

REGULATION 24a PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES

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 regulation 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.

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1 INTRODUCTION

- i. This regulation sets out the core principles, structures and processes that underpin the award of a Professional Doctorate, aligned with level 7 and Level 8 of the [Office for Students Sector-Recognised Standards](#) and national [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(FHEQ\)](#). The Regulations form part of the University's terms and conditions.
- ii. A professional doctorate is a programme of advanced study that is usually aimed at a clearly demarcated area of professional practice. It allows candidates to place professional knowledge within an academic framework. As a result, the research undertaken is usually related to the specific area of professional practice. Professional doctorates also provide a significant amount of structured training (taught components), especially in research methodology, and these components may be assessed and credit bearing. The structured training supports candidates progressing into their independent research project.
- iii. This Regulation should be read in conjunction with:
 - a. [The Framework for Research Degrees](#), which sets out the scheme of delegation between University Senate, the Doctoral College and academic Schools and Departments
 - b. The Programme Specification for the relevant Professional Doctorate programme
 - c. Supplementary policies and guidance, as contained in the University's webpages.

2 AWARD OF A DEGREE

- i. City St George's (hereafter referred as the 'University') will confer one of the following awards on candidates who successfully complete the requirements of an approved Professional Doctorate programme:
 - a. Doctor of Public Policy (DPP)
 - b. Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)
 - c. Doctor of Psychology (DPsych)
 - d. Doctor of Health (DHealth)
 - e. Doctor of Practice and Services Development (DPSD)
 - f. Doctor of Journalism (DJourn)
- ii. The awards listed above may be supplemented by the addition of a named award title. Where two or more disciplinary specialisms feature in the named award title, there should be an appropriate balance of emphasis on each subject area. For instance, approximately equal balance for a joint (A and B) title and, for major/minor (A with B) titles, the minor discipline accounts for at least a quarter of the programme.
- iii. Where more than one named award title is outlined, there shall be tangible and explicit differentiation in programme aims, structure and/or research emphasis that is specific to each named award. The City St George's Programme Approval Committee (CPAC) will ultimately confirm the appropriateness of award title(s).
- iv. Joint and dual awards for Professional Doctorate programmes are to be made in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement with a partner awarding institution.

- v. The University's Framework for research degrees applies equally to partnership and validation provision unless different and specific arrangements have been agreed as part of the formal agreement between institutions or as approved via the relevant Committee that oversees the partnered or validated programme.
- vi. The approval of new awards, and development of new programme schemes, is delegated by Senate to the City St George's Programme Approval Committee, with input from relevant stakeholders such as the Doctoral College Board of Studies. The Committee can, at their discretion, refer matters to Senate for discussion.

3 ADMISSIONS

3.1 STANDARD ADMISSIONS

- i. This section of the regulation should be applied in conjunction with:
 - a. [Senate Regulation 14](#) on Admission of Students and Occasional Students;
 - b. The University's [Admissions Policy \(Research Degrees\)](#);
 - c. Any other policies for admission which apply to University students, under the responsibility of the University's Admissions Office.
- ii. Applicants must follow all general entrance requirements, as set out in the above documents, along with any research programme-specific requirements as set out in the programme specification or the University's online prospectus.
- iii. Where the requirements for admission are satisfied, a student's candidature is also dependent on the School being satisfied with the initial research proposal and having the appropriate resources, facilities, and supervisory arrangements in place to allow enrolment.
- iv. The School in which the programme is based will, provided it is satisfied with a student's academic fitness for the programme of research, recommend an application for admission. Depending on the programme, this may include the nomination of a supervisor or supervisors and other such information. This shall include a short description of the subject of research, and recommendations on the category and effective date of registration. Alternatively, the research proposal and nomination of supervisors may come at a later date.

3.2 RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) AND PRIOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (RPEL)

- i. Notwithstanding the requirements outlined in 3.1, students may be admitted with advanced standing through the recognition of prior learning (RPL) or recognition of prior experiential learning (RPEL) process in line with the University's [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.
- ii. RPL and RPEL can only be applied to taught modules (level 7 or 8). It is not possible to claim RPL or RPEL against the research modules (level 8) of a programme.
- iii. Up to one quarter of the total taught credits for the Masters award within a Professional Doctorate programme may be achieved through RPL or RPEL.

4 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

4.1 CREDIT FRAMEWORK

- i. Professional Doctorates consist of credit obtained through the study of taught modules and through research. Credit is regarded as taught (level 7 or 8) or research (level 8, e.g., the thesis / dissertation). Credit will be structured with a base of 15 credits per module or multiples thereof. All programmes should make available interim awards, or earlier exit routes and certificates of credit, where this is academically appropriate.
- ii. Credit obtained through taught modules (level 7 and 8) is governed by **Part 1: Taught Modules** of this Regulation. Credit obtained through research modules (level 8) is governed by **Part 2: Research Modules** of this Regulation.
- iii. **Professional Doctorate**
A course leading to a Professional Doctorate consists of 540 credits at level 7 or 8. This consists of a maximum of 180 credits at level 7 with the remaining of the credits at level 8 including the dissertation module (i.e. 360 credits).
- iv. **Master's degree**
A course leading to a Master's degree consists of 180 credits at level 7 or 8, with a minimum of 150 credits at level 7.
- v. **Postgraduate Diploma**
A course leading to a Postgraduate Diploma consists of 120 credits at level 7 or 8, with a minimum of 90 credits at level 7.
- vi. **Postgraduate Certificate**
A course leading to a Postgraduate Certificate consists of 60 credits at level 7 or 8, with a minimum of 40 credits at level 7.

4.2 MODE OF STUDY/CATEGORY OF REGISTRATION

- i. Students **may** enrol on either a full-time or part-time basis subject to any limitations specified in the Programme Specification.
- ii. Full-time candidates are expected to dedicate a full working week (at least 35 hours) to the doctoral programme on average throughout the year, except when on approved annual leave.
- iii. A full-time candidate may, with the permission of their internal supervisor and Head of Department, undertake additional paid work, providing that this is not detrimental to the progress of the degree. Work for the University will be governed by the Graduate Teaching Assistant's policy. Note that student visa holders may be subject to additional limits on the amount of work that may be undertaken, and they should check with the International Student Advice team before engaging in any such work if they are unclear about the government limits currently in force.
- iv. Part-time candidates are expected to dedicate at least 16 hours (equivalent to two working days) per week to their doctoral programme on average throughout the year, except when on approved annual leave.
- v. A student can change their mode of study from full-time to part-time, or vice versa, during the period of study, if the programme allows part-time study. This will usually only be allowed once, and not normally in the final year of study.

- vi. Where mode of study is specified by a student's funder, their rules will apply.
- vii. Students can register for a Professional Doctorate programme in one of the following categories:
 - a. Internal Candidates; Internal candidates are registered with City St George's and receive supervision by staff appointed by the University.
 - b. External Candidates; External candidates pursue a course of research either in an educational institution or in an industrial or commercial organisation, which has been approved as a validated partner. An externally-registered student will be allocated a supervisory team consisting of an approved external supervisor, who will fulfil the role of the First Supervisor, and one current member of the academic staff of the University.
External candidates are required to:
 - o spend at least 4 days per year in the University;
 - o give an annual seminar on their research;
 - o meet with their internal supervisor.
 Please also see the [Doctoral Conditions & Categories of Registration policy](#).
 - c. Staff Candidates; a staff candidate is a member of staff at the University, current or retired, who is registered for a research degree. Staff candidates are subject to the same minimum and maximum periods of candidature as any other candidate registered under these Regulations. Supervision arrangements for staff candidates are the same as those for internal candidates.

4.3 PERIODS OF CANDIDATURE

- i. Professional Doctorate programmes will be subject to a minimum and maximum period of candidature. The relevant programme specification may outline a different length of the relevant programme registration, but it would not exceed the minimum or maximum period of candidature as outlined below. The periods of candidature may also be subject to relevant regulatory requirements.

Award	Minimum length of candidature		Maximum length of candidature (including writing-up)	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Professional Doctorate	3 years	4 years	6 years	8 years

- ii. A programme of study must be followed continuously and completed within the maximum period of candidature. Maximum periods of candidature will normally include resits and repeats.
- iii. The period of candidature ends when a student submits their thesis for examination.
- iv. If a student fails to submit their thesis for examination by the maximum period of candidature, they will be deemed to have withdrawn from the degree and will be awarded the highest qualification they are entitled to as an exit award.

4.4 EXTENSIONS TO THE MAXIMUM PERIOD OF CANDIDATURE

- i. A student is expected to complete their research project and submit for examination within the minimum and maximum periods of candidature for their intended award. In

a limited set of circumstances, they may be permitted by the Doctoral College Board of Studies to extend their period of candidature in accordance with the University's policy on [Extension of Candidature](#) (Research Degrees).

- ii. Extensions of candidature will normally only be permitted once a student has transferred to writing-up status.
- iii. An Extension of Candidature will normally be approved for no more than a maximum period of twelve months.
- iv. An application for an Extension of Candidature must normally be submitted at least 3 months before the end of the maximum period of candidature. Approval of an extension of candidature will not normally be approved retrospectively, save in exceptional circumstances where the researcher or department can provide a good reason for not disclosing circumstances sooner.
- v. Where a Professional Doctorate has no clear transfer to writing up stage, extensions of candidature are permitted within three months from the current end of candidature date. The extension should only be approved where it permits the student a reasonable opportunity to complete a named award on the programme.
- vi. Any limits or conditions placed on extensions by their funding body (if they are a studentship holder) and their expectation of submission within a specific funded period, will take precedence.

5 PROFESSIONAL TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- i. Programmes may include approved professional, industrial, clinical or other training that is normally undertaken outside the University:
 - Where this training is structured and assessed against learning outcomes, student attainment may be included as an assessment mark or pass/fail grade.
 - Where this training is not assessed based against learning outcomes, a student's overall professional training record will be assessed as 'satisfactory' or 'unsatisfactory' (or other appropriate nomenclature) by the appropriate internal examiner in consultation with the professional or industrial supervisor(s) and will be included in the transcript.
- ii. 'Satisfactory' results will be communicated to the Assessment Board for the final Programme Stage assessment.
- iii. If a student has passed the final Programme Stage assessment but has 'unsatisfactory' professional training results, or if the professional training was not completed:
 - the student will undertake further professional training to the satisfaction of the appropriate Internal Examiner, or
 - the Assessment Board and/or Doctoral College Board of Studies may award the student an academic qualification that excludes reference to professional training and/or professional registration.

6 INTERRUPTION OF STUDIES

- i. Students are expected to remain registered and have a continuous period of candidature, except in circumstances where an interruption of studies is approved by

the Assessment Board and/or Doctoral College Board of Studies in accordance with the University's policy on [Interruption of Studies](#) (Research Degrees).

- ii. Candidates for a Professional Doctorate programme will typically only be permitted up to two periods of interruption of between 3-12 months each to ensure the currency of the research project. The attendance of core modules may affect the Resumption of Studies date, and this must be agreed with the Programme Director or Senior Tutor for Research (STR). These limits do not apply to periods of parental leave. If they are holding a studentship, the rules on interruptions stipulated by their funding body will apply.
- iii. A period of interruption will not count towards the maximum period of candidature.
- iv. Following a period of interruption, a student should normally restart their studies at the beginning of the equivalent term in which the interruption commenced unless the student has transferred to writing up, whereby they may be able to return at another appropriate point. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis and the rationale for the timing will be documented. The student's return to the Programme may need to be dealt with via the Special Scheme of Studies process to take into account taught elements that a student has been absent for.
- v. Where the teaching for one or more modules has been completed at the point of interruption, a student may apply to complete the assessments for that Module during the period of interruption. This will normally only be permitted where the nature of the student's circumstances leading to the interruption would not affect their performance in the assessments. Where the student is permitted to sit assessments during the interruption period, they must attempt all the assessments for Modules for which teaching has been completed.
- vi. Where a student has resit assessments outstanding at the start of the interruption period, they may apply to attempt those resit assessments during the period of interruption. Where the student is permitted to sit resits during the interruption period, they must attempt all resit assessments that are outstanding.
- vii. Consideration of Interruption of Studies applications will take account of any overriding professional, statutory and regulatory body (PSRB) or legal requirements and any fee or funding implications.
- viii. In exceptional circumstances, where a student's ability to study has been seriously impacted, and the student is unable to apply for an Interruption of Studies, the [Support for Study Regulation](#) may be invoked.
- ix. If a student is a visa holder, an interruption of studies may affect their ability to remain in the UK as per the conditions of their visa, and they should discuss their circumstances with the University's Visa Advice team before applying for an interruption.

7 WITHDRAWAL

- i. A student may choose to withdraw from a programme, in accordance with our policy on [Notification of Withdrawal](#). Students will be liable for fees until such point as the withdrawal is approved by the Assessment Board and/or Doctoral College Board of Studies.

- ii. The University may also initiate a student's withdrawal, subject to approval by an Assessment Board and/or the Doctoral College Board of Studies, because of:
 - a. failure to meet the pass requirements for a module and/or not completing any required resit (notwithstanding any Extenuating Circumstances) by the required date;
 - b. the recommendation of an Annual Progress Review due to poor academic progress, having been given a second opportunity to improve and resubmit for the same milestone;
 - c. the recommendation of a progress review convened by the School due to significant academic concerns;
 - d. the outcome of an academic misconduct or research misconduct panel;
 - e. non-academic misconduct, in accordance with [Senate Regulation 13](#);
 - f. lack of contact/engagement with the University (over 3 months);
 - g. failure to submit the thesis for examination by the end of the maximum period of candidature.
- iii. Where a student is withdrawn from a programme, they will be awarded the highest qualification they are entitled to as an exit award.
- iv. Students may appeal a decision to be withdrawn in accordance with [Senate Regulation 21](#) on appeals for Research Programmes.

8 TOPPING UP TO A DIPLOMA, DEGREE OR DOCTORATE

- i. If a student has been awarded a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Master's degree of City St George's and then wishes to return to complete the Postgraduate Diploma, Master's Degree or Doctorate for the same Programme, they may apply to be re-admitted to complete the higher award subject to PSRB and clinical requirements that confirm the candidate's fitness to practice and provided that:
 - the student was not withdrawn from the Programme due to academic failure;
 - the credit already awarded and the research/research proposal, where relevant, remains current;
 - the student returns within a maximum of five years from the start of the date of first registration;
 - That existing student numbers allow for the addition of (an) additional student(s) to the relevant year group;
 - the maximum period of candidature for the Programme, calculated from the start of the date of first registration, will not be exceeded.
- ii. It is not necessary for students topping up to a diploma, degree or doctorate to be considered through the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) process but the previous Award must be rescinded.
- iii. If the student fails to achieve the higher Award, they will retain their original Certificate, Diploma or Degree.

9 RE-ENROLMENT FOLLOWING FAILURE

- i. A student who has been withdrawn from a Programme due to failure or who has accepted an Exit Award due to failure of a Programme Stage is not permitted to re-enrol on the same Programme or to transfer to a Programme that is significantly similar

in content to the original Programme (e.g. where there are common Modules or a shared first year).

- ii. A student who has received an Exit Award due to failure of a Programme Stage or block of study is not permitted to top up to a higher Award.
- iii. Where a student has demonstrated some ability to study successfully at the relevant level, it may be possible for them to apply to re-enrol in an alternative Programme of study. This option depends on the availability of places and the eligibility of the student for the different Programme.

10 AEGROTAT AWARD

- i. A student prevented by illness or other sufficient cause from completing an Award may, at the discretion of the appropriate Assessment Board and, subject to PSRB requirements, receive an *Aegrotat* Award. An *Aegrotat* Award will be awarded without classification.
- ii. Candidates must normally have completed the penultimate Programme Stage (or assessment) of their Programme of study to be recommended for an *Aegrotat* Award. For undergraduate and postgraduate Awards, the *Aegrotat* Award should correspond to the level of study that is interrupted.
- iii. To be eligible for this Award, both the Internal and External Examiner(s) must confirm that an Award would have been likely to be awarded if the final assessment for a Programme had taken place.
- iv. The Assessment Board and/or Doctoral College Board of Studies may make a recommendation for an *Aegrotat* Award of a qualification up to but not exceeding the final qualification for the Programme on which a candidate is registered. *Aegrotat* Awards are approved by the Academic Registrar on behalf of Senate.

11 POSTHUMOUS AWARD

- i. Posthumous Awards are approved by the Academic Registrar, upon the recommendation from an Assessment Board and/or the Doctoral College Board of Studies on behalf of Senate. All decisions are reported to Senate. The Doctoral College Board of Studies may recommend that the award of a posthumous research degree be made when a candidate has passed away:
 - a. after the thesis has been examined but before the oral examination can be held. In such a case the Board of Studies shall consider the material presented and any preliminary judgment of the examiners. Provided that the Doctoral College Board of Studies is satisfied that the work is the candidate's own, and that it meets the standard normally required for the proposed research degree to be awarded, it may recommend that an appropriate award be made.
 - b. before submitting the thesis. In such a case the Research Degree Programme Committee shall consider the available evidence of the research completed to date by the candidate. Such evidence shall normally be provided by the candidate's main supervisor. Examiners shall be nominated and approved by the Research Degree Programme Committee. The Examiners shall be advised of the circumstances under which the material is being examined and shall be asked to provide an independent assessment of the material presented. The Examiners

shall be asked for an opinion on whether the quality of the research is sufficient to warrant the award of a research degree. The following criteria must be satisfied:

- enough of the research project must have been completed to allow a proper assessment to be made of the scope of the thesis;
 - the standard of the research work completed must be of that normally required for the award of the degree in question, and must demonstrate the candidate's grasp of the subject;
 - the written material available must demonstrate the candidate's ability to write a thesis of the required standard.
- c. The Doctoral College Board of Studies may award a posthumous research degree drawn from Clause 4 of these regulations or Clause 2(i).
- ii. Where a student has yet to begin the research element of the Professional Doctorate, or insufficient research material is available to make a research award, a posthumous award of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or Master's degree may be recommended by an Assessment Board where a student has completed all assessments for a named (exit) award. The Assessment Board can recommend that a posthumous degree should be awarded with honours and classification.

12 REVOCATION OF AWARDS

- i. In exceptional circumstances, the University may revoke an Award made to a student. Such cases will be subject to the provisions of Senate Regulation 13 - Student Discipline and will be investigated by a Senate-appointed Disciplinary Panel which will approve and apply sanctions in accordance with the Regulation.

13 APPEALS

- i. Students may appeal against a decision of an Assessment Board (based on taught modules) if specific grounds are met (see Senate Regulations 20 and 20b).
- ii. They may appeal against a decision regarding their research registration status, or the outcome of a viva examination if specific grounds are met (see Senate Regulation 21 and 21b).
- iii. They may request a review of the Examiners' decision (based on research modules) in accordance with the Appeal Regulations for Research Programmes (see Senate Regulation 21).
- iv. They are expected to pursue any grievances concerning the adequacy of supervisory or other arrangements which arise during the period of study through Complaints Regulations (see Senate Regulation 26).

14 SUSPENSION OF THE ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

- i. In very exceptional circumstances, where the integrity of the assessment process is compromised by unforeseen circumstances (not otherwise accounted for in the Regulations) or where the application of the Regulations would unfairly disadvantage a group of students, it may be necessary to suspend the Assessment Regulations.
- ii. The University Ordinances allow the President, in certain circumstances, to suspend or depart from Regulations to ensure that a group of students may progress or

graduate where it would not be reasonable and/or equitable to adhere to the existing Regulations.

- iii. Circumstances that might require suspension of the Assessment Regulations must be considered alongside any relevant case precedents and legal and regulatory considerations to ensure that students are treated fairly and consistently and to maintain academic standards.
- iv. Any approved change must be comprehensively and effectively communicated to any students impacted by the decision at the earliest opportunity.

15 PART 1: TAUGHT MODULES

Credit obtained through taught modules (level 7 and 8) is governed by **Part 1: Taught Modules** of this Regulation.

15.1 PROGRESSION AND AWARD

15.1.1 Requirements to pass a Module

- i. The requirements to pass a module are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.
- ii. Credit may be awarded by the Assessment Board and/or the Doctoral College Board of Studies.

15.1.2 Module Pass marks

- i. To successfully pass a Module a student must achieve the Module pass mark as set out below:

Programme	Modules	Module Pass Mark
Professional Doctorate	Level 7 and 8	at least 50%

- ii. Any other requirements stated in the Module specification must also be met.

15.1.3 Module Assessment Components

- i. The regulations pertaining to module assessments components are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.2 PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE

- i. The [Student Attendance and Engagement Policy](#) outlines the expectations for student attendance and how this is supported by the University.
- ii. School Boards of Studies must approve arrangements for participation in all forms of assessment (including participation, late participation and any extensions that may be permitted in certain circumstances, usually where a student has submitted Extenuating Circumstances) and these will be detailed in the Programme Handbook. These procedures will take into account the nature of the subject area and any professional, statutory or regulatory requirements.
- iii. Students are expected to attend scheduled lectures, tutorials and laboratory sessions and are required to participate in all assessment components by the specified deadlines. Assessments must be submitted in line with the arrangements approved by the Board of Studies.
- iv. Attendance for some students on some Programmes and/or Modules is mandatory, often to meet PSRB requirements. Where this is the case, the requirement for mandatory attendance is set out in the Module and Programme Specifications, and attendance will be recorded and will count towards the successful completion of a

Module or Programme Stage. These requirements will normally lead to a pass or fail and will not normally contribute to overall Award classification.

15.2.1 Late Participation in an Assessment

- i. The regulations pertaining to late participation in an assessment are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.2.2 Failure to Participate

- i. The regulations pertaining to failure to participate are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.3 AWARD AND CLASSIFICATION

- i. Professional Doctorate exit awards (Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma, Master's degree) are based on taught modules only and may be conferred by Assessment Boards under authority delegated to it by Senate.
- ii. The regulations pertaining to award and classification for taught awards are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.4 FAILURE OF A MODULE

- i. The regulations pertaining to failure of a module are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes. Any alterations to these regulations are outlined below.

15.4.1 Compensation

- i. References to postgraduate programmes in the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes include taught modules on Professional Doctorate programmes.

15.4.2 Trailing of Credit

- i. The regulations pertaining to trailing of credit are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.
- ii. No modules may be trailed into the research stage of the Professional Doctorate.

15.4.3 Resits

- i. The regulations pertaining to resits are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.4.4 Multiple Failed Assessments (Resits or Partial Repeat Year)

- i. The regulations pertaining to multiple failed assessments (resits or partial repeat year) are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.5 EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

- i. The regulations pertaining to Extenuating Circumstances are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes. For clarity, Extenuating Circumstances apply to any modules where a resit can be offered.

- ii. Extenuating Circumstances only apply to taught modules at level 7 and level 8.

15.6 MARKING, MODERATION AND FEEDBACK

- i. The regulations pertaining to a) marking and moderation, b) feedback on assessed work and c) Internal Examiners are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.7 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

- i. The regulations pertaining to External Examiners are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

15.8 ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- i. The regulations pertaining to academic misconduct for students on taught modules (level 7 and level 8) are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.
- ii. Section 16.6 outlines our approach to Research Academic Misconduct.

15.9 ASSESSMENT BOARDS

- i. The regulations pertaining to Assessment Boards and Assessment Board Advisory Panels for taught modules (level 7 and level 8) are outlined in the relevant section of the [Assessment Regulations](#) for taught programmes.

16 PART 2: RESEARCH MODULES

16.1 RESEARCH SUPERVISION

- i. Candidates will be allocated a minimum of one supervisor with appropriate research experience to oversee the completion of the research thesis.
- ii. The supervisor will be an academic member of the University staff, in accordance with the criteria for a category A supervisor as set out in the [Appointment of Doctoral Degree Supervisors](#) policy. Their employment contract must be valid for the typical duration of candidature; staff on probation may not act as First Supervisor. External supervisors may not act as the First Supervisor.

16.2 RESEARCH SKILLS MODULES

- i. Research Skills modules aim to enhance research, study, and time management skills required for a significant original research investigation. These modules will equip candidates with the ability to analyse diverse research methodologies and critically evaluate academic literature, enabling them to complete their research.

16.3 PROGRESSION

- i. Students must pass the current academic year's taught modules to progress to the next academic year.
- ii. If a year (e.g. year 2 or 3) does not have a taught module assessment, the student should be assessed with an Annual Progression Review mirroring the review PhD students need to complete each year before progressing to the following year.

16.4 THESIS

- i. The Programme Specification outlines the thesis requirements.

16.5 VIVA CHAIRS

- i. The purpose of a Chair of viva voce examination panels is to ensure that the operation of the assessment process is rigorous, fair, reliable and consistent. The Chair should meet the criteria according to the [Doctoral Degree Examination policy](#), and the Chair must have sufficient experience in PhD supervision and examination to enable them to act with authority, in addition to fulfilling the criteria outlined above.

16.6 ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- i. The regulations pertaining to academic misconduct for students on research modules (level 8) are outlined in the [Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy for Postgraduate Research Programmes](#).

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