

**For the Academic Policy &  
Regulations Committee**

**University of Birmingham**

**Request for amendments to the Regulations and the Code of Practice  
on Assessment and Award of Higher Doctorates and the  
Code of Practice on Admission of Postgraduate Research Students**

**Topic and Purpose of the Paper**

1. To seek amendments to:
  - The Regulations in respect of the proposed deletion of a section of text from Regulation 6.1.3 (a) (ix), regarding the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS).
  - The Code of Practice on Assessment and Award of Higher Doctorates, by deleting clauses 1.2, 6 (6.1 - 6.4) and 7 (7.1 – 7.4), and inserting this material, as new clauses 4 – 6, into the Code of Practice on Admission of Postgraduate Research Students.

**Consultation**

2. The request for these amendments arises from Academic and Student Administration's Postgraduate Research Team having identified anomalies that will be rectified by these proposals.

**Proposals/Recommendations**

3. That the following text from Regulation 6.1.3 (a) (ix) in respect of the degree of DDS, be deleted:

*Collected published work may be submitted provided that it is on a single topic and supported by a narrative statement summarising the substance of the work and discussing the inter-relationship of the totality of the work published.*

The DDS is a research degree based on research undertaken during registration, not upon previous work. Accordingly, applicants for a doctorate based upon previous achievements should be considered for the PhD by Published Work.

4. That information concerning the DDS and MD be deleted from the Code of Practice on Assessment and Award of Higher Doctorates and inserted into the Code of Practice on Admission of Postgraduate Research Students.
  - 4.1 The Code of Practice on Assessment and Award of Higher Doctorates 1.2 currently reads as follows:
    - 1.2 For the following higher doctorates, specific conditions apply, treated below in sections 7 respectively. Unless different

procedures are specified in section 7, sections 2 to 6 apply to these higher doctorates equally:

Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS)  
Doctor of Medicine (MD)

- 4.2 The Code of Practice on Assessment and Award of Higher Doctorates 6-7 currently read as follows:

**6. Higher Degrees Registrations by Research Fellows and Research Associates**

- 6.1 *A Research Fellow or Research Associate may register as a candidate for a higher degree on the following conditions*
- 6.2 *The Senate or delegated authority concerned shall be satisfied as to the suitability of the candidate on academic grounds.*
- 6.3 *The same authorities shall be satisfied that the candidate will have sufficient time, apart from his or her duties as a Research Fellow or Research Associate, for the research required for the degree as well as facilities for a suitably broad training in research method.*
- 6.4 *Registration shall normally be sought at the commencement of the candidate's higher degree research programme and the required period of advanced study and research in the University shall be specified by the appropriate authority at the time of registration: this will normally be at least two academic years in the case of a Masters degree and at least four academic years in the case of a Doctors degree. These periods may be reduced in individual cases where it can be shown that a candidate is working full-time on the higher degree project.*

**7. DDS/MD**

- 7.1 *Applicants for the higher degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery will be eligible to apply five years from the date of having passed the Final BDS examination of this University.*
- 7.2 *Applicants for the higher degree of Doctor of Medicine must have passed the Final MBChB examination of this University. Such candidates must normally be engaged in postgraduate study in this University or associated hospitals whilst holding a full-time, part-time or honorary University appointment.*
- 7.3 *Graduates of other Universities will be expected to submit their work to the University which awarded their primary degrees. But a graduate of another University may be permitted in certain circumstances to apply for permission to register for the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery of this University. Such candidates must:*
- 7.3 .1 *Have been in possession of a degree recognised for Full Registration by the General Dental Council of the United Kingdom or the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom as appropriate; and*

- 7.3 .2 *Be engaged in postgraduate study in this University or associated hospitals whilst holding a fulltime, part-time or honorary University appointment throughout this period; and*
- 7.3 .3 *For the higher degree of Doctor of Dental Science it is also necessary to have held the relevant degree for five years and to have spent the last two years holding a fulltime, part-time or honorary University appointment in this University or associated hospitals; and*
- 7.3 .4 *For the higher degree of Doctor of Dental Science it is necessary to submit the thesis within two years of leaving the appointment at this University or associated hospital.*
- 7.4 *All candidates are required to make an application for permission to submit for the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. Such application must be made at least one year before the intended date of submission of the thesis and must include:*
- .1 An outline of the research which will be the subject of the thesis.*
  - .2 Details of where the research will be undertaken.*
  - .3 An up-to-date curriculum vitae.*
- 4.3 As these clauses relate to the admission of students to research degrees, not higher doctorates, it is more appropriate for this information to be located in the Code of Practice on Admission of Postgraduate Research Students rather than the Code of Practice on Assessment and Award of Higher Doctorates. This does not constitute substantive deletion of material; rather it is movement and reorganisation to better effect.
- 4.4 It is therefore proposed to delete and transfer this material to the Code of Practice on Admission of Postgraduate Research Students, clauses 4-6, to read as follows:
- 4. Eligibility for admission to the DDS**
- 4.1 *Five years from the date of having passed the Final BDS examination of this University a candidate will be eligible to apply for permission to register for the higher degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery.*
- 4.2 *Graduates of other Universities will be expected to submit their work to the University which awarded their primary degrees. But a graduate of another University may be permitted in certain circumstances to apply for permission to register for the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery of this University. Such candidates must:*
- (i) have been in possession of a degree recognised for Full Registration by the General Dental Council of the United Kingdom for five years; and*
  - (ii) have been engaged in postgraduate study in this University or associated hospitals for at least two years whilst holding a full-time, part-time or honorary University appointment*

- throughout this period; and*
- (iii) submit the thesis within two years of leaving that appointment.*

**5. Eligibility for admission to the MD**

5.1 *Applicants must have passed the Final MBChB examination of this University. Such candidates must normally be engaged in postgraduate study in this University or associated hospitals whilst holding a full-time, part-time or honorary University appointment.*

5.2 *A graduate of another University may be permitted in certain circumstances to apply to register. Such candidates must:*

- (i) be in possession of a degree recognised for Full Registration by the General Medical Council of the United Kingdom; and*
- (ii) be engaged in postgraduate study in this University or associated hospitals whilst holding a full-time, part-time or honorary University appointment.*

**6. Research Fellows and Research Associates**

6.1 *A Research Fellow or Research Associate may register as a candidate for a research degree on the following conditions:*

6.2 *The Senate or delegated authority concerned shall be satisfied as to the suitability of the candidate on academic grounds.*

6.3 *The same authorities shall be satisfied that the candidate will have sufficient time, apart from his or her duties as a Research Fellow or Research Associate, for the research required for the degree as well as facilities for a suitably broad training in research method.*

6.4 *Registration shall normally be sought at the commencement of the candidate's research degree programme and the required period of advanced study and research in the University shall be specified by the appropriate authority at the time of registration: this will normally be at least two academic years in the case of a Masters degree and at least four academic years in the case of a Doctors degree. These periods may be reduced in individual cases where it can be shown that a candidate is working full-time on the research degree project.*