

Edge Hill University

RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS

For students undertaking research leading to the awards of Masters
by Research, Doctor of Philosophy and Professional Doctorate

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Research Degree Regulations

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RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

These regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's general [Academic Regulations](#). Where the Research Degree Regulations and standard research degree processes operated by the Graduate School remain silent, the general Academic Regulations apply. Where the Research Degree Regulations and the general Academic Regulations are in conflict, the Research Degree Regulations take precedence.

The Research Degree Regulations prescribe and describe both general matters pertaining to Edge Hill research degrees, and other, more specific, matters relating to each particular type of research degree (MRes, PhD, PhD by Publication and Professional Doctorate).

Within the Research Degree Regulations, if particular regulations for a specific award are in conflict with the general regulations relating to research degrees, the particular regulations for an award take precedence.

The Research Degree Regulations do not describe the University's specific processes and procedures relating to research degrees. Those are determined by the Graduate School and are detailed in a series of Graduate School process documents. The major Graduate School process documents are listed in Schedule E.

N1 OPERATION OF AWARDING POWERS

N1.1	Research degrees of the University are awarded by the Academic Board under the research degree awarding powers granted to the University in 2008.
N1.2	Awards are confirmed by the Graduate School Board of Studies, operating under devolved powers from the Academic Board.
N1.3	The Graduate School Board of Studies is a sub-committee of Research Committee, and is responsible to Academic Board for the assurance of the standard of research degree awards. The Graduate School is responsible for the development and operation of the processes and procedures of all aspects of research degree enrolments and all other operational aspects in relation to research degrees. The Graduate School owns the policies and procedures relating to the Research Degree Regulations.
N1.4	In operating its research degree awarding powers, the University is alert to, and assures consistency with, the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) and the Research Degree Chapter of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

N2 AWARDS OFFERED

N2.1	<p>In all Edge Hill research degrees, candidates are required to design, manage, conduct, report and defend the research on the basis of which an award is made.</p> <p>The University offers the following awards:¹</p> <p><i>i Masters by Research (MRes)² (180 credits, FHEQ level 7)</i></p> <p>The Masters by Research (MRes) is awarded to a candidate who, following a programme of research training, demonstrates an understanding of concepts and research</p>
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¹ In addition, a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) (FHEQ level 7) may be an exit award for students who are unsuccessful in gaining a PhD, if the appropriate requirements, as specified in the options available to examination panels, have been met. The Master of Philosophy cannot be a target award.

² Whilst such degrees will normally confer the post-nominal designation of MRes, a Masters by Research gained for work in Law may confer the post-nominal designation of LL.M.

	<p>methodology appropriate to the field of study, designs appropriate research, critically investigates a focused topic and presents and defends a dissertation,³ by oral examination (or approved alternative) to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners.</p> <p>Credit will be awarded on the basis of a candidate having:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completed an approved programme of research training b. Demonstrated an understanding of research methodology appropriate to the field of study c. Designed an appropriate research project d. Critically investigated a focused topic in completing that research project e. Demonstrated an understanding of the concepts relevant to the research project f. Presented a dissertation, and defended that dissertation, by oral examination (or approved alternative), to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners. <p><i>ii Master of Philosophy (MPhil) (FHEQ level 7)</i></p> <p>The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is awarded to a candidate who, following a programme of research training, has critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic and demonstrated an advanced understanding of concepts and research methodology appropriate to the field of study, and having resulted in an independent contribution to knowledge, has presented and defended a thesis, by oral examination (or approved alternative), to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners.</p> <p>Credit will be awarded on the basis of a candidate having:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completed an approved programme of research training. b. Demonstrated an advanced understanding of research methodology appropriate to the field of study c. Designed an appropriate research project d. Critically investigated and evaluated a focused topic in completing that research project e. Demonstrated an advanced understanding of the concepts relevant to the research project f. Presented a thesis, and defended that thesis, by oral examination (or approved alternative), to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners g. Made an independent contribution to knowledge. <p><i>iii Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) (FHEQ level 8)</i></p> <p>The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is awarded to a candidate who, following a programme of research training, has critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic, resulting in an independent, significant and original contribution to knowledge, and having demonstrated an advanced understanding of concepts and research methodology appropriate to the field of study, has presented and defended a thesis, by oral examination (or approved alternative), to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners.</p> <p>Credit will be awarded on the basis of a candidate having:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completed an approved programme of research training⁴ b. Demonstrated an advanced understanding of research methodology appropriate to the field of study c. Designed an appropriate research project
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³ The MRes dissertation may be a long essay of 15-30,000 words or an alternative, reflecting the nature of the particular discipline, approved at the point of project registration by the Graduate School Board of Studies. Alternatives to the conventional dissertation are a research paper and accompanying research portfolio, or a practice-as-research submission based on a project and exegesis or complementary writing. In approving an alternative to the conventional dissertation, the Graduate School Board of Studies shall satisfy itself that any alternative is equivalent in volume to a 15-30,000-word dissertation.

⁴ This is not a requirement in relation to the PhD by Publication.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Critically investigated and evaluated a focused topic in completing that research project e. Demonstrated an advanced understanding of the concepts relevant to the research project f. Made a significant and original contribution to knowledge g. Made that contribution to knowledge independently h. Presented a thesis, and defended that thesis, by oral examination (or approved alternative), to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners. <p><i>iv Professional Doctorate⁵ (FHEQ level 8)</i></p> <p>The Professional Doctorate is awarded to a candidate who, having critically investigated and evaluated an approved topic, produces an independent, significant and original contribution to knowledge directly applicable within a profession. The research must also demonstrate an advanced understanding of concepts and research methodology appropriate to the profession and the research project. The candidate must have undertaken discipline-specific and research training, and presented and defended a thesis based upon their personal research, by oral examination (or approved alternative), to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners.</p> <p>Credit will be awarded on the basis of a candidate having:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Completed an approved programme of discipline-specific and research training b. Demonstrated an understanding of research methodology appropriate to the profession and the research project c. Designed an appropriate research project d. Critically investigated and evaluated a focused topic in completing that research project e. Demonstrated an advanced understanding of the concepts relevant to the profession and the research project f. Made a significant and original contribution to knowledge directly applicable within the profession and the research project g. Made that contribution to knowledge independently h. Presented a thesis, and defended that thesis, by oral examination (or approved alternative), to the satisfaction of the appointed examiners.
N2.2	Awards offered are defined by a series of benchmarks relating to the general level of knowledge and skills required to register for the award and the qualification and study levels required to achieve the award. (FHEQ Qualification Level Descriptors can be found as an appendix of the general Academic Regulations.)
N3 GENERAL STRUCTURE OF RESEARCH DEGREE ROUTES	
N3.1	The Masters by Research, Doctor of Research by the conventional route, and the professional doctorate all share the same basic structure with minor modifications for each route. The general structure of research degrees at Edge Hill and the specific routes for each degree are defined in Schedule C. The PhD by publication is an alternative route to a PhD for Edge Hill staff and some former staff. Specific procedures and regulations relating to the PhD by publication are in Schedule D.
N4 ADMISSION	
N4.1	The normal entry requirement for a research degree is a first or upper second class honours bachelor degree from a United Kingdom university or other institution recognised for this purpose by the Graduate School Board of Studies, or a qualification which is regarded by the Board as equivalent.

⁵ Post-nominal abbreviation to be proposed and agreed at approval of the programme.

	In relation to the professional doctorate, the normal entry requirements will standardly apply. However, for candidates who have spent a significant time working in their chosen profession in a graduate level role, the work experience might, to some extent, compensate for slightly lower qualifications by demonstrating experience of the relevant profession. Thus, for such candidates, on merit, a lower second class honours degree would be an acceptable minimum.
N4.2	The University may also, exceptionally, accept other qualifications and/or professional experience in lieu of the general entry requirement. In such cases, applicants may be required to provide evidence of their suitability for research degree study through the provision of a prior learning portfolio and a document mapping that evidence to the programme learning outcomes and level descriptors for a suitable bachelor degree programme. While other qualifications and/or experience may be accepted in lieu of the general entry requirement, RPL or other mechanisms leading to entry with advanced standing cannot be used for any part of any of the research degree programmes because of the individual, project-specific, nature of the assessments.
N4.3	Applicants for research degrees must provide at least two academic references from appropriate referees who can attest to the applicant's academic attainment and fitness for research.
N4.4	All applicants must show sufficient command of the English language to complete the relevant programme satisfactorily and to prepare and defend a thesis in English. Applicants whose first language is not English or who originate from countries whose national language is not English are required to demonstrate English language proficiency to minimum standards. For the purposes of these regulations, the minimum standard required is specified as an IELTS score of 7.0 or equivalent, with no element below 6.5.
N4.5	Applicants for the PhD and professional doctorate, and all non-UK/EU applicants (including MRes applicants) must be interviewed before an offer of a place is made. Applicants will normally only be invited for interview if they are suitably qualified, have fully completed the necessary application, and the Graduate School has established that there is appropriate supervisory and examination capacity within the University. Occasionally, an interview will be conducted to explore the nature of the proposed research project further to determine whether the University has suitable supervisory and examination capacity. Interviews will be conducted by a Research Student Admissions Panel, appointed through the Graduate School or its delegates. This will be chaired by the Assistant Director or Director of the Graduate School, or the Associate Dean for Research of the relevant faculty (or equivalent) or her/his Graduate School-approved nominee, and will comprise a minimum of two research active members of staff, with relevant subject knowledge, who will have received appropriate training, at least one of whom will be an experienced supervisor. In the case of the MRes, other than for non-UK/EU applicants, there will not standardly be a formal interview following application. MRes applications will be considered by a panel of two research active members of staff with relevant subject expertise and the MRes Leader, or his/her Graduate School-approved nominee.
N4.6	Offers are made by the Graduate School on behalf of the Graduate School Board of Studies, and are subject to the approval of the PVC Research. The faculty will seek assurance that, as far as can be determined at this initial stage, adequate and appropriate supervisory arrangements can be made and that the research environment, governance arrangements, available resources and facilities are suitable to the proposal. An offer of a place specifies the mode of study offered (part-time or full-time).
N4.7	Following admission, a student will be formally allocated at least one experienced supervisor who will work with the student to develop an application to register a research degree project. The Graduate School may change the supervisory arrangements for any

	student as necessary at any point during the period of registration. All changes to supervisory teams will be formally confirmed by the Graduate School Board of Studies.																																				
N4.8	Admission, and continuing registration, is subject to completion of a specified programme of research training and an approved programme of related studies.																																				
N4.9	Applicants may not appeal an admissions decision. Applicants who are dissatisfied with any aspect of the admissions process may use the University Complaints Procedure.																																				
N5 ENROLMENT																																					
N5.1	Students are required to enrol with, and pay fees to, the University once they have accepted the offer of a place.																																				
N5.2	Enrolment is normally in October. Any exceptions to that must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies, the relevant Dean of Faculty, and the relevant Head of Department. In all such exceptional cases a suitable plan must be provided by the faculty or department to ensure that all research training and induction will be covered, and appropriate paperwork completed, in order to demonstrate that the requirement for such training and induction has been met.																																				
N5.3	Students who accept a place on a research degree programme are required to enrol and pay fees for each academic session, or part of a session, during which they remain enrolled.																																				
N5.4	<p>The Graduate School Board of Studies may accept applications for PhD from candidates who are already registered for a PhD in another UK research degree awarding institution, for example where their principal supervisor is moving to join the staff of Edge Hill. In such cases, evidence of progress from the candidate's previous institution will be used to inform a recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies regarding the point of registration, and the time remaining until progression confirmation or submission.</p> <p>Each such case will be unique, and the documentary requirements will be established by the Graduate School. However, in all cases, an admissions interview must be conducted, and the Edge Hill English language requirements must be met.</p>																																				
N6 PERIODS OF REGISTRATION																																					
N6.1	<p>The minimum and maximum periods of registration are as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Award</th> <th>Minimum</th> <th>Expected</th> <th>Maximum+</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="4"><i>PhD (inclusive of MPhil registration period where appropriate)</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full-time</td> <td>24 months</td> <td>36 months</td> <td>48 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part-time</td> <td>36 months</td> <td>54 months</td> <td>72 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><i>Professional Doctorate (part-time only)</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part-time</td> <td>36 months</td> <td>54 months</td> <td>72 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"><i>MRes</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Full-time</td> <td>12 months</td> <td>12 months</td> <td>12 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Part-time</td> <td>18 months</td> <td>18 months</td> <td>18 months</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>+The Graduate School Board of Studies may approve a maximum of 12 months interruption of study (intercalation).</p> <p>Failure to submit by the end of the maximum period of registration will mean that no submission will be accepted as registration will have ended. The Graduate School Board of Studies can approve extensions to registration if it regards the circumstances to be appropriate.</p>	Award	Minimum	Expected	Maximum+	<i>PhD (inclusive of MPhil registration period where appropriate)</i>				Full-time	24 months	36 months	48 months	Part-time	36 months	54 months	72 months	<i>Professional Doctorate (part-time only)</i>				Part-time	36 months	54 months	72 months	<i>MRes</i>				Full-time	12 months	12 months	12 months	Part-time	18 months	18 months	18 months
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N6.2	In those cases where a student combines periods of full-time and part-time enrolment during the registration, the maximum registration period will be calculated on a pro-rata basis.
N7 APPROVAL OF PROJECT REGISTRATION	
N7.1	<p>All research students must submit an application for project registration containing a research proposal, and, as appendices to that proposal:⁶</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. a submission coversheet, including abstract; b. a learning and skills needs analysis including a plan of a proposed programme of related studies for the remainder of the first year of study and an indication of how that programme of related studies will address the identified needs; c. a record of research training attended; d. a research data management plan; e. a project management plan.
N7.2	<p>For PhD and professional doctorate students, the maximum length of the period prior to submission of a project registration application⁷ is approximately four months for full-time students, and approximately seven months for part-time students. A specific submission deadline will be set at the beginning of each academic year.</p> <p>For MRes students, the maximum length of the period prior to submission of a project registration application is approximately three months for full-time students, and approximately six months for part-time students. A specific submission deadline will be set at the beginning of each academic year.</p> <p>Failure to submit a registration application by the relevant deadline will lead to the submission being treated as a second, and final, submission. Second, and final, submissions that are due as a result of a failure to submit by the original deadline, must be made within ten working days of the original deadline.</p>
N7.3	Should a student fail to meet the agreed start date, no adjustment will be made to the deadline for project registration application submission.
N7.4	<p>Applications to register a research degree project are subject to approval by the Graduate School Board of Studies. Initial assessment of the proposal and accompanying documentation is through formal presentation by the student to a Project Registration Examination Panel, appointed through the Graduate School. In the case of the PhD and the professional doctorate (both of which have a project registration viva as part of the assessment) that panel is composed of three research active members of staff, one of whom will normally be a member of the student's proposed supervisory team. The chair of the panel is approved by the Graduate School Board of Studies.⁸ Exceptions to these arrangements require the approval of the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies.</p> <p>In the case of the MRes, there is no project registration viva. The application for project registration will be assessed by the Director of Studies and one other member of academic staff with appropriate subject expertise. The two examiners will agree a joint recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies. Where agreement cannot be reached either the MRes Leader or an additional member of staff with subject expertise will be appointed by the Graduate School as a third examiner.</p>

⁶ Use of video or telephone conferencing will not normally be permitted for oral examinations (or approved alternatives) at any stage of the research degree process. Oral examinations (or approved alternatives) need not be held on Edge Hill University premises. All proposals to hold an examination somewhere other than Edge Hill University premises must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies. Normally, oral examinations (or approved alternatives) will be held on mainland Britain. Exceptions must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies.

⁷ The time prior to submission of the project registration application. It will take some further time to make arrangements for the project registration viva, and then for subsequent approval of project registration at the Graduate School Board of Studies.

⁸ The Board normally maintains a list of approved chairs, from which the Graduate School may select an appropriate chair.

N7.5	<p>An individual project should be the norm; group projects in which all students work to the same research design are not permitted.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances projects in which a group of students conduct research in the same area are acceptable as long as discrete individual programmes of research can be identified in which the student is able to demonstrate that s/he has designed his/her research.</p>
N7.6	<p>On completion of the assessment, the panel will submit a report to the Graduate School Board of Studies with one of the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The project should be registered at the level of the degree sought; ii. The project should not be registered at the present time. The candidate should revise and resubmit the proposal for re-examination (with a viva for doctoral degrees);⁹ iii. Following a re-examination, the submission is not of an appropriate standard, so the project should not be registered (the candidate's enrolment will therefore be terminated by the Board); or iv. The candidate should be considered under the University's malpractice regulations.
N7.7	<p>In cases under N7.6 (ii) above, PhD and Professional Doctorate candidates will be allowed to resubmit a proposal for consideration within eight weeks (full-time) and twelve weeks (part-time) from the date of receipt of the specification of amendments. MRes candidates will be allowed to resubmit a proposal within four weeks (full-time) and six weeks (part-time) from the date of receipt of the specification of amendments.¹⁰</p> <p>Further applications will not be considered and registration will be terminated if the resubmitted application is unsuccessful.</p> <p>In the case of the PhD and the Professional Doctorate, there will normally be two project registration vivas before any decision is made to terminate a student's registration. That will not, however, be the case were the candidate fails to meet the initial submission deadline. In cases such as those, there will only be one project registration viva. In all cases, at least one viva must be conducted before any decision is made to terminate the candidate's registration.</p>
N7.8	<p>The Graduate School Board of Studies will consider applications to register a project, along with reports and recommendations from panels. In approving an application to register a project, the Board shall satisfy itself that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the candidate is suitably qualified; ii. the programme of research submitted by the candidate is viable and appropriate to the standard of the award sought; iii. the supervisory arrangements are adequate and sustainable in terms of the programme requirements; iv. appropriate resources and facilities are available for the conduct of the programme of research; v. ethical approval has been obtained where appropriate or the proposal has been referred to the relevant research ethics committee for further consideration. No primary research may be undertaken until a proposal has gained the appropriate ethical approval in accordance with the University's research ethics procedures; vi. where a project is wholly or partly funded by an external agency or there is a collaborating institution, this does not inhibit the fulfilment of the objectives of the

⁹ Where the student's original submission was made after the submission deadline, the initial examination must be considered a second sitting. Under such circumstances, the option to offer revise and resubmit is not available.

¹⁰ Where the regulations specify weeks, or months, that shall mean seven days per week (i.e. not a working week), and 30 days per month.

	project and/or the academic requirements of the research degree, nor potentially give rise to a conflict of interest with the University.
N7.9	Where the Graduate School Board of Studies is not satisfied in relation to points N7.8 (iii-vi), the application may be rejected, referred back for further work, or remitted for chair's action subsequent to the receipt of further information as required by the Graduate School Board of Studies.
N7.10	The Graduate School Board of Studies may approve the registration of projects where the candidate's own creative work forms, as a point of origin or reference, a significant part of the intellectual inquiry, subject to the work having been undertaken, or being put to substantial new use, as part of the registered programme of research.
N7.11	In the case of registrations under N7.10, the application for project registration will set out the form of the intended submission and the proposed methods of assessment for approval by the Graduate School Board of Studies.
N8 RESEARCH ETHICS	
N8.1	Research proposals should receive ethical approval from the appropriate research ethics committee.
N8.2	No primary research may begin until a proposal has gained the appropriate ethical approval.
N9 SUPERVISION	
N9.1	<p>The supervisory team is approved by the Graduate School Board of Studies as part of the approval of project registration. The Graduate School may change the supervisory arrangements for any student as necessary at any point during the period of registration. All changes to supervisory teams will be formally confirmed by the Graduate School Board of Studies.</p> <p>The specifications relating to supervision outlined below are minimum requirements. All decisions regarding the suitability of supervisory teams and the involvement of individual supervisors rest with the Graduate School.</p>
N9.2	<p>For the PhD and the professional doctorate, the supervisory team will consist of at least two, and normally not more than three, supervisors, at least one of whom will have previous experience of supervision to successful completion at the level of the award for which the student is registered.</p> <p>For the MRes, students will normally have one supervisor, but in some cases a second supervisor may be approved. All MRes supervisors must have experience of supervision at level 7, although not necessarily research degree supervisory experience.</p>
N9.3	The supervisory team will collectively demonstrate active engagement in research, bringing a range of skills and knowledge relevant to the project.
N9.4	Other than supervisors drawn from the relevant profession for the professional doctorate, research degree supervisors must be active researchers currently involved in the production of peer-reviewed publications, and with a recent record of such publications.
N9.5	One member of the team, who will be a permanent member of staff of the University, will be designated as Director of Studies. While this is purely an administrative role, the Director of Studies normally has full supervisory duties. Specific responsibilities within a supervisory team will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

N9.6	<p>Other members of the team will have specific subject and/or methodological expertise and may, in exceptional circumstances where the Graduate School is satisfied that there is good cause, be drawn from outwith the University. In relation to the PhD and the professional doctorate, each supervisory team must include two members of Edge Hill staff.</p> <p>In relation to the professional doctorate, one member of the supervisory team should be appointed from within the profession (not necessarily an academic). If none of the supervisory team have such professional experience, then a specialist advisor must be appointed to bring specific professional expertise to the team. There should be regular contact between the student, the supervisory team and the advisor throughout the entire research programme.</p> <p>In relation to the MRes, there must be at least one member of Edge Hill staff involved in the supervision of each student.</p>
N9.7	<p>In addition to the supervisors, an advisor, or advisors, may be proposed to contribute some specialised knowledge or a link with an external organisation or collaborating institution.</p>
N9.8	<p>A research student at Edge Hill is generally ineligible to act as a member of a supervisory team for another research student, but may be appointed as an advisor. Exceptions may be considered where the proposed supervising student already holds a research degree at the level of the award sought, or has experience of supervision to successful completion at the level of the award sought.</p>
N9.9	<p>Supervisors and advisors must declare any close personal or business relationship with a student that could reasonably be thought to bring into question the impartiality of the supervisory or examination process. The Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies will determine the appropriate action in such cases; this will normally result in the appointment of an alternative supervisor.</p>
N9.10	<p>The <i>maximum</i> number of students that can be supervised concurrently by an individual member of staff of the University is normally nine (<i>pro rata</i> for staff on fractional contracts, rounded up or down to the nearest whole number), with no more than six of those at doctoral level (PhD and professional doctorate). Only very experienced supervisors will be permitted to supervise the maximum number of students specified here. Deans of Faculty and Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring that the workload allocation model takes account of the requirements for research student supervision.</p>
N9.11	<p>Any change to the supervisory arrangements must be approved by the Graduate School and confirmed by the Graduate School Board of Studies. Where a change is necessitated by the ill-health, retirement or other long-term unavailability of a member of the supervisory team, appropriate alternative arrangements must be proposed by the relevant Dean of Faculty/Head of Department such that the student is not disadvantaged in project progression.</p>
N9.12	<p>Students who experience difficulties with any aspect of supervision should first seek to resolve these informally through discussion with the Director of Studies. Unresolved difficulties should be raised with the relevant Head of Department or Dean of Faculty or the Director of the Graduate School for action. Exceptionally, this may lead to a change in supervisory arrangements.</p>
N10 PROGRESSION OF REGISTRATION	
N10.1	<p>Candidates registered on a PhD or professional doctorate route must submit an application for progression of their registration to the Graduate School Board of Studies. Normally, such applications should be submitted no later than eighteen months from first registration for full-time students or thirty-six months for part-time.</p>

	Failure to submit by the relevant deadline will result in the first submission being treated as a resubmission.
N10.2	Applications for assessment for progression of registration must be supported by the supervisory team. This does not mean that the supervisory team must feel that the work is of an appropriate standard to be successful, but rather, that the supervisory team feel that the student's progress to date is adequate for an examination to be appropriate.
N10.3	<p>Applications for progression must be accompanied by a report of no more than 6000 words outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. progress to date in the literature review, methodological development and data collection; ii. the original contribution to knowledge that will be made by the research; iii. the written work to date, its form, and whether it has been seen and commented on by supervisors; iv. the timetable for thesis submission; v. a detailed plan of the final thesis structure. <p>In addition, applications for progression should contain at least one draft chapter from the thesis. Where work has already been published, the candidate may include the appropriate publication(s).</p>
N10.4	Applications for progression or transfer are initially assessed by an examination panel appointed through the Graduate School. ¹¹
N10.5	<p>The examination panel will include two research active examiners, no more than one of which will be a member of the supervisory team, but the panel need not include any members of the supervisory team. The examiner that is a member of the supervisory team can be the same person that conducted the candidate's project registration viva.</p> <p>One examiner will be external to the University and at least one examiner will have experience of supervising at least one PhD to successful completion. An external examiner may not have acted previously as the student's examiner (on the same research degree), supervisor or advisor, nor have been, within the previous three years, either a supervisor of another research student, or an external examiner on a taught course, in the same department.</p> <p>In addition, there will be a chair, drawn from a list of Graduate School Board of Studies-approved viva chairs that have received appropriate training. Amendment to these arrangements requires the approval of the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies and will only be given where exceptional mitigating circumstances apply.</p>
N10.6	<p>On completion of the assessment, the panel will prepare a report making one of the following recommendations to the Graduate School Board of Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The application to progress (or transfer) be approved; ii. Progression should not be permitted at the present time. The candidate should revise and resubmit the application for re-examination <i>without</i> a second viva;¹² iii. Progression should not be permitted at the present time. The candidate should revise and resubmit the application for re-examination <i>with</i> a second viva;¹³

¹¹ Use of video or telephone conferencing will not normally be permitted for oral examinations (or approved alternatives) at any stage of the research degree process. Oral examinations (or approved alternatives) need not be held on Edge Hill University premises. All proposals to hold an examination somewhere other than Edge Hill University premises must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies. Normally, oral examinations (or approved alternatives) will be held on mainland Britain. Exceptions must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies.

¹² Where the candidate's original submission was made after the submission deadline, the initial examination must be considered a second sitting. Under such circumstances, the option to offer revise and resubmit is not available.

¹³ Where the candidate's original submission was made after the submission deadline, the initial examination must be considered a second sitting. Under such circumstances, the option to offer revise and resubmit is not available.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. Following re-examination, the candidate should not transfer but should instead be registered for MPhil only (available only to transfer viva panels); v. Following a re-examination, the submission is not of an appropriate standard, so the candidate should not transfer or progress (the candidate's registration will therefore be terminated by the Board); or vi. The candidate should be considered under the University's malpractice regulations.
N10.7	<p>In cases of referral, the student will be allowed a period of no more than eight weeks (for full-time students) or twelve weeks (for part-time students) to make a resubmission.</p> <p>Written feedback will be provided to the Graduate School by the examination panel for transmission via the faculty to the candidate.</p> <p>If there is disagreement between the examiners, the Graduate School Board of Studies will receive individual reports from each examiner and make a decision as to the outcome. Normally, the Board will prioritise the recommendation of the external examiner where it does not find that recommendation, or its justification, in conflict with the Research Degree Regulations.</p>
N10.8	Only one resubmission of an application to progress to PhD is permitted. Where an application is rejected for the second time, the student's registration will be terminated.
N10.9	Students who are refused confirmation of registration at the second submission may appeal under the University's Appeals Procedure.
N11 CHANGES TO REGISTRATION	
N11.1	<p>Changes to registrations are by application and are subject to the approval of the Graduate School, such changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Change in mode of study; ii. Interruption of study (intercalation); iii. Extension to the period of registration; iv. Change in award level; v. Early Submission.
N11.2	All changes to registration must be supported by the supervisory team. Applications for a change to mode of study require justification. Requests may be declined on the grounds that the University does not have the capacity to accommodate the request.
N11.3	A student registered for PhD or professional doctorate who is unable to complete, or seeks to exit before submission, may apply for the registration to be remitted to MRes. The Graduate School will satisfy itself that the standard of award applied for is appropriate and can be met. In such cases, the maximum period of registration will move to that which applied to the MRes. If that period of registration has already been completed, submission will be required within 30 days.
N11.4	An interruption of studies) may be approved where a student is prevented from making progress with the research because of illness or other reasonable cause. The maximum interruption period per application is 365 days. Normally, a student shall only be permitted periods of suspension totalling 365 days during the registration. Exceptions are subject to approval by the Graduate School Board of Studies. Where a student request a period of interrupted study of three months or more before the successful registration of the project, they will normally be required to restart studies at the following October entry point.

N11.5	An agreed period of suspension will not be included in calculating the period of registration.
N11.6	Applications for <i>extension</i> must be supported by evidence of the exceptional circumstances which have prevented completion within the normal timescale.
N11.7	Withdrawal from registration must be notified to the Graduate School by the Dean of Faculty or Head of Department for report to the Graduate School Board of Studies.
N12 MONITORING OF STUDENT PROGRESS	
N12.1	Where a student is not making satisfactory academic progress, is not responding appropriately to feedback and/or is no longer in contact with his/her supervisory team, the Graduate School Board of Studies may formally terminate a registration at any point.
N12.2	A student whose registration is terminated because of lack of academic progress, a failure to respond appropriately to feedback, or a failure to maintain contact with the supervisory team may appeal under the Research Degree Appeals Procedures.
N13 SUBMISSION OF THE THESIS OR DISSERTATION	
N 13.1	A thesis or, in the case of the MRes, a dissertation, will be submitted in English, unless otherwise approved by the Graduate School Board of Studies.
N13.2	Submission must be completed within the period of registration and must comply in length, style, layout and presentation with <i>Schedule A</i> of these regulations. The thesis or dissertation submitted for final examination must be in print and electronic format.
N13.3	Where the candidate's own creative work has formed a significant part of the intellectual enquiry under N7.10, the final submission must be accompanied by a permanent record of the creative element of the work, where practicable, bound in with the thesis.
N13.4	The thesis is generally regarded as a public document. Exceptionally, the Graduate School Board of Studies may approve an application for a thesis to remain confidential to enable a patent application to be lodged or to protect commercially or politically sensitive material.
N13.5	Applications for confidentiality are normally made and approved at the time of registration. Where the need for confidentiality only becomes apparent as the research progresses, a later application may be made but must precede submission of the thesis for examination.
N13.6	The period of confidentiality will not normally exceed three years from <i>final</i> submission of the thesis. Approval of requests for exceptions is at the discretion of the Graduate School Board of Studies.
N13.7	The copies of the thesis submitted for examination and the final submission will remain the property of the University but intellectual property rights (IPR) and copyright normally reside with the research student (exceptions are outlined in the Policy on Intellectual Property). Where a student is being sponsored in relation to the research, agreement on the allocation of IPR will be reached at the point of project registration. Where appropriate, the University will assist the student, on an agreed basis, in the exploitation of IPR. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that any third party copyright is respected and that all necessary permissions are obtained.
N14 FINAL EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS	
N14.1	Final examination arrangements, including proposals for the appointment of examiners, are approved by the Graduate School.

N14.2	The Director of Studies is responsible for submitting proposals for the examination team to the Graduate School at least six months prior to the proposed date of the examination.
N14.3	A research degree candidate will be examined by at least two examiners, normally including one internal and one external examiner. In addition, in the case of the PhD and professional doctorate, a suitably experienced independent member of staff, who has completed the requisite training, will be appointed to chair the viva and to keep notes in relation to the process. In the case of the MRes, the internal examiner may act as chair, provided the individual is suitably experienced and has completed the necessary training. In cases where the internal cannot act as chair, an independent chair will be appointed.
N14.4	An additional external examiner is required for students who are also members of staff ¹⁴ of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the University ii. a designated partner institution of the University iii. a collaborating institution as designated on the approved registration documentation.
N14.5	Examiners will be experienced in research in the general area of the student's thesis and, where practicable, will have recent specialist experience in the particular topic that is the subject of examination. <p>In relation to the professional doctorate, at least one member of the examining team must have appropriate experience of working in the profession. Whilst it is preferable to identify an academic with such experience to join the examining team, it is acknowledged that this will not always be possible. In such cases the practitioner will be a third (external) examiner. Thus a team might comprise an internal academic, an external academic (for benchmarking of standards), and finally an external practitioner. At least one of the examiners must be familiar with professional doctorates.</p>
N14.6	The examining team must collectively hold a minimum of two previous examinations of research students at the level of the award being examined. In the case of the MRes, any examination experience suitable to meet this requirement must be from a level 7 research degree, not a taught degree, although doctoral examination experience also meets the requirement. In the case of the professional doctorate, any doctoral level examination experience will contribute to meeting this requirement.
N14.7	An external examiner may not have acted previously as the candidate's examiner (on the same research degree), supervisor or advisor, nor have been, within the previous three years, either a supervisor of another research student, or an external examiner on a taught course, in the same Department.
N14.8	Examiners must declare any close personal or business relationship with a student that could reasonably be thought to bring into question the impartiality of the examination process. The Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies will determine the appropriate action in such cases; this would normally result in the appointment of an alternative examiner.
N14.9	The Graduate School will ensure that an external examiner is not appointed with such frequency that familiarity with the University might be considered prejudicial to objective judgement. Judgements as to whether the appointment of an external examiner is likely to lead to a conflict of interest will be made by the Graduate School.
N14.10	The internal examiner will be a research active member of the University's permanent or emeritus professorial staff who will not be the student's supervisor, former supervisor or

¹⁴ The following are not considered to be subject to this regulation: staff on fractional contracts less than 0.3 FTE, associate tutors teaching fewer than eight hours per week, graduate teaching assistants and staff who have been appointed to a full-time or permanent contract within one year of examination.

	advisor at the corresponding level of study. The internal examiner may not have acted previously as the student's examiner on the same research degree.
N14.11	Where there is a requirement for the thesis to remain confidential, examiners must be prepared to agree to maintain such confidentiality.
N14.12	Examiners are required to maintain confidentiality within the examining process and with respect to the thesis until publication.
N15 THE EXAMINATION	
N15.1	The examinations for the degrees of MRes, professional doctorate and PhD have two stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the submission and preliminary assessment of the thesis or dissertation; ii. the defence of the thesis or dissertation by oral examination (or approved alternative).
N15.2	It is a student's responsibility to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. solely determine when a thesis is ready for submission whether or not it has the approval of the student's supervisors;¹⁵ ii. ensure the thesis is submitted within the registration period and complies with the required format; iii. confirm that the content of the thesis has not been submitted for a comparable academic award (although reference to work already submitted may be made in a thesis covering a wider field).
N15.3	Where a student wishes to submit a thesis earlier than thirty-six months from the date of enrolment, confirmation is required by all members of the supervisory team that the thesis is of an appropriate standard to merit examination.
N15.4	A supervisor's agreement to the submission of a thesis does not ensure its approval by the examiners, nor can it be used as grounds for appeal against the outcome of an examination or introduced as evidence in any such appeal.
N15.5	Use of video or telephone conferencing will not normally be permitted for oral examinations (or approved alternatives) at any stage of the research degree process. Oral examinations (or approved alternatives) need not be held on Edge Hill University premises. All proposals to hold an examination somewhere other than Edge Hill University premises must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies. Normally, oral examinations (or approved alternatives) will be held on mainland Britain. Exceptions must be approved by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies.
N15.6	All examinations will be conducted in English.
N15.7	The oral examination will focus on the programme of work and on the field of study in which the programme lies. Where, for reasons of sickness, disability or comparable valid cause, the Graduate School Board of Studies is satisfied that a candidate would be at serious disadvantage if required to undergo an oral examination, an alternative form of examination may be approved. Such approval will not be given on the grounds that the candidate's knowledge of English is inadequate.
N15.8	Candidates may not take any part in the formal arrangements for the examination, nor have any formal contact with the external examiners between their appointment and the oral examination (or approved alternative).

¹⁵ Students are strongly advised not to submit without the support of their supervisory team but retain the right to do so.

N15.9	One supervisor may attend the oral examination as an observer with the prior written consent of the student, the Chair and the examiners, but must withdraw prior to the deliberations of the examiners on the outcome of the examination.
N15.10	The Graduate School Board of Studies, through the chair of the examination viva, will ensure that the conduct of examinations and the presentation of the examiners' recommendations are undertaken in accordance with the University's regulations. Where the Graduate School Board of Studies is made aware of a failure to comply with the specified procedures, the examination may be declared invalid and new examiners appointed.
N16 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE THESIS OR DISSERTATION	
N16.1	Prior to the oral examination (or approved alternative), each examiner will be sent a copy of the thesis and is required to submit an independent preliminary report in a prescribed format to the Graduate School indicating a provisional recommendation.
N16.2	Examiners may not consult with each other in preparing their report.
N16.3	Recommendations will be based on the examiner's judgement of the thesis in relation to the requirements for the award.
N16.4	If an examiner is of the opinion that no useful purpose would be served by conducting an oral examination (or approved alternative), this will form the basis of the recommendation.
N16.5	Where all the examiners are of the opinion that no useful purpose would be served by conducting an oral examination (or approved alternative), they will provide the Graduate School with written guidance on the deficiencies of the thesis for the student who will then have a period of no more than twelve months in the case of the PhD and professional doctorate, and three months (ninety days) in the case of the MRes, to revise the thesis or dissertation for re-examination. This will constitute a second submission. No further re-examination will be permitted.
N16.6	Where the preliminary recommendations from the external examiners are not in agreement, the Graduate School will consult with all the examiners to reach a decision as to whether to proceed with the oral examination (or approved alternative).
N16.7	The examiners may not recommend that a student fail outright without holding an oral examination (or approved alternative).
N17 FIRST ORAL EXAMINATION	
N17.1	Examinations are conducted as set out in section N15.
N17.2	Following the oral examination (or approved alternative) the examiners will, where they are in agreement, prepare a joint report and recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies and, where the recommendation is to make the award, certify that the thesis meets the criteria for the award.
N17.3	The following recommendations are available to the examiners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. that the candidate be awarded the degree; ii. that the candidate be required to make minor amendments to the thesis or dissertation, with the amended thesis or dissertation being submitted no later than three months from the date of receipt of guidance from the examining team in the case of the PhD and the professional doctorate, and six weeks (forty-two days) from receipt of guidance from the examining team in the case of the MRes. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate, via the faculty, on what

	<p>amendments and corrections are required.¹⁶ The internal examiner will confirm that the amendments have been made. Confirmation of the amendments having been made shall constitute a recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies that the candidate be awarded the degree;</p> <p>iii. that the candidate be required to make major amendments to the thesis or dissertation, with the amended thesis or dissertation being submitted no later than twelve months from the date of receipt of guidance from the examining team in the case of the PhD and the professional doctorate, and three months (ninety days) from receipt of guidance from the examining team in the case of the MRes. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate, via the faculty, on what amendments and corrections are required. The internal examiner will confirm that the amendments have been made. Confirmation of the amendments having been made shall constitute a recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies that the candidate be awarded the degree;</p> <p>iv. that the candidate be permitted to be re-examined for the degree, with a further oral examination (or approved alternative), with the revised thesis or dissertation being submitted no later than twelve months from the date of receipt of guidance from the examining team in the case of the PhD and the professional doctorate, and three months (ninety days) from receipt of guidance from the examining team in the case of the MRes. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate, via the faculty, on the deficiencies of the examination. Such guidance will not specify a series of actions to be taken by the candidate, but simply indicate general deficiencies;</p> <p>v. that no award is made and that the candidate may not be re-examined. The examiners will prepare an agreed statement of the reasons for their recommendation which will be communicated to the candidate via the faculty;</p> <p>vi. in the case of a PhD, that the candidate be awarded an MPhil without amendments being made to the thesis, or in the case of the professional doctorate, that the candidate be awarded an MRes without amendments being made to the thesis.</p> <p>vii. in the case of a PhD, that the candidate be required to make amendments to the thesis for consideration for the award of MPhil, with the amended thesis being submitted no later than eight weeks (full-time) or twelve weeks (part-time) from the date of the receipt of guidance from the examining team. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate, via the faculty, on what amendments and corrections are required. In such cases the original submission will be amended. Candidates are not required to prepare a thesis in accordance with any different requirements, such as the preparation of a shorter thesis or dissertation. In the case of the professional doctorate, that the recommendation above applies, but for the award of MRes;</p> <p>viii. in the case of a PhD, that the candidate be permitted to be re-examined for the award of MPhil, <i>without</i> a further oral examination (or approved alternative), with the revised thesis being submitted no later than twelve months from the date of the receipt of guidance from the examining team. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate via the faculty. Such guidance will not specify a series of actions to be taken by the candidate, but simply indicate general deficiencies. In such cases the original submission will be amended. Candidates are not required to prepare a thesis in accordance with any different requirements, such as the preparation of a shorter thesis or dissertation. In the case of the</p>
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¹⁶ The process of making amendments and corrections (but not revisions for re-examination) following examination should, in the case of all research degrees, be one of dialogue between the student and the examiners prior to submission of the amended thesis or dissertation. As a consequence, the internal examiner will simply check that all of the amendments have been made; there should be no re-examination of the work at that point.

	<p>professional doctorate, that the recommendation above applies, but for the award of MRes;</p> <p>ix. in the case of a PhD, that the candidate be permitted to be re-examined for the award of MPhil, <i>with</i> a further oral examination (or approved alternative), with the revised thesis being submitted no later than twelve months from the date of the receipt of guidance from the examining team. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate via the faculty. Such guidance will not specify a series of actions to be taken by the candidate, but simply indicate general deficiencies. In such cases the original submission will be amended. Candidates are not required to prepare a thesis in accordance with any different requirements, such as the preparation of a shorter thesis or dissertation. In the case of the professional doctorate, that the recommendation above applies, but for the award MRes;</p> <p>x. that the candidate be considered under the University's malpractice regulations.</p> <p>All research degrees are awarded without classification.</p>
N17.4	<p>Where the examiners are not in agreement following the oral examination (or approved alternative), each examiner will prepare a separate report and recommendation, and those will be considered by the Graduate School Board of Studies. The Board will determine one of the following outcomes:</p> <p>i. to accept a majority recommendation provided that such recommendation includes the views of at least one external examiner;</p> <p>ii. to accept the recommendation of the external examiner;</p> <p>iii. to require the appointment of an additional external examiner;</p> <p>iv. to require the appointment of a new examining team;</p> <p>v. to require the appointment of an external advisor to make a recommendation to the Board.</p> <p>In exceptional cases, where the Board feels that an examination has been conducted within the regulations, but that the examiners have failed to make a recommendation that is consistent with the regulations, or with their own comments on the work, the Board may not follow the recommendation of an examination panel. In such cases, the Board may make an award without a further examination.</p>
N17.5	<p>Where an additional external examiner, or new examining team, is appointed, independent preliminary report(s) on the thesis will be prepared and, where necessary, a further oral examination (or approved alternative) will be conducted. The additional external examiner, or examining team, shall not be informed of the opinions or recommendations of the original examiners. Additional examination necessitated by a failure to agree a recommendation on the part of examiners shall not constitute re-examination.</p>
N17.6	<p>Where the Board requires the appointment of an external advisor, the following documentation will be sent to the advisor:</p> <p>a. the thesis;</p> <p>b. the examiners' reports;</p> <p>c. the research degree regulations;</p> <p>d. any additional information stipulated by the Board;</p> <p>e. questions the Board wishes the external advisor to consider.</p> <p>The University does not permit inclusion of a rejoinder by the candidate and/or supervisor.</p> <p>The external advisor is not an additional examiner, but an advisor to the Board requested to pronounce on the relative soundness, correctness and appropriateness of the</p>

	<p>examiners' recommendations, as considered in light of the University's Research Degree Regulations and any other relevant research degree processes of the University that are consistent with the Research Degree Regulations.</p> <p>In cases where there has been two examinations, the external advisor should only be concerned with the latter of the two. The external advisor cannot examine the work or the candidate. The external advisor must consider the case in terms of the University's Research Degree Regulations, not by other considerations, and cannot apply additional criteria in reaching a recommendation.</p> <p>The judgement of the external advisor has the status of a recommendation to the Board, and is in no way binding on the Board.</p> <p>The external advisor may only make recommendations permitted by the Research Degree Regulations (listed in N17.3, or, in cases of re-examination, N18.7).</p>
N18 RE-EXAMINATION	
N18.1	Only one re-examination for a research degree award is permitted. The whole thesis will be re-examined.
N18.2	Where it is satisfied that just cause exists, the Graduate School Board of Studies may approve an extension to the resubmission timescales.
N18.3	Wherever possible, the examining team responsible for the final recommendation from the first examination will operate for re-examination except that the Graduate School Board of Studies may require that an additional external examiner be appointed. When a new examiner joins an examination panel for a re-examination (either because not all members of the original panel were available to conduct the re-examination, or because the Graduate School Board of Studies required the appointment of an additional examiner), that examiner will examine the whole thesis, and will in no way be bound by the decisions of examiners at the first examination.
N18.4	On submission of the revised thesis, examiners will individually and independently complete preliminary report forms.
N18.5	Where the examination team remains unchanged, the appropriate form of re-examination will depend on the outcome of the first examination and/or the examiners' recommendations with respect to the revised thesis.
N18.6	Following the re-examination, the examiners will agree a written report and recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies.
N18.7	<p>In the case of re-examination, the following recommendations are available to the examiners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. that the candidate be awarded the degree ii. that the candidate be awarded the degree subject to amendments being made to the thesis or dissertation, with the amended thesis or dissertation being submitted no later than eight weeks from the date of the receipt of guidance from the examining team in the case of the PhD or professional doctorate, and four weeks in the case of the MRes. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate, via the Graduate School, on what amendments and corrections are required. The internal examiner will confirm that the amendments have been made. Confirmation of the amendments having been made shall constitute a recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies that the candidate be awarded the degree;

	<p>iii. that no award is made. The examiners will prepare an agreed statement of the reasons for their recommendation which will be communicated to the candidate via the Graduate School;</p> <p>iv. in the case of a PhD, that the candidate be awarded an MPhil with or without amendments being made to the thesis, with the amended thesis (if required) being submitted no later than eight weeks full-time or twelve weeks part-time from the date of the receipt of guidance from the examining team. The examiners will provide written guidance to the candidate, via the Graduate School, on what amendments and corrections are required. The internal examiner will confirm that the amendments have been made. Confirmation of the amendments having been made shall constitute a recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies that the candidate be awarded the MPhil. In the case of the professional doctorate, that the recommendation above applies, but for the award of MRes;</p> <p>v. that the candidate be considered under the University's malpractice regulations.</p>
N18.8	Where the examiners are not in agreement, the provisions of N17.4 or N17.6 apply.
N19 ACADEMIC MALPRACTICE	
N19.1	Academic malpractice is regarded as a serious academic offence, and especially within the context of a research degree. Details of what constitutes an academic offence are given in <i>Code of Practice for the Conduct of Research</i> .
N19.2	All allegations of malpractice by the examiners, supervisors, or others in respect of research degrees will be referred to the common procedure outlined in <i>Schedule B</i> and a Panel of Inquiry will be established.
N19.3	The panel will comprise a chair (a dean or professor of the University) and two research active members of staff nominated by the Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies drawn from a standing panel of the committee. No member of the panel will have had any previous involvement with the student nor will they be drawn from the subject area in which the student's research is based.
N19.4	The panel will meet as soon as possible and normally no later than thirty working days from the date an allegation is formally submitted.
N19.5	For the purposes of these regulations, the terms of reference of the panel of inquiry will be to determine whether malpractice has taken place and, if so, to make a recommendation to the Graduate School Board of Studies with respect to the penalty to be applied.
N19.6	<p>The following recommendations are available to the panel:</p> <p>i. The accusation is unfounded and the student should be permitted to continue to examination without penalty;</p> <p>ii. The accusation is upheld and the student should be referred with an opportunity for retraining and resubmission under the re-examination regulations (section N18). (Note this recommendation is not available if the student is already registered for re-examination);</p> <p>iii. The accusation is upheld and the student should be failed outright with a recommendation for exclusion.</p>
N19.7	The Chair of the Graduate School Board of Studies will confirm the position of the student at the earliest opportunity and in any event within two weeks of the hearing.

N19.8	Students who are deemed to have committed malpractice under N19.5 have a right of appeal under the Appeals Procedures of the University (these can be found as an appendix of the University's general Academic Regulations).
N19.9	Where evidence of academic malpractice becomes available subsequent to an award having been made or recommended by the examiners, the malpractice regulations will be invoked and the original decision may be set aside.
N20 PROCEDURAL REVIEW AND APPEALS	
N20.1	All fail decisions, or awards made at a lower level than the registered award, will be reviewed for process and procedure by a standing panel of the Graduate School Board of Studies as a matter of good practice.
N20.2	Research degree students may appeal Graduate School Board of Studies decisions relating to progression and award under the terms of the Appeals Procedure set out in the appendices of the Academic Regulations.

Edge Hill University

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