

## Key Changes to Postgraduate Degree Regulations 2024/25

Links within the regulations to other information have been updated as necessary.

<b>Regulation Updated</b>	<b>What has changed</b>
<b>24 Attendance and Participation</b>	A clarification has been added to state that students on on-campus programmes are expected to continue in-person attendance during the dissertation or research project component of PGT Master's programmes. This has been added following concerns raised by the Student Immigration Service about visa-holding PGT students leaving the UK during the summer period to complete their dissertation or research project. In-person attendance is expected by UKVI for the entirety of programmes, so there is a risk to the University's status as a sponsor if students leave during this period.
<b>28 Reductions to the Prescribed Period of Study</b>	Amended to refer to regulation 18 of the Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees for information about early submission on doctoral or MPhil degrees. An additional process for reduction to the prescribed period of study is not required in cases where early submission is supported by the relevant College.

<p><b>33 Authorised Interruption of Study</b></p>	<p>A clause has been added stating that, on programmes with a prescribed period of full-time study of 9 months, the total permitted period of Authorised Interruption of Study is 12 months. This was approved by APRC on 21 September 2023.</p> <p>A further clause has been added to state that, on part-time continuous Masters programmes with a prescribed period of study of 36 months, the total permitted period of Authorised Interruption of Study is 24 months. This replaces the existing provision of 12 months for these students, and is based on experience of concessions cases from CMVM in particular. On a programme of three years' duration, it is not uncommon for students to have more than one period where they need to take an extended break from study, for example due to ill health or maternity leave.</p>
<p><b>34 Extensions of Study</b></p>	<p>Added statement that additional periods of study offered for the completion of corrections or resubmission of a thesis following examination on a PhD or MPhil programme do not count towards the total maximum period of permitted extensions.</p>
<p><b>43 Termination of supervision</b></p>	<p>This regulation has been amended to refer to a separate document, which outlines the process for consideration of termination of supervision. This process was approved by APRC's predecessor Committee, CSPC, in April 2017.</p>

<p><b>45 Request for Reinstatement on Doctoral and MPhil degrees</b></p>	<p>This regulation has been amended to include coverage of students who withdraw before the end of their programme, who may also be permitted to apply for reinstatement. While students who have been excluded for lapse of time will be permitted only to return to submit a completed thesis, students who withdrew with time remaining in their programme may be offered this time to complete their thesis before submission. The proposed change carries minimal risk, since Colleges retain the right to refuse reinstatement for any reason, but especially where they are not satisfied that the student will successfully complete a passable thesis, or where appropriate supervision is not available. Students who have been excluded for any reason other than lapse of time (e.g. due to failure to progress following an annual review) will not be permitted to apply for reinstatement.</p> <p>The amended regulation advises that students who require a Student Visa to study must contact the Student Immigration Service for advice before applying for reinstatement.</p>
<p><b>46 Vacation Leave for Research Students</b></p>	<p>Clarification has been added that the allowance of eight weeks' vacation leave applies to each year of study, and that this is included in the prescribed period of study.</p>
<p><b>48 PhD Thesis Length – Word Count</b></p>	<p>Clarification has been added regarding what constitutes “preface material”: table of contents, acknowledgements, list of abbreviations, list of illustrations.</p>
<p><b>68 PhD – Submission by Portfolio in Art, Design and Landscape Architecture</b></p>	<p>Amended to state that the bibliography is not included in the word count for the thesis. This reflects the position for other PhD degrees.</p>
<p><b>85 Diploma in Professional Legal Practice</b></p>	<p>This regulation has been amended to reflect changes approved by the School Board of Studies. This includes the removal of the reference to the pass</p>

	mark and courses in Regulation 85a, and a revision to the number of resit attempts available in Regulation 85b.
<b>88 Masters in Surgical Sciences</b>	This programme-specific regulation no longer applies and has been removed.