



Framework for Research Awards

**APPROVED BY ACADEMIC BOARD
EFFECTIVE FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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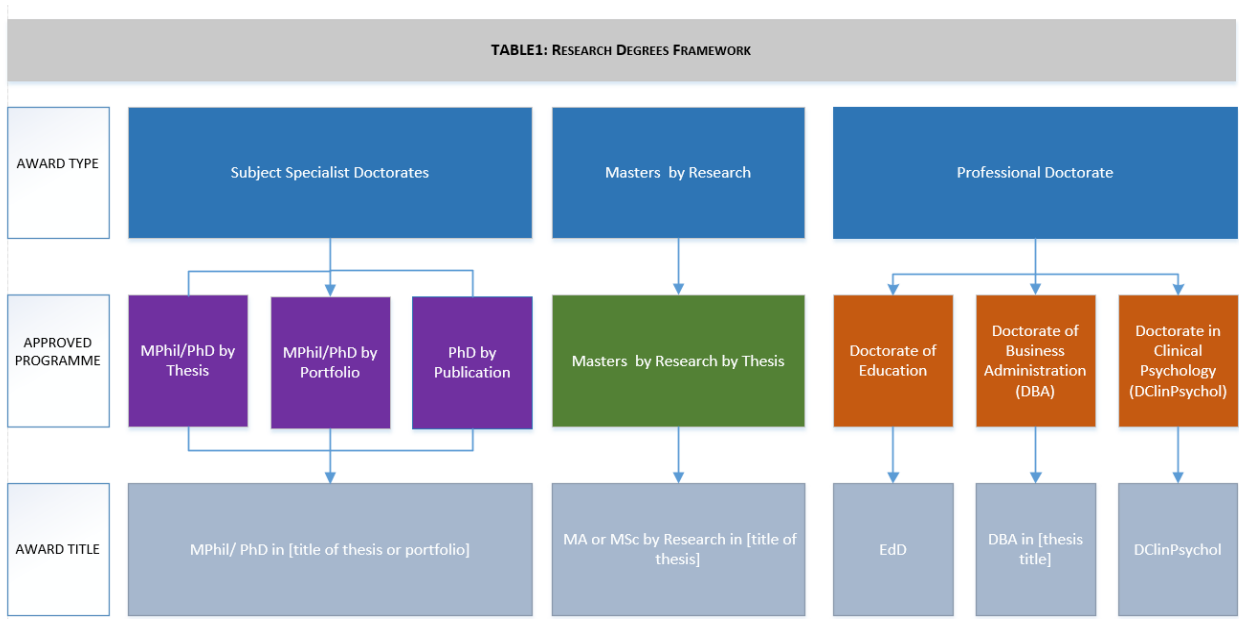
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1 Scope of the Framework for Research Awards

- 1.1. This framework sets out the specific requirements for the operation of Research Awards at Canterbury Christ Church University [the University]. It identifies how such degrees will deliver the principles set out in the University's Learning and Teaching Strategy and the Strategic Plan for Research and Enterprise.
- 1.2. All Research Degrees awarded by the University must comply with the University's Regulation and Credit Framework, specifically the *General Regulations for the Conferment of Awards*, *Regulations for Research Awards* and any programme specific *Special Regulations*.
- 1.3. Where Professional Doctorates have a taught stage, the taught stage will operate under the University's *Regulations for Taught Awards* and underlying procedures.
- 1.4. This Framework applies to all Research Degree programmes at the University.

2 The Research Awards

- 2.1. This Framework organises the University's Research Awards into two categories, as follows:
 - (i) Subject Specialist Research Degrees;
 - (ii) Professional Doctorates.
- 2.2. To deliver this ambition, the University will approve a number of programmes, as set out in Table 1 below. Any additional programmes will require the amendment of this Framework and an approval event.



- 2.3. Once approved, the research degrees require no further approval process for their delivery within a specific School.

3 Subject Specialist Research Degrees

- 3.1. The University awards subject specialist research degrees through its MPhil/PhD and Masters by Research programmes, which enable candidates to demonstrate their original contribution to knowledge, by submitting EITHER:

- (i) by thesis; defined as a single document produced for the express purpose of this award, demonstrating an original contribution to knowledge; OR
 - (ii) by portfolio (MPhil/PhD only); defined as a set of prospective research outputs that may stand alone in their own right, which together demonstrate an original contribution to knowledge; OR
 - (iii) by publication (PhD only), defined as a retrospective portfolio of interconnected, published research outputs contextualised by a coherent narrative, demonstrating overall an original contribution to knowledge.
- 3.2. The PhD and the MPhil are not credit-rated. An MPhil is conceptualised as two-years full-time study, where a PhD is conceptualised as three-years full-time study.
- 3.3. The Masters by Research comprises 180 credits at Level 7.
- 3.4. It is stated, for the avoidance of doubt, that the University reserves the award of Masters in Research, with the title *MRes*, as a taught award for the study of research and does not use it for its Masters by Research programme.

4 Professional Doctorates

- 4.1. A professional doctorate is a Research Award that combines academic study focused on original research and the evaluation of theory with research into practical problems, formulating solutions to complex issues, and designing effective practices within a professional area.
- 4.2. The programme leading to the award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology [DClinPsychol] has been approved outside the remit of this Framework, and authority for the operation of the programme still resides in the Validation Document for the programme.
- 4.3. Professional Doctorates comprise 540 credits, with 180 credits of taught modules at Level 7 and 360 credits of research modules at Level 8.
- 4.4. The 180-credit taught element of a Professional Doctorate will comprise a discrete stage, with a pass/fail progression point at its completion point, and with the possibility of exit with an appropriate taught master's award.

5 Role of the Graduate College

- 5.1. The Graduate College plays a key role in the creation and maintenance of a supportive academic environment that enables postgraduate research students to thrive.
- 5.2. The Graduate College is responsible for the provision of services to support the *Framework for Research Awards*. This will include, but is not limited to:
- (i) the provision and management of a programme of researcher training for students;
 - (ii) centralised student research facilities;
 - (iii) support for the Post Graduate Research Association (PGRA);
 - (iv) the professional development and training of supervisors;
 - (v) annual programme monitoring for research degrees;
 - (vi) maintenance of the research degree programmes and the leadership of any proposals for programme modification.

- 5.3. The Graduate College must consider any new proposals for Research Degree programmes of study prior to their submission to the Academic Strategy Committee for in-principle approval.
- 5.4. The Graduate College owns, manages and ensures compliance with a number of University policies, including:
 - (i) Constitution and Operation of Supervisory Panels for Research Degree Students;
 - (ii) Conduct of Viva Voce Examinations for Research Degree Students;
 - (iii) Conducting a Viva Voce for a Research Degree by Video Conference.
- 5.5. The Graduate College oversees the process for the appointment of external examiners for postgraduate research awards.
- 5.6. The Dean of the Graduate College approves the appointment of supervisory panels for all research degree students, except for the DClInPsychol. These individuals will be drawn from those approved to act as Supervisors by the Research Degrees Board.
- 5.7. The Graduate College is responsible for proposing the constitution of Viva Voce Panels, including the identification of the Viva Chair.
- 5.8. The Graduate College is responsible for producing a Student Handbook for doctoral students and Student Handbook for Masters by Research students, which is:
 - (i) revised on an annual basis;
 - (ii) made available to all students studying for their respective degree;
 - (iii) in the case of a professional doctorate, accompanied by a handbook relating to the taught stage of the award.
- 5.9. The Graduate College manages and oversees the work of the Research Degrees Board.
- 5.10. The Graduate College is responsible for reviewing External Examiners reports for Research Degrees and ensuring that any issues that are identified are resolved and, where necessary, reported to the Research Degrees Sub Committee.

6 Examiners

- 6.1. All external examiners for doctoral programmes will require the approval of the Research Degrees External Examiner Approval Panel.
- 6.2. External Examiners will be appointed for the Masters by Research, MPhil/PhD, DBA and EdD to examine a specified doctoral or masters submission;
- 6.3. Internal examiners for subject specialist research degrees and for the research stage of professional doctorates are appointed by the Research Degrees External Examiner Approval Panel.

7 The Research Degrees Board

- 7.1. There will be a Research Degrees Board, which, as set out in its terms of reference (see Annex One), will, other than for the DClInPsychol:
 - (i) act as the Board of Examiners for Research Awards;
 - (ii) scrutinise and approve annual reviews of progress;

- (iii) scrutinise and approve research proposals and upgrades;
- (iv) approve applications for the award of PhDs by publication;
- (v) approve interruptions and extensions;
- (vi) approve status for the range of roles on supervisory teams.

8 Tier 4 Students

- 8.1. Students undertaking Research Awards within the scope of the University's role as a licensed Tier 4 sponsor, are subject to specific requirements, set out in UK Government regulations for international students.
- 8.2. To ensure compliance with these requirements, all Tier 4 students will be designated as students of the School in which they are registered.
- 8.3. Requirements for Tier 4 students are determined, managed and monitored by the University's Admissions Department, and where, so ever, any requirements set out in this document conflict with any Tier 4 compliance requirements, the latter will always take precedence.

Annex One: Terms of Reference for the Research Degrees Board

Deriving authority from the Academic Board, the Research Degrees Board is responsible for making authoritative progression and award recommendations for students studying on Research Degrees. In carrying out this responsibility, it shall:

1. On receipt of the Examiners' confirmation of completion, scrutinise, and, where appropriate, make recommendations for the award of research degrees, with the exception of the Doctorate of Clinical Psychology, where this function is undertaken by the Board of Examiners for that award.
2. Scrutinise and approve for all students studying for a Research Degree, other than the DClInPsychol:
 - research proposals or equivalent;
 - annual review of progress;
 - upgrades from MPhil to PhD status;
 - applications for the award of PhD by publication.
3. Consider and, where appropriate, approve a request by a student for an interruption or extension to research degrees made under the auspices of the Research Award Regulations.
4. Scrutinise and approve accreditation to act in the range of roles on supervisory teams.

The Board shall meet approximately every six weeks.

Membership

PRO-VICE CHANCELLOR (RESEARCH & ENTERPRISE) OR NOMINEE (CHAIR)	1	PROFESSOR MIKE WEED
DEAN OF THE GRADUATE COLLEGE OR NOMINEE	1	TBC
UP TO TWO MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH DEGREES SUB COMMITTEE BY ROTATION	2	BY ROTATION
MEMBER OF PLANNING & ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION	1	BY ROTATION
CLERK/SECRETARY	1	PAIGE STITSON
TOTAL	6	