the student to make, within a maximum of three months, amendments specified by them. The amended thesis shall be submitted to the examiners or one of their number nominated by them for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory.
  - d) If the thesis, though inadequate, shall seem of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may determine that the student be permitted to re-present their thesis in a revised form within a maximum of 12 months. The examiners may at their discretion exempt from a further oral examination, on re-presentation of their thesis, a student who under this regulation has been permitted to re-present it in a revised form. Examiners may refer a thesis for a maximum of 12 months for re-submission in a revised form, on one occasion only.
  - e) The examiners may determine that the student has not satisfied them in the examination and hence has not passed the research component of the award, and is not therefore eligible for the award of a professional doctorate.
  - f) The examiners shall not, save in very exceptional circumstances, make any of the above decisions without submitting the student to an oral examination on at least one occasion.

- g) The award of a professional doctorate is conditional upon students passing all specified elements of their programme of study.

*Further guidance*

1. Students should refer to individual programme regulations for guidance on deadlines for resubmission of the thesis, which may be shorter than the maximum periods identified here.
2. Some professional doctorate programmes have an exit award other than a professional doctorate. Where this is the case, and examiners consider that a student has not met the requirements of a professional doctorate, they may recommend that the Board of Examiners confers this alternative exit award.

## 6.7 Research Misconduct

1. Cases of suspected research misconduct, including plagiarism, shall be investigated in accordance with the [UCL Procedures for Investigating and Resolving Allegations of Misconduct in Academic Research](#). Exceptions to this requirement are set out below.

### 6.7.1 Extent of Misconduct: Action Open to a Department/Division

1. The following instances of research misconduct may be dealt with by the department/division concerned:
  - a) A first instance of plagiarism in the early stages of the programme of study;
  - b) A first instance of misrepresentation of results in the early stages of the programme of study;
  - c) A first instance of plagiarism in the early stages of the programme of study (prior to the end of the first year of study), including suspected collusion but not including suspected use of a fellow student's or other person's work without that student's knowledge and consent;
  - d) A first instance of plagiarism (including suspected collusion but not including suspected use of a fellow student's or other person's work without that student's knowledge and consent) in the later stages of the programme of study in which (a) no more than 30% of the work in question can be demonstrated to have been plagiarised or, (b) in the case of plagiarised data, statistics etc., it can be demonstrated that they are not the main findings or among the main findings on which the argument of the thesis rests;
  - e) A first instance of misrepresentation of results in the early stages of the programme of study (in the first year of study);
  - f) A first instance of misrepresentation of results in the later stages of the programme of study which is judged to have been owing to error, misunderstanding or other extenuating circumstances.

### 6.7.2 Extent of Misconduct: Action Open to UCL

1. The following instances of research misconduct shall be referred to the Registrar:
  - a) Any instance of plagiarism, except those covered in [6.7.1](#);
  - b) Any repeated instance of plagiarism;
  - c) Any instance of misrepresentation;
  - d) Any instance of piracy or fraud;
  - e) Any instance of any kind of research misconduct which appears in published work;
  - f) Submission of a thesis for examination by a student when an allegation of research misconduct has been made.

*Further Guidance*

1. The following instances of research misconduct must be referred for action by UCL:

- a) Any instance of plagiarism (including suspected collusion<sup>1</sup>) other than a first instance falling under [6.7.1](#) above in which more than 30% of the work can be demonstrated to have been plagiarised or, in the case of plagiarised data, statistics etc. it can be demonstrated that they are the main findings or among the main findings on which the argument of the thesis rests;
- b) Any repeated instance of plagiarism after a warning has been given, whether or not it exceeds 30%, or involves data, statistics etc. which are not among the main findings on which the argument of the thesis rests;
- c) Suspected use of another student's or person's work without that student's knowledge and consent;
- d) Any instance of misrepresentation other than a first instance falling under [6.7.1](#);
- e) Any instance of piracy or fraud, as defined in UCL's procedures;
- f) Any instance of any kind of research misconduct which appears in published work, whether or not the work appears before or after the examination for the doctorate;
- g) Submission of a thesis after the student has been warned not to submit it because of an allegation of research misconduct;

### 6.7.3 Research Misconduct Discovered after Successful Completion of Thesis Examination

1. UCL has the right to rescind an award if research misconduct is discovered after the examination of a thesis.

### 6.7.4 Appeal against the Action Taken in the Event of Research Misconduct

1. Students cannot contest a decision on academic grounds. Students can only contest a decision on specific grounds as set out in [Chapter 6, Section 10: Student Complaints Procedure](#).

## 6.8 Appeals

1. Where a decision in relation to the assessment, outcomes or progression (including Upgrade) of a student or the award of a UCL qualification is contested by the student and one or more of the grounds for appeal in the Academic Appeals Procedure can be evidenced, the decision can be appealed via the Academic Appeals Procedure within the timeframes set out in that procedure. Disagreeing with the academic judgement of Examiners is not valid grounds for an appeal.

## 6.9 Graduation Ceremonies

1. UCL will organise Graduation Ceremonies and publish an annual deadline for ticket applications (see the [UCL Graduation Ceremonies](#) website).
2. It is mandatory for all UCL graduates to wear academic robes to the graduation ceremonies. It is the responsibility of students to obtain the appropriate robes from UCL's suppliers (see the [Graduation: Academic Robes web pages](#)).

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<sup>1</sup> Where collusion between two or more students is established, all students concerned will be penalised.