

# Transfer from MPhil to PhD status

## Department of Mathematics

In order for a student to transfer to PhD status it is necessary that s/he satisfies the department that s/he is capable of making an original contribution to mathematical knowledge sufficient for the award of a PhD. The eventual decision as to whether s/he has in fact made such a contribution will rest with the PhD examiners.

The transfer normally takes place between 12 and 18 months into the student's graduate research. Detailed regulations concerning transfer, including a description of the possible outcomes of the upgrade process, can be found at:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/status/research-students/upgrade>

The upgrade is by means of a written report and oral exam. The report should describe the work to be undertaken for the PhD and include:

1. A description of the background to the work, citing earlier research of others where relevant.
2. A description of the problems to be tackled together with suggestions as to what approaches might be useful.
3. An account of the student's research so far, including results already achieved.

The oral exam will be conducted by a panel consisting of the candidate's subsidiary supervisor and at least one other staff member and will normally involve a short presentation of the student's work to date, followed by questions from the panel.

It will be expected that the student has completed four courses at the London Taught Course Centre (LTCC) in mathematics and a number of skills courses run by the graduate school. In general one of those 4 LTCC courses can be replaced by a suitable alternative, for example a 3rd or 4th year course offered by the department.

The student should also give a short talk at the Postgraduate seminar, see:

<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/math/current-students/current-mphilphd-students/postgraduate-seminars>

**What the student has to do:**

1. Complete 4 LTCC courses; or 3 LTCC courses plus 1 suitable alternative.

*(Students in or affiliated to the LSGNT may be able to substitute other courses; discuss this with your supervisor and/or the pure graduate tutor.)*

2. Give a talk at the Postgraduate Seminar.
3. Write the upgrade report and provide a copy to the supervisor and graduate tutor.
4. Prepare a presentation for the oral exam.
5. Complete the transfer form, this can be found at:  
[https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/sites/students/files/upgrade\\_panel\\_report.doc](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/students/sites/students/files/upgrade_panel_report.doc)
6. Once this is signed by the supervisor it should be brought to the graduate tutor for countersigning. It will be forwarded to the registry by the department.
7. Ensure that his/her research student log is up to date.

**What the primary supervisor has to do:**

1. Suggest an additional panel member to the departmental graduate tutor and agree the composition of the panel in discussion with said graduate tutor.
2. Arrange a time for the oral exam.
3. Write a brief report on the student's progress so far and make it available to the panel before the oral exam.
4. Sign the transfer form if the panel members agree to the transfer. The panel will communicate the outcome of the exam to the graduate tutor by means of a brief report.

It is recognised that research (especially in mathematics) rarely if ever goes according to plan: consequently the completion of the research programme outlined in the transfer report is neither necessary nor sufficient for the award of a PhD.