

PhD by Prior Publication Guidance

Freedom of Speech

City St George's, University of London, regards freedom of speech and academic freedom to be fundamental to delivering its mission as the University of business, practice and the professions. Its values in this respect are set out in a code of practice on freedom of speech and academic freedom, which explains how the University will uphold, secure, and promote freedom of speech within the law. See:

<https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/code-of-practice-on-freedom-of-speech> . Nothing in this policy should be interpreted in any way that would be inconsistent with the code of practice and – in the event of any inconsistency – the provisions of the code will prevail.

1. A PhD by prior publication must meet the same standard of academic excellence as a PhD by any other route

1.1. The following links are to the UK guidelines and descriptors on standards:

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/uk-quality-code-for-higher-education-2024.pdf?sfvrsn=19a5b881_32;

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/doctoral-degree-characteristics-statement-2020.pdf?sfvrsn=a3c5ca81_14

2. The candidate will need to demonstrate an original and significant contribution to knowledge. Six areas are paramount:

- 2.1. Presentation of a coherent body of independent research
- 2.2. Critical appraisal of previous work within which the research is clearly integrated
- 2.3. Design and methodology for investigation(s)
- 2.4. Conduct/execution of research
- 2.5. Analysis of data: evidence or outcomes
- 2.6. Theoretical interpretations and critical discussion

3. A candidate for the degree of PhD by prior publication must be approved by the Research Degrees Programme Committee of the appropriate School.

4. Candidates should be accepted for registration on the basis of all of the below:

- 4.1. possession of a degree (BSc/BA or MSc/MA) from an approved university or an equivalent qualification approved by the Research Degrees Committee, according to the university's standard admission criteria.
- 4.2. the submission of evidence of a body of published work (i.e. work in the public domain) which is likely to be of suitable type and quality to lead to the award of this standard of degree. This may potentially include reports of a high quality and strategic importance rather than being solely limited to peer-reviewed journal articles. Appropriate formats should be considered in relation to the candidate's discipline. Supervisors and Senior Tutors for Research may be helpful to apply a consistent methodology to assess the quality of outputs such as the criteria used by R.E.F.
- 4.3. Candidates within the discipline of performing arts may, in part fulfilment of the requirements of the degree, submit a portfolio of original creative work such as musical composition, choreography and/or audio/audio-visual recordings of

performances. The structure of the portfolio shall be approved by the appropriate Research Degrees Programme Committee before the candidate first registers for the degree; it should therefore comprise a clear and significant contribution to knowledge.

- 4.4. the availability of suitable expertise in the School to supervise and (if appropriate) examine the candidate.

5. Before being admitted to the degree of PhD by Publication, the candidate must:

- 5.1. Submit a proposal including:
 - 5.1.1. the proposed list of publications for submission
 - 5.1.2. an explanation of how they form a coherent body of significant findings
 - 5.1.3. an outline of the critical analysis piece to be submitted for examination
 - 5.1.4. an account of the candidate's contribution to any jointly authored work submitted
- 5.2. Satisfy the Research Degrees Programme Committee that the proposed body of work for submission is likely to be considered by examiners as sufficient quality to be comparable with the award of the degree of PhD by other routes
- 5.3. Provide details of referees who can comment on the quality of the candidate's research and their contribution to any joint research activities to be submitted.
- 5.4. The number of articles to be submitted shall not be fixed but will normally consist of at least six substantial publications of suitable quality.
- 5.5. For consideration of suitable quality, the committee may use overall equivalence to REF 3 or 4* standards as a guideline, taking into account that different types of publication or output may be considered.

6. During the period of registration a candidate shall:

- 6.1. Prepare the final list of the publications on which the assessment for the degree is to be based;
- 6.2. Prepare a critical analysis of the work submitted (normally no more than 20,000 words). This should place the work in its overall context, demonstrate the coherence and contemporary relevance of the work, describe the implications of the work for future research and critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the work and its overall contribution to knowledge.
- 6.3. Make a presentation relating to their work to their department. This presentation will not be assessed but will be mandatory.

7. General submission requirements

- 7.1. Work for which a degree or other qualification has been awarded may not be submitted, except for supporting evidence within an appendix.
- 7.2. Within the submission there will be a clear statement from the applicant stating their contribution to each co-authored publication, in particular relating to the design, conduct, analysis and publication; this should be signed off by all the authors involved (unless unavailable).
- 7.3. Submissions should be in English. Where work published in a language other than in English is included in the submission a copy in English must be provided.

Approval Notes	Date
Initial approval by Senate	17 th October 2018
Merged policies	9 th of July 2025