

ORDINANCE 58(B)ii: Degree of Doctor of Medicine (applicable to students who commenced their studies between September 2008 and August 2016 and submit their initial thesis on or after 2 September 2019)

The University of Liverpool for the encouragement of graduate research has established a degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD) in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

1. The degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD) may be conferred upon graduates in Medicine of this or an approved University, who hold a medical qualification which may be registered in the United Kingdom, not less than two years after the date of admission to their medical degree.
2. A candidate shall be required to present a thesis embodying the results of their individual research. The thesis may contain published papers, in which case these must be integrated into the thesis in a coherent and structured manner. Applications for the degree based on the submission of a book or books shall be accepted on an exceptional basis only. Only papers or book(s) written during the period of registration for the degree will be permissible and the papers or book(s) submitted should have a common theme with an identified link.
3. A thesis shall embody a critical survey of the literature and the results of personal observations or original research either in some branch of medicine or in some science directly related to medicine. The candidate is required to present a thesis, which is adjudged to make a contribution to learning, and which shows evidence of systematic study and of ability to relate the results of such study to the general body of knowledge in the subject.
4. The research must be carried out under the supervision of at least two members of the academic staff of the University appointed by the appropriate Dean of Institute.
5. The University may exceptionally permit a part or all of the research to be pursued outside the University under approved conditions.
6. Before the commencement of the programme, each candidate must have submitted evidence satisfactory to the Faculty and the University of adequate training and ability to pursue the proposed programme of research.
7. The final submission for the degree shall not include work for which a degree or other qualification has already been awarded, except that for the sake of completeness where some previous work has been substantially further developed. In that case, all such work shall be clearly identified.
8. Candidates who fail to meet the criteria for the award of the degree of MD may be awarded the degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil), in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 12 attached to this Ordinance.

REGULATIONS

1. A candidate who proposes to pursue their research study outside the University must have an additional local supervisor approved by the appropriate University Dean of Institute.

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2. Every candidate shall be required to complete appropriate postgraduate research development activities.
3. Every candidate shall register as a part-time student of the University at the beginning of their programme, and again at the beginning of each subsequent year of the programme, subject to the submission of a satisfactory report on the progress of their study.
4. Candidates shall pursue part-time research for not less than two years, from the date of first registration, and must submit their thesis for examination not later than six years from the date of first registration. Notice of intention to submit a thesis shall be given on the prescribed form to the University (Research Degree Administration Team) not less than two months before the date of submission.
5. A candidate shall state generally in the preface and specifically in the body of the thesis, the sources from which their information is derived and the extent to which they have availed themselves of the work of others.
6. Where submission is by written thesis alone, the thesis should be as concise as possible and in no circumstances may a thesis be submitted should the number of words exceed 100,000, including footnotes and appendices, without written permission being obtained from a candidate's supervisors and the Dean of the Institute concerned.
7. It will normally be expected that the candidate is the primary author of the majority of any books or papers submitted. Where joint authorship does occur, a statement of the contribution made by the applicant shall be provided, together with the status of the other authors.
8. The thesis shall be submitted to the Research Degree Administration Team in accordance with the provisions of the PGR Code of Practice: Policy on the Submission of a Research Degree Thesis for Examination.
9. There shall be a minimum of two Examiners, at least one of whom shall be an External Examiner. Where the candidate is a member of the full-time academic staff of the University there shall be two External Examiners and an Internal Examiner. The candidate's supervisor shall not be eligible for appointment as an Examiner.
10. Each Examiner shall prepare an independent written report before the oral examination. After the oral examination, a joint report should be prepared by the Examiners including, when appropriate, an agreed recommendation. If the Examiners are unable to agree on a recommendation, an additional External Examiner may be appointed, who shall be required to act independently of the other examiners.
11. An oral examination of the candidate shall be held, when the Examiners shall examine the candidate on the subject of the thesis, and on matters relevant thereto. A candidate's supervisor may **not** be present at the oral examination but should be readily available to the Examiners for consultation before during and after the oral examination.
12. The Examiners may recommend:
 - (i) that the degree of MD be conferred;

- (ii) that the degree of MD be conferred subject to the candidate making minor modifications to the thesis, which do not alter the substance of the thesis in any significant or fundamental manner, to the satisfaction of one or more of the Examiners, as may be agreed between them;
- (iii) that the degree of MD be conferred subject to the candidate making major modifications to the thesis within six months of the formal notification of the outcome of their *viva voce* by the University. Whilst the Examiners agree that the submission is generally of the standard required for the award sought, some re-structuring of the thesis and/ or clarification of arguments is required in order to merit the award. The required amendments must not materially alter the conclusions of the thesis nor stipulate that the candidate undertake additional research beyond the scope of the original thesis. Modifications must be carried out to the satisfaction of all of the Examiners and a second *viva voce* examination will not be held;
- (iv) that the thesis does not currently meet the standard required for the award sought, however, it has the potential to do so following a period of significant revision and re-working, which might include re-conceptualisation of arguments, amendment to the conclusions and/ or additional research beyond the scope of the original thesis. The candidate is permitted to make a subsequent application for the degree of MD on one further occasion only, provided that the application is made not more than one calendar year from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of their *viva* by the University. A thesis may only be re-presented as the result of a recommendation made in accordance with this provision, and shall be revised having due regard to the Examiners' observations. A second oral examination must be held;
- (v) that the degree of Master of Philosophy be conferred upon the candidate, subject to, if required, minor modifications being made to the thesis to the satisfaction of one or more of the Examiners, as may be agreed between them;
- (vi) that the degree of MPhil be conferred subject to the candidate making major modifications to the thesis within six months of the formal notification of the outcome of their *viva voce* by the University. Whilst the Examiners agree that the submission is generally of the standard required for an MPhil award, some re-structuring of the thesis and/ or clarification of arguments is required in order to merit the award. The required amendments must not materially alter the conclusions of the thesis nor stipulate that the candidate undertake additional research beyond the scope of the original thesis. Modifications must be carried out to the satisfaction of all of the Examiners and a second *viva voce* examination will not be held;
- (vii) that the candidate be permitted to make a subsequent application for the degree of MPhil on one occasion only, provided that the application is made no later than one calendar year from the date of the formal notification of the outcome of their *viva* by the University. A thesis may only be re-presented for the award of MPhil as the result of a recommendation made in accordance with this provision, and shall be revised having due

regard to the Examiners' observations. A second *viva voce* examination must be held;

(viii) that the candidate be deemed not to have attained the standard required for the degree of MD or MPhil and that no further opportunity be allowed for examination.

13. Following the re-examination of a thesis for the award of MD, the Examiners are permitted to recommend only outcomes (i) (ii) (v) or (viii) as listed above. Candidates will not be allowed a further period of re-submission. Where a candidate is invited to submit a revised thesis in pursuit of an MPhil award, Examiners should refer to the re-submission examination recommendations provided in the corresponding MPhil ordinance.

The PGR Code of Practice can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/aqsd/academic-codes-of-practice/pgr-code-of-practice/>

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE TO ORDINANCE 58(B) (FROM JULY 2019 58(B)i AND 58(B)ii)

1. Original amended Ordinance approved on behalf of Senate and Council October/November 2015.
2. Amendment approved by Senate and Council April/May 2016 to make the options to award an MPhil or to allow re-submission for the award of an MPhil available to MD Examiners.
3. Amendments approved by Senate and Council June/July 2019 to establish a suite of new PGR Programme Ordinances which reflect the introduction of the new pass with major modifications examination outcome. The relevant Ordinances have been divided in two, reflecting that two distinct cohorts of PGR candidates exist, whose eligibility to receive a pass with major modifications *viva* examination outcome is determined on the basis of their initial thesis submission date, and therefore, the Ordinance that they are enrolled under. To reflect the splitting of the Ordinance 58(B), Ordinances 58(B)i and 58(B)ii were introduced to replace 58(B).
4. Amendments approved on behalf of Senate and Council August 2021 to make the language more gender neutral and to reflect the change of name of the PGR Student Team to LDC Student Experience Team.
5. Amendments approved on behalf of Senate and Council August 2023:
 - Replacement of the LDC Student Experience Team with Research Degree Administration Team to reflect the realignment of the Liverpool Doctoral College.
 - Removal of reference to the soft-bound thesis to reflect that the thesis is submitted electronically (updates are included in document titles and footers as well as the main body of the ordinances).
 - Removal of reference to submission of physical/electronic copies of the thesis to reflect that the thesis is submitted electronically.