

## Changes to Academic Regulations 2024/2025 (Research)

This document provides details of the substantive changes that have been made to the university's academic regulations for research programmes (PhD, MPhil, EngD, MDRes) and the DSc for 2024/2025. If further information is required, please contact the Quality Assurance and Enhancement team at [quality@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:quality@imperial.ac.uk). Please note that it would be expected that students liaise with their programme team in the first instance if they have questions regarding the regulatory framework.

### 1. Format and Style Changes

All academic regulations, policies, and procedures documentation has been, or is in the process of being updated to meet the new brand and styling for the university. Staff can access information about the brand changes on the dedicated [website](#).

These changes mean that where specific paragraphs/regulations are referenced within any other documentation, updates will be required. Please contact the team at the website above if support is required to identify the correct new reference.

In addition to the format and styles changes, the documentation has been updated to reflect changes in university structures and to its [ordinances](#), including where relevant references to the Early Career Researcher Institute (previously refers to Graduate School).

### 2. Regulations for Students

These regulations have been rescinded from 2024/2025. Please see the mapping document on the [regulations](#) webpages which details of how aspects of these regulations have been incorporated elsewhere within the university's regulatory structures or have been fully rescinded.

### 3. General Regulations

These regulations apply to undergraduate and postgraduate taught students governed by the *Academic* and *Examination* Regulations (Regs B), and to research students. The following changes in addition to that listed in paragraph one, have been made within these regulations:

23/24 para number	New para number	Change	Notes
5.2	12	Confirmation of enrolment deadline by which that	<p>'Students who fail to complete enrolment for each session of their programme after <b>21 days</b> will normally be considered to have withdrawn and their registration will be terminated.'</p> <p>This update reflects the wording in the Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study</p>

#### 4. Research Regulations (PhD, MPhil)

In addition to that listed in paragraph one, the following changes have been made to the *Regulations for the Awards of MPhil and PhD*:

- Updates to terminology:
  - “Postgraduate research degree” replaces “doctoral programme”

23/24 para number	New para number	Change	Notes
1.3	8	Paragraph updated and moved to scope of regulations section	
1.5	-	Paragraph removed	Formal statement no longer required.
3.2	11	Update References to UK and European education frameworks	
4.5	17	Update to the requirements for those transferring prior to entering writing up status	Additional clarity was required to ensure transfer students completed “active” research at the university before proceeding to writing up.
New (approx 5.5)	23	Inclusion of specific regulation regarding concurrent registration, and repeated similar study.	<i>“A student will not normally be permitted to register concurrently for more than one award of Imperial or of any other university or institution unless the scheme under which concurrent registration will operate has been approved by the Senate. Nor will any person be admitted as a candidate to any assessment leading to an award of Imperial who has been admitted as a candidate for assessment leading to the comparable award of another university or institution unless they have pursued separate prescribed programmes of study leading to the assessments concerned”</i>
New (after 6.1)	25	Confirmation of approval pathway for transfer from PhD to MPhil	<i>The University may permit a student to transfer from PhD to MPhil, subject to approval by the supervisor and the Director of Postgraduate Studies</i>
7.1	30	Update to references for <i>Mutual Expectations for the Research Degree Student Supervisor Partnership</i>	
7.2	31	Additional clarity of outcome where student fails to complete prescribed training courses and lectures (MPhil).	Update ensures parity with PhD candidates in this regard.
7.6-7.9	35-38	Updates to paragraphs to provide clarity for minimum attendance	

23/24 para number	New para number	Change	Notes
		requirements and eligibility for external study leave.	
8.1	40	Update to provide clear timelines for full- and part-time candidates with respect to ESA, LSR and Progress Review (PhD)	<p>Early Stage Assessment (ESA) by 12 months (full time) and 24 months (part time)</p> <p>Late Stage Review (LSR) by 24 months (full time) and 48 months (part time)</p> <p>Progress Review must be held by 36 months (full time) and 72 months (part time).</p>
8.2	41	Additional paragraph to confirmed expectations for MPhil students with regards to ESA, LSR and Progress Review.	<i>MPhil students are not required to complete an ESA, LSR or Progress Review</i>
8.3	42	Confirmation of timeline for Initial Research Plans (where required) for full- and part-time students	<p>Full-time: three months</p> <p>Part-time: six months</p>
8.8	47	Confirmation of approval process for the form of the LSR.	Process devolved to Director of Postgraduate Studies and oversight by Faculty Education Committee (or equivalent).
8.12	51	Confirmation of requirement and potential consequences of failing to complete requisite training courses.	Reinforcement of para 7.2
New para	56	Progress review definitions and requirements added	<i>A formal monitoring point must be completed by 36 months (full time) or 72 months (part time) to ensure that the student's research is progressing and can be completed within the expected timescales. At this point students are normally expected to demonstrate that they are on track to complete all experimental work or collection of material related to their thesis. At this Progress Review students should submit a timetable of remaining work to be completed in order to meet the expected thesis submission deadline. The plan must be recommended by the Main Supervisor and approved by the Director of Postgraduate Studies (or nominee) who will confirm that the milestone has been completed</i>
8.18	-	Moved and incorporated into changes above.	

23/24 para number	New para number	Change	Notes
12.1.1 (a)	71a	Removed requirement for the supervisor to certify the student's statement on joint work within the thesis.	It was agreed that it was inappropriate/not possible for the supervisor to 'certify' this statement, given the breadth of the requirements.
12.2.1 (a)	72a	As above	As above
12.3.5	75	As above	As above
12.3.4	76	Inclusion of reference to Generative AI	<i>A thesis must be presented for examination in a final form in an electronic format conforming to the university's <a href="#">thesis submission and viva examination procedures</a>. Students must include a short statement in their words, that the work is their own and that all else is appropriately referenced, <b>including any work generated by an artificial intelligence and/or machine learning programme</b>. If students refer to material within a published work where they are a co-author, it must be made clear in this originality statement what their contribution to the work was. Additionally, direct use of text from the published work should be specifically limited to text that students made a major contribution to the writing of. For advice on ensuring students have permission to reuse their work in their thesis, please refer to the university's guidance on <a href="#">reproducing your own published work</a>.</i>
14.1.3	85	Updated to appointment of examiners	Inclusion of hyperlink to <a href="#">Procedure for Appointment of Examiners for Research Degrees</a> .

## 5. Research Regulations (EngD)

These Regulations have not been updated, beyond that listed within paragraph one of this document.

## 6. Research Regulations (MRes)

In addition to that listed in paragraph one, the following changes have been made to the *Regulations for the Awards of MPhil and PhD*:

23/24 para number	New para number	Change	Notes
4.3a		Removed requirement for the supervisor to certify the student's statement on joint work within the thesis.	It was agreed that it was inappropriate/not possible for the supervisor to 'certify' this statement, given the breadth of the requirements.

23/24 para number	New para number	Change	Notes
4.6		As above	As above
4.8		Update to reflect changes in MPhil and PhD regulations including reference to Generative AI	<i>A thesis must be presented for examination in a final form in an electronic format conforming to the university's <a href="#">thesis submission and viva examination procedures</a>. Students must include a short statement in their words, that the work is their own and that all else is appropriately referenced, <b>including any work generated by an artificial intelligence and/or machine learning programme</b>. If students refer to material within a published work where they are a co-author, it must be made clear in this originality statement what their contribution to the work was. Additionally, direct use of text from the published work should be specifically limited to text that students made a major contribution to the writing of. For advice on ensuring students have permission to reuse their work in their thesis, please refer to the university's guidance on <a href="#">reproducing your own published work</a>.</i>
4.9		Update in terminology. Para matched to MPhil and PhD regulations	<i>After the examination has been completed, and before the degree is awarded, successful students are required to submit to the <b>university, for depositing with the university library, one copy of the thesis in electronic format conforming to the instructions issued by the university.</b></i>
8.2		Update in terminology	<i>A <b>degree certificate</b> under the seal of the university shall be subsequently delivered to each student who has been awarded a degree.</i>
8.3		Update in terminology	<i>The <b>degree certificate</b> will bear the names of the student in the form in which they appear in the records of the university at the date of issue</i>
New para (aprox 8.4)		Confirmation of eligibility for DIC	The <i>General Regulations</i> state that successful candidates will be awarded the DIC. Whilst included in EngD and MPhil/PhD regulations it had not been explicitly referenced in these regulations previously.

## 7. Regulations for the Award of the Doctor of Science (DSc) Degree

These Regulations have not been updated, beyond that listed within paragraph one of this document.