

Oral Examinations

Background to Proposed changes

The way in which the current Regulation is written implies that the option to apply for an exemption only applies to vivas for doctoral degrees. The revision has been made to be clear that an exemption can be applied for for all vivas.

Where permission is granted for an exemption to the oral examination, a sentence has been added to require examiners to make alternative arrangements for clarification of any points of ambiguity and to satisfy themselves that the thesis is the postgraduate researcher's own work.

Revised Regulation

7.4.5 Oral Examinations

7.4.5 (a) A Registered Student submitting a thesis for a masters degree by research (as specified in section 6) may be required to undergo an oral examination on the research and thesis. The decision on whether to hold an oral examination shall be taken with the agreement of both the internal and external examiners. An oral examination must be held in all cases where examiners are proposing that the thesis be rejected.

7.4.5 (b) A Registered Student submitting a thesis for a doctoral degree (as specified in Section 6) shall be required to undergo an oral examination on the research and thesis, ~~unless an exemption is agreed by the Senate or under delegated authority. Such exemptions shall be granted only in exceptional circumstances.~~

7.4.5 (c) A Registered Student may apply to the Senate or delegated authority for an exemption to the requirement to attend an oral examination. Exemptions shall be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Where an exemption is granted, the examiners should make appropriate alternative arrangements to clarify any points of ambiguity and satisfy themselves that the thesis is the Registered Student's own work.

7.4.5 (e) (d) The arrangements for and conduct of oral examinations for research degrees shall be as specified in the Code of Practice for Assessment of Research Degree Theses.