

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Effective date:</b>	<b>Next review:</b>
Academic Board	1 August 2025	June 2026

### Regulation statement

The Regulations for Research Awards form part of the University's Regulation and Credit Framework. They are designed to ensure each course and award taught is structured, delivered and assessed fairly, consistently and transparently.

### Who needs to know about the regulations?

- Pro Vice-Chancellors
- Deans and Associate Deans of School
- Teaching Staff
- Managers, supervisors, professional and technical staff
- Students
- Applicants
- External regulatory bodies

### Purpose of the regulations

These regulations apply to research awards conferred by Canterbury Christ Church University. They safeguard the University's academic standards and ensure equitable and fair treatment of students registered on University courses.

They are supported by Additional Course Regulations (alternative regulations for specific courses to meet professional body and/or employer requirements), the Framework for Research Awards and a range of underlying academic policies and procedures.

### Contacts

The University Quality and Standards Office is responsible for updating and maintaining the regulations. The team can be contacted by emailing: [quality@canterbury.ac.uk](mailto:quality@canterbury.ac.uk)

# Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

## Table of Contents

Scope .....	3
2. Key Responsibilities .....	3
3. Alignment with external requirements .....	4
4. Principles for changing the regulations .....	4
5. Award of a Research Degree .....	5
6. Awards at Level 8 .....	5
7. Awards at Level 7 .....	6
8. Entry requirements .....	6
9. Alternative awards .....	6
10. Period and level of study .....	6
11. Interruption to study .....	7
12. Assessment and Examination Arrangements .....	7
13. Research Degrees Board .....	9
14. Appointment of Examiners .....	9
15. Programme of Researcher Training .....	9
16. Taught Stage of Professional Doctorates .....	9
17. Supervision .....	9
18. Transfer .....	10
19. Academic Integrity .....	10
20. Submission for a Subject Specialist Research Award .....	10
21. Viva Voce Examination .....	11
22. Award of a Doctorate (by thesis or portfolio) .....	11
23. Award of a PhD (by publication) .....	12
24. Award of Doctorate of Education .....	13
25. Award of Master of Philosophy .....	13
26. Award of Masters by Research .....	14
27. Aegrotat and Posthumous Awards .....	14
28. Use of Discretion Notwithstanding the Regulations .....	15
29. Academic Appeals .....	15
30. Specific provisions applicable to the award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology .....	16

# Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

## Scope

- 1.1. This document, together with any Additional Course Regulations, sets out the Regulations governing all research awards at Canterbury Christ Church University [the University], wherever they are delivered and irrespective of the date of student registration, unless clearly indicated otherwise in the document.
- 1.2. Where a Research Award has a taught stage, with a progression point at the completion of that stage, the *Regulations for Taught Awards* will apply to the taught stage.
- 1.3. Specific regulations for the award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology [DClinPsychol] are set out separately in Section 30 of this document. The other parts of this document which apply to the award of the degree of DClinPsychol are clauses 1.1 - 4.4 (Scope, Key Responsibilities, Alignment and Principles of the Regulations for Research Awards), 14.1-14.4 (Appointment of Examiners), 5.1-5.8 (Award of a Research Degree), 21.3 (Viva Voce Examination), 17.1-17.2 (Supervision), 19.1-19.3 (Academic Integrity). No other part of this document applies to the DClinPsychol.
- 1.4. The University publishes procedural documents supporting the implementation of these Regulations. If there is any conflict of interpretation between these Regulations and the procedures, these Regulations shall have precedence unless it is determined that this disadvantages the student.
- 1.5. Throughout these regulations, the term examination refers to the viva voce examination, and the term assessment refers generally to all aspects of examined or assessed activity, including the viva voce examination.

## 2. Key Responsibilities

### Academic Board

- 2.1. Wherever the term “Academic Board” is used in this document it refers to the Academic Board of Canterbury Christ Church University.
- 2.2. The Academic Board is responsible for the approval of the Regulations for Research Awards, the Regulations for Research Awards, and Additional Course Regulations [hereafter the Regulations]. The approval of amendments to these documents may be delegated by the Academic Board to the appropriate sub-committee.
- 2.3. The Academic Board will ensure that all arrangements in place to meet these responsibilities are reviewed on a periodic basis to determine that they remain fit-for-purpose.
- 2.4. The Academic Board may delegate such of its powers under these Regulations.
- 2.5. The Academic Board may approve awards that are additional to those set out in Sections 6 and 7 as it sees fit.

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

### Staff

- 2.6. Staff of Canterbury Christ Church University must adhere to the regulations.

### Collaborative Partners

- 2.7. Collaborative partners responsible for the delivery of Canterbury Christ Church University awards are responsible for adhering to the regulations, any Additional Course Regulations that apply and in the underlying procedural documents.

### Students

- 2.8. Students studying Canterbury Christ Church University awards must meet the requirements for their award as set out in these regulations, in any Additional Course Regulations that apply and in the underlying procedural documents.
- 2.9. A student's registration may be terminated due to unsatisfactory progress or attendance. The Academic Board will approve the arrangements for such a termination of registration.

## 3. Alignment with external requirements

- 3.1. The regulations are mapped against the Office for Students regulations, in particular the ongoing conditions of registration and sector recognised standards.
- 3.2. The term 'level' in this document refers to the level of study as defined by the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) (Quality Assurance Agency, 2014).<sup>1</sup>
- 3.3. All awards of the University, whether credit-bearing or not, are assigned to a level in the FHEQ, and will align with the level descriptors.
- 3.4. Where a specific course requires distinct regulations to meet professional body and/or employer requirements, they shall have approved Additional Course Regulations (ACRs). ACRs take precedence over the Regulations. Where the Additional Course Regulations are silent, the standard regulations for the relevant level and/or mode of study will apply in full.

## 4. Principles for changing the regulations

- 4.1. The University may from time-to-time review its regulations to ensure they remain fit for purpose or to reflect external requirements. It will also undertake an annual review. Any changes made as a

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/media/cffb3feb-c7ed-472d-8ad3-008175099a6b/sector-recognised-standards-in-england.pdf>

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

result of review by the University will be recorded in a schedule of changes document and published alongside the regulations.

- 4.2. When changing the regulations the University will seek to ensure students are not disadvantaged in relation to the rights conferred upon their initial registration on a course.
- 4.3. Where regulations are approved that apply to particular groups of students before or after a certain date, this is clearly indicated.
- 4.4. Where a student changes their course and/or returns following an interruption of study, they will be subject to the regulations in place at the time of their re-registration.

### 5. Award of a Research Degree

- 5.1. The University makes the award of Doctor of Philosophy [PhD], at Level 8, based on a supervised research project, designed to enable a student to demonstrate the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research at the forefront of the discipline.
- 5.2. The University makes the award of Doctor in Education [EdD] or Doctor of Business Administration [DBA], at Level 8, based on successful completion of a taught course of not more than 180 credits at Level 7 and a supervised research project, designed to enable a student to demonstrate the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research at the forefront of the discipline.
- 5.3. The University makes the award of Master of Philosophy [MPhil], at Level 7, based on a supervised research project, designed to enable a student to show convincing evidence of their capacity to pursue research and scholarship and represent original work in the discipline, informed by current scholarship and research.
- 5.4. The University makes the award of Masters by Research [MA or MSc], at Level 7, based on a supervised research project, designed to enable a student to demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

### 6. Awards at Level 8

- 6.1. The University may make the following awards at Level 8:
  - (i) Doctor of Philosophy (abbreviated to PhD);
  - (ii) Doctorate of Education (abbreviated to EdD);
  - (iii) Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (abbreviated to DClinPsychol);
  - (iv) Doctorate in Business Administration (abbreviated to DBA).
- 6.2. The University may approve the following courses leading to awards at Level 8:

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

- (i) non-credit-bearing research-based courses leading to the Degree of PhD;
- (ii) Doctoral research degrees without credit;
- (iii) Doctoral degrees of at least 540 credits, of which at least 360 credits must be at Level 8.

### 7. Awards at Level 7

7.1. The University may approve the following research awards at Level 7:

- (i) Master of Philosophy (abbreviated to MPhil);
- (ii) Master by Research (abbreviated to MA/MSc).

7.2. The University may approve the following courses leading to awards at Level 7:

- (i) non-credit-bearing research-based courses leading to the Master of Philosophy (abbreviated to MPhil);
- (ii) research-based postgraduate courses, comprising 180 credits at Level 7, leading to a Master's Degree by Research.

### 8. Entry requirements

8.1. Entrants must meet the requirements for admission as set out in the University Admissions Policy.

### 9. Alternative awards

- 9.1. An alternative award is an exit award lower than the target award for which a student has registered. When making an alternative award the University may consider credits from the course awarded at a higher level.
- 9.2. Alternative awards are not classified unless offered as an honours degree.

### 10. Period and level of study

- 10.1. Depending upon the mode of study approved for a course, a student may be registered for study **EITHER:**
  - (i) on a full-time basis; **OR**
  - (ii) on a part-time basis.
- 10.2. The Academic Board may specify the arrangements whereby the period of study for a course may be varied.
- 10.3. A student must complete a course within the specified period of registration for the level of course. Unless provided for in Additional Course Regulations, the period of registration is to include any periods during which the student is required or permitted by the University to interrupt study for the

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

course and any period of extension to the course approved by the University, other than where there are statutory requirements, such as for maternity.

10.4. The table below sets out the minimum and maximum periods of registration for research courses.

Target award	Full-time minimum registration period	Full-time maximum registration period	Part-time minimum registration period (calculated as 0.5 FTE)	Part-time maximum registration period (calculated as 0.5 FTE)
PhD by Thesis	3 years	5 years	5 years	8 years
PhD by Portfolio	3 years	5 years	5 years	8 years
EdD	N/A	N/A	5 years	8 years
DClinPsychol	3 years	5 years	N/A	N/A
Other Professional Doctorate	3 years	5 years	5 years	8 years
PhD by Publication	N/A	N/A	1 year	2 years
MPhil	2 years	3 years	3 years	5 years
Masters by Research	1 year	3 years	2 years	5 years

10.5. The University may establish criteria to grant exemption from part of a course leading to an award.

10.6. The University may prescribe the requirements relating to the extension of periods of study.

### 11. Interruption to study

11.1. Where a student interrupts the taught stage of a research course with outstanding assessment or reassessment opportunities, the Academic Registrar or nominee may, in agreement with the student, authorise a course of action for the completion of the assessment and/or reassessment, other than that which would have occurred through the normal application for the regulations.

11.2. The arrangements for interruption set out in the University's Interruptions Policy must be followed.

### 12. Assessment and Examination Arrangements

#### Examiners

12.1. Qualified examiners must oversee assessment and examinations. See section 14 for more information.

## **Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26**

### **Examinations**

- 12.2. Examinations must be conducted using the required examination arrangements, conditions and materials, in line with the University's Examination Procedures.

### **Language of Assessment**

- 12.3. The language of assessment is to be English, except where the course approval provides that assessment should be in a language other than English.
- 12.4. Where the language of assessment is English, the submission for a Research Award must demonstrate the student's technical proficiency in the English language together with proficiency in numeracy where appropriate to the discipline.
- 12.5. If assessment is conducted in a language other than English:
- (i) the internal and External Examiners must be fluent in both English and the language of assessment;
  - (ii) assessed work must be first marked and moderated in the language of assessment, in line with the requirements relating to marking procedures.
- 12.6. Translation of work will only be allowed where the following applies:
- (i) there must be prior approval of the translator by the University;
  - (ii) translation is by a translator of professional standing;
  - (iii) the translator follows the professional practice of translation into the translator's first language;
  - (iv) where there is uncertainty about meaning in the original, the area of uncertainty is identified.

### **Submission**

- 12.7. The submission for a Research Award must be the student's work, as set out in the University's Student Academic Misconduct Procedures.
- 12.8. The submission for a Research Award, other than for the PhD by Publication, must embody the results of the student's research during the period of registration.
- 12.9. The submission for a Research Award, must identify any material that the student has previously presented and been accepted for the award of an academic qualification at this University or elsewhere.

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

### 13. Research Degrees Board

- 13.1. The Research Degrees Board will oversee all aspects of assessment for research degrees, other than where it relates to the taught stage of a research award.
- 13.2. The award of a qualification must be approved by the Research Degrees Board.

### 14. Appointment of Examiners

- 14.1. The appointment of External Examiners for Research Awards must be undertaken in line with the Examiners for Research Degrees document.
- 14.2. Two or more examiners, of whom at least one shall be an External Examiner, shall examine each student, who submits work for examination for a research award.
- 14.3. Where the student is a member of staff of the University, there will be two External Examiners.
- 14.4. The Academic Board delegates the approval of the appointment of the internal and External Examiners to a Panel approved by the Research Degrees Sub-Committee for that purpose.

### 15. Programme of Researcher Training

- 15.1. At the required progression points, students must demonstrate that they have completed the required researcher training in order to progress.

### 16. Taught Stage of Professional Doctorates

- 16.1. Where a Research Award has a taught stage that has a progression point at the completion of that stage:
  - (i) a student who does not pass that progression point will not be permitted to continue on their course;
  - (ii) assessment for the taught stage will not contribute to the final award of the qualification.
- 16.2. Where a student who has progressed beyond the taught stage of a Professional Doctorate does not complete the award, it will be the responsibility of the Progression and Award Board of Examiners to confirm the award of a Masters qualification.

### 17. Supervision

- 17.1. All students registered for a Research Award will have a supervisory panel as set out in the Approval of Registration form.

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

- 17.2. Each supervisor must be accredited to act as a supervisor by the Research Degrees Board, according to the criteria for appointment of supervisors set out in the Postgraduate Research Degrees Handbook.

### 18. Transfer

- 18.1. Transfer between different categories of research award is not permitted, with the exception of transfers between PhD by Thesis and PhD by Portfolio, and upgrades from MPhil to PhD.
- 18.2. A transfer between PhD by Thesis and PhD by Portfolio must be requested and approved by the Research Degrees Board at least twelve months before the submission date for full-time students and at least 18 months before the submission date for part-time students.

### 19. Academic Integrity

- 19.1. The University prohibits plagiarism, as defined in the University's *Academic Integrity Policy*.
- 19.2. Accusations of plagiarism will be investigated and dealt with under the procedures that are set out in the University's *Academic Integrity Policy* and *Academic Misconduct Procedures*.
- 19.3. The findings of plagiarism investigations are binding on the Research Degrees Board and the Board of Examiners of a Professional Doctorate.

### 20. Submission for a Subject Specialist Research Award

#### **MPhil/PhD**

- 20.1. The University awards subject specialist research degrees through its MPhil/PhD and courses. The MPhil/PhD is not credit rated and enables 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; 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.

#### **Masters by Research**

- 20.2. The University awards subject specialist research degrees through its Masters by Research courses. The Masters by Research comprises 180 credits at Level 7 and enables candidates to demonstrate their original contribution to knowledge:

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

- (i) by thesis; defined as a single document produced for the express purpose of this award, demonstrating an original contribution to knowledge.

### 21. Viva Voce Examination

- 21.1. In the case of the award of a Research Degree other than a Masters by Research, each student will be required to undertake a viva voce examination.
- 21.2. The viva voce examination must be conducted in line with the Guidance for the Conduct of Doctoral Viva Examinations.
- 21.3. With the exception of the viva voce for the DClinPsychol, where the student so wishes, the student's supervisor may be invited to attend the viva voce as an observer.

### 22. Award of a Doctorate (by thesis or portfolio)

- 22.1. After examining the thesis or portfolio and conducting a viva voce, the Examiners may recommend that:
  - (i) the degree of Doctorate is awarded;
  - (ii) the degree of Doctorate is awarded subject to certain minor corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner within three months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
  - (iii) the degree of Doctorate is awarded subject to certain major corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner, and the External Examiner in cases where both examiners feel this necessary, within six months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
  - (iv) the degree of Doctorate is not awarded at present but that the student be permitted to resubmit the thesis or portfolio in a revised form not later than twelve months after the decision to allow resubmission has been made. If at least one of the Examiners so wishes, they may require the student to undergo a further viva voce examination (the view of the External Examiner takes precedence). The Examiners may also offer the outcome identified in (v) below;
  - (v) the degree of Doctorate is not awarded and, where the degree of MPhil is available, that the student be offered the award of MPhil on the basis of the current submission without further scrutiny;
  - (vi) the degree of Doctorate is not awarded and, where the degree of MPhil is available, that the student be permitted to resubmit the thesis or portfolio for the award of the degree of MPhil subject to certain minor corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner within three months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
  - (vii) no degree is awarded.

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

### 23. Award of a PhD (by publication)

23.1. The University may make the award of PhD by publication on the basis of publications that:

- (i) when placed together and accompanied by a commentary of no more than 10,000 words, have the coherence, quality and extent to be considered equivalent to a PhD thesis or portfolio;
- (ii) constitute a coherent programme of research and a contribution to knowledge, with an appropriate research methodology and the same academic standards that are required for a traditional PhD.

23.2. A submission for the award of PhD by publication may be made, where:

- (i) Permission for the candidate to submit for the award has been approved by the Research Degrees Board
- (ii) the submission has been made no later than two years after 'permission to submit' has been given by the Research Degrees Board;
- (iii) the candidate has been registered as a research student during the intervening period.

23.3. The application to Research Degrees Board for permission to submit for the award of PhD by publication must include:

- (i) a statement of no more than 1,500 words of how these publications meet the criteria for a PhD by publication;
- (ii) the list of publications that are to be considered for inclusion in the PhD submission, including full bibliographical details for written publications and equivalent details for non-written publications, such as practice-based and performance-based work;
- (iii) for each joint publication, the precise amount of work for which the candidate was responsible;
- (iv) full names and contact details of all co-authors who have contributed to joint publications, so that they can be asked for verification with regard to their respective contributions to the published work.

23.4. Where the Research Degrees Board has granted approval for permission to submit for the award of PhD by publication:

- (i) a supervisory panel will be appointed in line with the procedures for Research Awards;
- (ii) the supervisory panel will hold a Review Meeting no later than six months after the date of approval, which will advise the candidate on the continued viability of the work for submission and examination;
- (iii) the submission will be made, and the viva voce will be conducted in line with the Regulations for Research Awards.

23.5. After examining the submission for PhD by Publication and conducting a viva voce, the examiners may recommend that:

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

- (i) the degree of Doctorate is awarded;
- (ii) the degree of Doctorate is awarded subject to certain minor corrections to the commentary being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner within three months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
- (iii) no degree is awarded.

### 24. Award of Doctorate of Education

24.1. After examining the thesis or portfolio and conducting a viva voce, the Examiners may recommend that:

- (i) the degree of Doctorate is awarded;
- (ii) the degree of Doctorate is awarded subject to certain minor corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner within three months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
- (iii) the degree of Doctorate is awarded subject to certain major corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner, and the External Examiner in cases where both examiners feel this necessary, within six months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
- (iv) the degree of Doctorate is not awarded at present but that the student be permitted to resubmit the thesis or portfolio in a revised form not later than twelve months after the decision to allow resubmission has been made. If at least one of the Examiners so wishes, they may require the student to undergo a further viva voce examination (the view of the External Examiner takes precedence);
- (v) where a student who has progressed beyond the taught stage of a Professional Doctorate, does not pass the award, it will be the responsibility of the Progression and Award Board of Examiners to confirm the award of a Masters in Education;
- (vi) no degree is awarded (not applicable where a student has passed the Masters stage).

### 25. Award of Master of Philosophy

25.1. After examining the thesis or portfolio and conducting a viva voce, the Examiners may recommend that:

- (i) the degree of Master of Philosophy is awarded;
- (ii) the degree of Master of Philosophy is awarded subject to certain minor corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner within three months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
- (iii) the degree of Master of Philosophy is awarded subject to certain major corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner, and the External Examiner in cases where both

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

examiners feel this necessary, within six months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;

- (iv) the degree of Master of Philosophy is not awarded at present but that the student be permitted to resubmit the thesis or portfolio in a revised form not later than twelve months after the decision to allow resubmission has been made. If at least one of the Examiners so wishes, they may require the student to undergo a further viva voce (the view of the External Examiner takes precedence);
- (v) the degree is not awarded.

### 26. Award of Masters by Research

26.1. After examining the thesis, the Examiners may recommend that:

- (i) the degree of Masters by Research is awarded;
- (ii) the degree of Masters by Research is awarded subject to certain minor corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner within three months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners;
- (iii) the degree of Masters by Research is awarded subject to certain major corrections being carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner, and the External Examiner in cases where both examiners feel this necessary, within six months of the official notification to the student of the recommendation of the Examiners (the view of the External Examiner takes precedence);
- (iv) the degree of Masters by Research is not awarded at present but that the student be permitted to resubmit the thesis in a revised form not later than twelve months after the decision to allow resubmission has been made.
- (v) the degree is not awarded.

### 27. Aegrotat and Posthumous Awards

#### Aegrotat Awards

- 27.1. An aegrotat award means an award without classification that may be conferred on the presumption that a student who is unable to continue their studies due to illness or other misfortune, would have met the requirements for the award had they been able to continue.
- 27.2. Students on postgraduate research courses cannot be considered for an aegrotat award.

#### Posthumous Awards

- 27.3. A posthumous award means an award that may be conferred where a student who has taken some of the required assessments but has died before completion of all the required assessments.

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

- 27.4. A posthumous award must be recommended by a Progression and Award Board of Examiners based on evidence of achievement available regarding the progress of their studies and will be considered on an individual basis.
- 27.5. The recommendation of an award should be based on the academic judgement that if the student had been able to complete the course, they would have satisfied the requirements of the award being recommended.
- 27.6. Awards may be agreed where at least 50% of the award has been achieved. Alternative awarding outcomes may be agreed by the Academic Registrar
- 27.7. Posthumous awards may be made as unclassified or classified.
- 27.8. The award title will contain the term 'posthumous'.
- 27.9. A posthumous award may be accepted on the student's behalf by a family member or other appropriate individual in consultation with the family.

### 28. Use of Discretion Notwithstanding the Regulations

- 28.1. The Academic Board may, in the most exceptional of cases, make an award or decision notwithstanding the Regulations.
- 28.2. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor or nominee will be responsible for making a decision notwithstanding the Regulations, which will be reported to the Academic Board.
- 28.3. The decision will be made on the advice of the Academic Registrar, who will ensure that appropriate academic judgement is exercised in assessing the case for an award or decision Notwithstanding the Regulations
- 28.4. A recommendation must be based on suitable and sufficient documentary evidence and not oral testimony.
- 28.5. There is an expectation that a student will ordinarily be offered all available opportunities to complete their award within the regulations, before an award or decision notwithstanding the Regulations is considered.
- 28.6. Each decision for an award notwithstanding the Regulations will be reported individually to the Academic Board.

### 29. Academic Appeals

- 29.1. The Academic Appeals Procedure outlines how a student at the University can appeal against a Board of Examiners decision about student progression, assessment, or award. The Academic Appeals Procedure must be followed.

## **Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26**

### **30. Specific provisions applicable to the award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology**

#### **Preamble and definition of terms**

- 30.1. The award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology is an approved course under the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC). Only those graduating from this course and registered with the HCPC can use the protected title 'Clinical Psychologist'.
- 30.2. Where the words 'examination' or 'assessment' appear in this section, they shall be taken to refer to any examined or assessed component of the award, including a viva voce examination.
- 30.3. For this course, refer means referred for assessment.

#### **Award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology**

- 30.4. The award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology is not graded. The possible outcomes are:
- (i) Pass;
  - (ii) Fail.
- 30.5. To pass the award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, a candidate must:
- (i) pass all assessments;
  - (ii) have received no more than five referrals for assessment (whether for first assessment or reassessment);
  - (iii) fulfil all the requirements of such written, practical or clinical work as the Board of Examiners may require by such dates as may be prescribed;
  - (iv) pass the Major Research Project.
- 30.6. For a candidate who meets these requirements, Board of Examiners shall recommend that a candidate be awarded a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology.
- 30.7. An alternative exit award of Postgraduate Diploma Applied Psychology Mental Health is only available to students who have failed the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology but passed years one and two, including undertaken at least one placement from the second year of the course. A placement shall not be provided for the sole purpose of achieving the exit award. There are no other alternative exit awards for students who do not meet this criteria. The PG Dip not classified.
- 30.8. Where a student has not met the specific requirements to pass the award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (and exhausted the available reassessment opportunities), the student will normally be withdrawn from the course at the earliest possible point.

#### **Assessment and Reassessment**

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

- 30.9. The award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology consists of a number of assessments and possible outcomes, which are set out below.

### ***Evaluations of Clinical Competence (Placement) (ECC)***

- 30.10. Assessment of individual competencies captured in the ECC are not considered to be separate assessments but are assessed as part of the ECC assessment.
- 30.11. The possible outcomes of the Evaluations of Clinical Competence on each placement are:
- (i) Pass;
  - (ii) Referral;
  - (iii) Fail.
- 30.12. To pass the ECC, the student must not be referred in more than one competency.
- 30.13. Prior to the final ECC, a candidate who is referred for an ECC on the basis of failure to meet one or two competencies, will be permitted to progress to the next ECC but must pass the referred competencies that ECC.
- 30.14. In the rare event a 'Not applicable' rating has been given to the competence previously rated as a referral, the candidate will be required to meet this competence on the subsequent placement.
- 30.15. A candidate who is referred in more than two competencies or fails a competency is deemed to have failed the ECC. There is one reassessment attempt of a failed ECC permitted.
- 30.16. For clarity, this means that in the event of a placement reassessment the only possible outcomes are:
- (i) Pass;
  - (ii) Fail.
- 30.17. In addition, a candidate who fails a second ECC after failing an ECC which is then passed on reassessment is deemed to have failed the course even if one of the ECCs has a reassessment attempt remaining.

### ***Professional Practice Reports: Direct Work, Assessment of Clinical Skills Parts 1 and 2, Team Policy Reports, Critical Reviews (for cohorts where this is summative assessment) and Quality Improvement Projects***

- 30.18. The possible outcomes of the above assessments are:
- (i) Pass;
  - (ii) Pass with Conditions;
  - (iii) Not pass leading to a Referral;

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

(iv) Not pass leading to a Fail.

30.19. For these assessments, candidates will receive up to two reassessment attempts.

30.20. If the outcome is Not pass leading to a Referral, the candidate will normally be permitted to resubmit a corrected version of the same piece of work to be reassessed.

30.21. If the outcome is Not pass leading to a Fail, the candidate will normally be required to submit a new piece of work for reassessment.

### ***Community Engagement Project Presentation/Critical Review/Reflective Development Report***

30.22. The possible outcomes are:

(i) Pass;

(ii) Fail.

30.23. Where the outcome is fail, candidates will be entitled to two reassessment attempts.

30.24. A fail grade on the first attempt for any of these assessments does not count towards the course limit of 6 fails noted above.

### ***Team Presentation***

30.25. The possible outcomes are:

(i) Pass;

(ii) Fail.

30.26. Where the outcome is fail, candidates will be entitled to two reassessment attempts.

30.27. A fail grade on the first attempt for any of these assessments does not count towards the course limit of 6 fails noted above.

30.28. Where the assessment is deferred, it shall be completed as an individual presentation.

### ***Major Research Project (MRP)***

30.29. The composition of the Major Research Project must be wholly the candidate's own work and must embody the results of the candidate's research during the period of registration.

30.30. Ethical approved is required before commencing the MRP.

30.31. Before applying for ethical approval, the Major Research Project Proposal must have been approved.

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

- 30.32. The final grade of the Major Research Project will be awarded after the viva voce with the External Examiner, which is required.
- 30.33. The possible outcomes of the first submission of the Major Research Project are:
- (i) Pass;
  - (ii) Pass with Minor Corrections;
  - (iii) Pass with Major Corrections;
  - (iv) Revise and Resubmit.
- 30.34. Where a candidate receives a Revise and Resubmit outcome, they are entitled to submit a revised project or an entirely new project. A new project is subject to the MRP Proposal Review process and ethics application process.
- 30.35. On resubmission, the possible outcomes are:
- (i) Pass;
  - (ii) Pass with Minor Corrections;
  - (iii) Pass with Major Corrections;
  - (iv) Fail.
- 30.36. Candidates receiving a Pass with Major Corrections or Pass with Minor Corrections will have a maximum of three resubmission attempts at completing the corrections in order to be awarded a pass.
- 30.37. For candidates receiving a Pass with Major Corrections, if on first resubmission attempt, they do not achieve either a pass or pass with minor corrections, they will receive an outcome of Revise and Resubmit, which will count as one reassessment attempt. This includes failure to submit complete corrections on their first resubmission.

### **Failure of the Course**

- 30.38. In addition to not meeting the pass criteria for the course above, a candidate will normally be deemed to have failed the Course, where:
- (i) their employment contract is terminated as a result of dismissal from their employment, if employment is associated with the training; OR
  - (ii) they demonstrate unsatisfactory progress as a result of failing to pass examinations within the specified attempts or resubmissions, or professional misconduct under Fitness to Practice or HCPC requirements, when the Board of Examiners may recommend termination of the candidate's registration and withdrawal from the course.



## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

### **Professional Disciplinary Status**

- 30.39. Where a student is subject to disciplinary proceedings in their employment setting they shall be required to interrupt the course until the proceedings are resolved.

### **Deferrals**

- 30.40. The University procedures for Deferral apply, however in exceptional circumstances a deferral may be granted beyond the end of an academic year

### **Aegrotat award**

- 30.41. An aegrotat award of Doctorate in Clinical Psychology is not permitted.

## Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26

Document information	Description of document information
<b>Document title</b>	Regulations for Research Awards 2025-26
<b>Department owner</b>	Quality and Standards Office
<b>Document category</b>	<b>Academic</b> - Documents directly affecting research, assessment or teaching within the University <b>Administrative practice</b> - Documents of an administrative or operational nature <b>Students</b> - documents directly affecting student life at the University
<b>Document owner</b>	Senior Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and Business Development)
<b>Document manager</b>	Director of Quality and Standards
<b>Related University policies</b>	<a href="https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/our-students/ug-current/policy-zone">https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/our-students/ug-current/policy-zone</a>
<b>Related University procedures</b>	<a href="https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/our-students/ug-current/policy-zone">https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/our-students/ug-current/policy-zone</a>
<b>Approved by</b>	Academic Board
<b>Date approved</b>	21/07/2025
<b>Date of commencement</b>	1 August 2025
<b>Review date</b>	June 2026
<b>Version</b>	1
<b>History of revisions of the document</b>	Version 1, approved by Academic Board 21/07/2025
<b>Web address</b>	<a href="https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/quality-and-standards-office/regulations-policies-and-procedures/regulation-and-credit-framework/regulation-and-credit-framework.aspx">https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/quality-and-standards-office/regulations-policies-and-procedures/regulation-and-credit-framework/regulation-and-credit-framework.aspx</a>