

Imperial College London

Regulations for the award of the MPhil and the PhD

These Regulations apply to students registering in and after January 2011¹

1 Admission and Registration

- 1.1 The normal minimum entrance requirement for registration for the MPhil or PhD degree is:
- (a) a Second Class Honours degree (normally at least an Upper Second Class Honours) and a taught Master's degree awarded by a UK university institution or degrees of an equivalent standard awarded by a university institution overseas, in a subject appropriate to that of the programme to be followed; or
 - (b) a registrable qualification appropriate to the programme to be followed awarded in Medicine by a UK university, or a qualification of an equivalent standard awarded by a university institution overseas; or
 - (c) a professional or other qualification obtained by written examinations and approved by the College.
- 1.2 Applicants possessing alternative qualifications may also be considered by the College.
- 1.3 A candidate may register directly for the award of the MPhil degree or the PhD degree.
- 1.4 A candidate registered directly for the award of the MPhil degree will not normally be permitted to transfer to the PhD degree.
- 1.5 A candidate registered directly for the PhD degree may be required to transfer to the MPhil degree in accordance with paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 below.
- 1.6 The College may exempt from part of the programme of study of the PhD degree, a person who has commenced a programme of study for the PhD degree (or equivalent degree) of another university, in accordance with the conditions specified by the College.
- 1.7 An applicant may be required to pass a qualifying examination (see Section 2) and may also be required to meet, in respect of certain fields and subjects, additional qualifications for admission as determined by the College.

¹ The Senate agreed, at its meeting on 16 June 2010, that Departments should be permitted to implement these regulations for students admitted on or after 1 October 2010 providing they confirmed to the Graduate School that appropriate procedures were in place for handling the 9 month and 24 month milestones. The Graduate School approved the implementation of these regulations from 1 October 2010 in the following Departments: Chemical Engineering; Chemistry; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Earth Science and Engineering; Life Sciences; Materials; Mechanical Engineering; Medicine; Physics; Imperial College Business School; Institute of Clinical Sciences; National Heart and Lung Institute; School of Public Health.

- 1.8 English language and other tests may be prescribed by the College.
- 1.9 Every applicant must make an application to the College in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the College.

2 Qualifying Examinations

- 2.1 A student who is required to satisfy qualifying conditions before being eligible to proceed to the MPhil or the PhD degree may, at the discretion of the College, be permitted to register before these conditions are satisfied.
- 2.2 Except with the special permission of the College a candidate who fails to pass a qualifying examination prescribed for them will not be permitted to re-enter for the qualifying examination; if re-entry to the qualifying examination is permitted, a candidate will be limited to one re-entry.

3 Progression

- 3.1 The College may permit a student to transfer from a Postgraduate Taught degree to the PhD degree, or from the PhD degree to the MPhil degree in accordance with the conditions specified by the College, provided that no transfer of registration is permitted after entry to the examination for any one of these degrees.
- 3.2 The College may require a student to transfer from the PhD degree to the MPhil degree in accordance with paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7 below.
- 3.3 The College may permit a student to transfer from the MD(Res) degree to the PhD degree, or from the PhD degree to the MD(Res) degree, in accordance with the conditions specified by the College, provided that no transfer is permitted after entry to the examination for either one of these degrees.
- 3.4 The transferred registration may be dated from the date of the initial registration for the degree from which transfer has been made.
- 3.5 On transfer of registration, the registration for the original degree will lapse.
- 3.6 Assessment of a student's research ability to determine whether registration for the PhD degree can continue will be determined by a confirmation examination, held 9 months (18 months for part-time students) after the date of initial registration. Students are required to submit a report, typically between 20 and 30 pages and including a literature review, results to date and a plan for future work. Students are given a viva on this report by at least one assessor in addition to or other than the supervisor. If the College determines that the student's progress is such that they cannot continue, the student may be required to withdraw from College at this stage; alternatively the student may have to transfer their registration to the degree of MPhil.
- 3.7 A further review of a student's research ability will be undertaken between 18 and 24 months (between 30 and 36 months for part-time students) after the date of initial registration, the form of review to be determined by the student's Department. Subject to progress the College may at this stage permit the

student to proceed, may require the student to transfer to and write up their work for the MPhil degree or may require the student to withdraw from College.

- 3.8 A student registered for the award of MPhil will not be subject to a formal progression review. Throughout their approved period of study, all MPhil candidates must submit written reports on their progress as and when requested by their Department.

4 Attendance and Programme of Study

- 4.1 Every student is required to pursue a regular programme of study at the College under the direction of their supervisor(s), and in line with the [Mutual Expectations for the Research Degree Student Supervisor Partnership](#).
- 4.2 The MPhil programme of study will require attendance at training courses and lectures as prescribed by the Graduate School² and a student's Department.
- 4.3 The PhD programme of study will require attendance at training courses and lectures as prescribed by the Graduate School³ and a student's Department. Failure to complete the requisite training courses may result in a student's registration being transferred from PhD to MPhil or prevent a student from entering the PhD or MPhil examination.
- 4.4 Save as otherwise prescribed in 4.5 below, the minimum length of programme for the degree of PhD shall be 24 months of full-time study or the equivalent (normally 48 months) in part-time study from the point of registration⁴. The minimum length of programme for the degree of MPhil shall be 12 months of full-time study or the equivalent (normally 24 months) in part-time study.
- 4.5 A student accepted under transfer of registration arrangements in paragraph 1.6 above may be exempted from part of the programme of study for the PhD degree provided that the programme of study followed at the College is not less than 12 months full-time or 24 months part-time.
- 4.6 A programme of study must be pursued continuously except by permission of the College authorities. Students are expected to enrol⁵ each academic year.
- 4.7 Students are required to undertake the majority of their research at the College except where these requirements make provision for study elsewhere (see paras 4.8 – 4.10 below): in such cases there is a minimum attendance of 12 months at the College for PhD students. MPhil students should normally spend a minimum of 6 months in attendance at the College.
- 4.8 Students may be granted permission to have study leave⁶ so that they may undertake field work or aspects of their research away from College, subject to the requirements set out in 4.7 above.

² The professional skills attendance requirement is set out in the Graduate School's Professional Skills Statement of Policy: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/study/pg/graduate-school/students/doctoral/professional-development/attendance-requirement/>

³ See footnote 2.

⁴ Registration is the act of confirming that the student has met the conditions of admission and commenced a programme of study. Registration occurs once at the beginning of the relevant programme of study.

⁵ Enrolment is the annual procedure by which it is confirmed that students have progressed adequately, confirmed their mode of study and have made arrangements for the payment of fees for that academic year.

⁶ Study leave is a period of time of 2 weeks or more where a student is either undertaking a placement with a third party to whom direct supervision of the student is transferred (e.g. a company, research institute or an institution of higher education) and is subject to the Placement Learning Policy or is undertaking another form of approved study away from the College not subject to the Placement Learning Policy, such as extended fieldwork.

- 4.9 Students may be permitted to register for a research degree at an institution approved by the College for the purpose under the Partner Research Institution scheme.
- 4.10 PhD students may be permitted to register for a research degree under split PhD arrangements subject to the requirements set out in 4.7 and 4.8 above.
- 4.11 Full-time PhD students are required to submit a research degree examination entry form no later than 44 months after initial registration for the research degree. No entry will be permitted later than 44 months after initial registration unless mitigating circumstances for late submission have been considered and agreed by the College authorities. Full-time MPhil students are required to submit a research degree examination entry form upon completion of their registration period. No entry will be permitted later than 12 months after the end of the student's research programme unless mitigating circumstances for late submission have been considered and agreed by the College authorities.
- 4.12 Full-time PhD students must submit their thesis for examination within 48 months of the date of the initial degree registration. Full-time MPhil students must normally submit their thesis for examination within 24 months of the date of the initial degree registration. Where a student has had their registration transferred from PhD to MPhil following a late stage review they should normally complete the MPhil within three to six months of the date of that late stage review.
- 4.13 Part-time PhD students are required to submit a research degree examination entry form no later than 68 months after initial registration for the research degree. No entry will be permitted later than 68 months after initial registration unless mitigating circumstances for late submission have been considered and agreed by the College authorities. Part-time MPhil students are required to submit a research degree examination entry form upon completion of their registration period.
- 4.14 Part-time PhD students must submit their thesis for examination within 72 months of the date of the initial degree registration. Part-time MPhil students must normally submit their thesis for examination within 36 months of the date of the initial degree registration. Where a student has had their registration transferred from PhD to MPhil following a late stage review they should normally complete the MPhil with nine months of the date of that late stage review.
- 4.15 After completing their programme of study, students are normally required to present themselves for examination within 12 months, subject also to the requirements set out in 4.11 and 4.13 above.

5 Requirements of a Thesis

5.1 Thesis for the PhD degree

5.1.1 The thesis shall:

- (a) consist of the candidate's own account of their investigations, the greater proportion of which shall have been undertaken during the period of registration under supervision for the degree;

[The part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow research workers must be clearly stated by the candidate and certified by the supervisor.]

- (b) and form a distinct contribution to the knowledge of the subject and afford evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by the exercise of independent critical power;
- (c) and be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument;

[A series of papers, whether published or otherwise, is not acceptable for submission as a thesis.

Research work already published, or submitted for publication, at the time of submission of the thesis, either by the candidate alone or jointly with others, may be included in the thesis. The published papers themselves may not be included in the body of the thesis, but may be adapted to form an integral part of the thesis and thereby make a relevant contribution to the main theme of the thesis.

Publications derived from the work in the thesis may be attached as supplementary material to the thesis.]

- (d) and give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings, include discussion on those findings and indicate in what respects they appear to the candidate to advance the study of the subject; and, in so doing, demonstrate a deep and synoptic understanding of the field of study, (the candidate being able to place the thesis in a wider context), objectivity and the capacity for judgment in complex situations and autonomous work in that field;
- (e) and be written in English and the literary presentation shall be satisfactory, although a candidate may make application for a thesis in the field of modern foreign languages and literatures only to be written in the language of study, to be considered on an exceptional basis by the Graduate School; in such cases the thesis shall include additionally a submission of between 10,000 and 20,000 words which shall be written in English and shall summarise the main arguments of the thesis;
- (f) and not exceed 100,000 words;

[Note: the bibliography is excluded from the word count; footnotes are included within the word count; appendices are excluded from the word count and should only include material which examiners are not required to read in order to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish.]

- (g) and include a full bibliography and references;
- (h) and demonstrate research skills relevant to the thesis being presented;
- (i) and be of a standard to merit publication in whole or in part or in a revised form (for example, as a monograph or as a number of articles in learned journals).

5.2 Thesis for the MPhil degree

5.2.1 The thesis shall:

- (a) consist of the candidate's own account of their investigations, the greater proportion of which shall have been undertaken during the period of registration under supervision for the degree;

[The part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow research workers must be clearly stated by the candidate and certified by the supervisor.]

- (b) and be either a record of original work or of an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge and shall provide evidence that the field has been surveyed thoroughly;
- (c) and be an integrated whole and present a coherent argument which represents a contribution to learning;

[A series of papers, whether published or otherwise, is not acceptable for submission as a thesis.

Research work already published, or submitted for publication, at the time of submission of the thesis, either by the candidate alone or jointly with others, may be included in the thesis. The published papers themselves may not be included in the body of the thesis, but may be adapted to form an integral part of the thesis and thereby make a relevant contribution to the main theme of the thesis.

Publications derived from the work in the thesis may be attached as supplementary material to the thesis.]

- (d) and give a critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in the field of study, describe the method of research and its findings and include a discussion on those findings;
- (e) and be written in English and the literary presentation shall be satisfactory, although a candidate may make application for a thesis in the field of modern foreign languages and literatures only to be written in the language of study, to be considered on an exceptional basis by the Graduate School; in such cases the thesis shall include additionally a submission of between 10,000 and 20,000 words which shall be written in English and shall summarize the main arguments of the thesis;
- (f) and include a full bibliography and references;
- (g) and shall not exceed 60,000 words;

[Note: the bibliography is excluded from the word count; footnotes are included within the word count; appendices are excluded from the word count and should only include material which examiners are not required to read in order to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish.]

5.3 Requirements applicable to Theses submitted for the Degrees of PhD and MPhil

- 5.3.1 The greater proportion of the work submitted in a thesis must have been done after the initial registration for a research degree, except that in the case of a student accepted under paragraph 1.6 there shall be allowance for the fact that the student commenced their registration at another institution.
- 5.3.2 A candidate will not be permitted to submit as their thesis one which has been submitted for a degree or comparable award of the College or any other university or institution, but a candidate shall not be precluded from incorporating in a thesis covering a wider field work which they have already submitted for a degree or comparable award of the College or any other university or institution provided that they shall indicate on their entry form and also on their thesis any work which has been so incorporated.
- 5.3.3 A candidate may submit the results of work done in conjunction with their supervisor and/or with fellow research workers provided that the candidate states clearly their own personal share in the investigation and that the statement is certified by the supervisor (see also paragraph 5.3.4).
- 5.3.4 A candidate must submit with the thesis a declaration that the work presented in the thesis is their own and that it is the one upon which they expect to be examined (see also paragraph 5.3.3).
- 5.3.5 A thesis must be presented for examination in a final form in an electronic format conforming to the instructions issued by the Academic Registrar, which may be found at:
<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/student-records-and-data/for-current-students/research-degrees/examination-information/thesis-submission--vivas/>
- 5.3.6 After the examination has been completed, and before the degree is awarded, successful candidates are required to submit to the Academic Registrar, for depositing with the College Library, one copy of the thesis in electronic format conforming to the instructions issued by the Academic Registrar.
- 5.3.7 Every candidate is required to present a short abstract of their thesis of not more than 300 words and bound with each copy of the thesis submitted to the College.

6 Entry to Examination and Submission of Thesis

- 6.1 The decision to submit a thesis rests with the candidate alone.
- 6.2 A candidate shall be examined in accordance with the regulations in force at the time of their entry or re-entry.
- 6.3 A candidate enters for the examination by submitting an entry form as described in paragraphs 4.11 and 4.13. An entry form must be submitted at least four months before the submission of the thesis.
- 6.4 If the candidate has not submitted their thesis for examination within 18 months from the submission of the entry form for the examination, the entry will be cancelled.
- 6.5 A candidate will be required to submit a copy of their thesis in accordance with instructions obtainable from the Academic Registrar (see paragraph 5.3.5 above).

- 6.6 A candidate for the PhD or MPhil degree is required to bring to the viva voce examination a copy of their thesis paginated in the same way as the copies submitted electronically to the College.

7 Availability of Theses

- 7.1 It is a requirement for the award of the degree that copies of successful theses, as specified in 5.3.6, are deposited in the College Library in electronic format. The electronic copy shall be deposited in Spiral, the College Digital Repository.
- 7.2 Subject to paragraphs 7.3 and 7.4 below, candidates for the PhD or MPhil degrees will at the time of entry to the examination be required to sign a declaration in the following terms:
- (a) I authorise that the thesis presented by me in [year] for examination for the PhD/MPhil degree of the Imperial College shall, if a degree is awarded, be deposited in the Spiral, and, if required, in the National Thesis Service, where it will be made available for public reference.
 - (b) I authorise the College authorities to copy the submission, or, without changing the content, translate it to any medium or format, for the purpose of security, back up and preservation.
 - (c) I authorise the College authorities to supply a copy of the abstract of my thesis for inclusion in any published list (hard copy or electronic) of theses offered for higher degrees in British universities.
 - (d) I understand that before my thesis is made available for public reference and copying, the relevant statement regarding copyright licence⁷ is included at the beginning of my thesis.
 - (e) I warrant that this authorisation does not, to the best of my belief, infringe the rights of any third party. I attach copies of all permission documents to my thesis. Where I have not been able to obtain the necessary rights or permissions for the inclusion of certain material in my thesis I hereby affirm that I have exercised my best endeavours to secure these and have appended copies of my letters/emails seeking these to the thesis.
 - (f) I understand that in the event of my thesis not being approved by the examiners, this declaration will become void.
- 7.3 A candidate, together with their supervisor, may apply to the College for an embargo to their thesis and/or the abstract for an appropriate period, on the grounds of commercial exploitation or patenting or in other appropriate circumstances and in accordance with the procedure adopted by the College for consideration of such applications.
- 7.4 From 1 March 2013 all theses will be automatically open access in Spiral save where the candidate, together with their supervisor, applies for an embargo. All theses submitted between 1 July 2007 and 28 February 2013 will become, retrospectively, open access in Spiral, save where an existing embargo is in place. All theses submitted prior to 1 July 2007 will be digitised and will become, retrospectively, open access in Spiral, save where an existing embargo is in place.

⁷ From 1 October 2018, a candidate may choose which Creative Commons copyright licence shall be applied to their thesis, subject to any requirements set by the funding body. The exact wording of the statement with regards to each type of licence is in the handbook and must be added to the beginning of the thesis. NB prior to 1 October 2018 all theses are published under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives licence.

8 Conduct of Examinations

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 Candidates for the Degrees of PhD and MPhil degree must submit a thesis and be examined orally, save as prescribed otherwise in sections 8.2 and 8.4 below.
- 8.1.2 The outcome of the examination is determined by two or more examiners acting jointly.
- 8.1.3 Examiners will be appointed for each candidate in accordance with the Procedure for Appointment of Examiners for Research Degrees.
- 8.1.4 All matters relating to the examination must be treated as confidential. Examiners are not permitted to divulge the content of previously unpublished material contained in a candidate's thesis until such time as any restrictions on access to the thesis, which have been granted by the College, are removed.
- 8.1.5 The examiners shall prepare independent preliminary written reports on the thesis to assist in conducting the viva voce examination (or the preparation of the joint report in those cases where no viva voce examination is held - *see paragraphs 8.2.3(c) and 8.4.3(c) below*). Copies of the preliminary reports should be submitted to the Academic Registrar together with the joint report. The preliminary reports will not normally be released to candidates but will be made available to the members of an appellate committee in the case of an appeal against the result of the examination for consideration at an appellate committee hearing. In such an event the preliminary reports will also be provided to the candidate. After any viva voce examination, a joint final report shall be prepared for submission to the Provost of the College. The joint final report will be released routinely to candidates for their personal information.
- 8.1.6 Each joint final report of the examiners shall indicate whether the thesis meets the requirements specified in paragraph 5.1 or 5.2 as appropriate and shall include a reasoned statement of the examiners' judgment of the candidate's performance.
- 8.1.7 Examiners have the right to make comments in confidence to the College in a separate report. Such comments should not normally be concerned with the performance of the candidate but may cover, for example, matters which they wish to draw to the attention of the College.
- 8.1.8 The supervisor shall not be invited, unless the candidate indicates otherwise at the point of entry to the examination, to attend the viva voce examination of his/her PhD or MPhil candidate. If invited to attend as an observer, the supervisor does not have the right to participate in the examination of the candidate but may contribute if invited to do so by the examiners. Otherwise the viva voce examination shall be held in private. In exceptional circumstances and also in the early stages of a joint or collaborative degree the Provost may appoint an independent observer to attend a candidate's viva.
- 8.1.9 The viva voce examination must normally be conducted at one of the College campuses. The College may, however, exceptionally agree that the examination be conducted elsewhere if there are circumstances which make this expedient.
- 8.1.10 The examiners may, at their discretion, consult the supervisor before completing their report, particularly if they have doubts relating to the appropriate decision to be made.

8.2 Conduct of PhD Examination

8.2.1 Except as provided in paragraphs 8.2.3(c) the examiners, after reading the thesis, shall examine the candidate orally on the subject of the thesis and, if they see fit, on subjects relevant thereto.

8.2.2 Candidates are required to present themselves for the examination at such place and time as the College may direct and to bring with them to the viva voce examination an additional copy of their thesis, as stated in paragraph 6.6 above.

8.2.3 There are six options open to examiners in determining the result of the examination as follows:

- (a) if the thesis fulfils the criteria (set out in paragraph 5.1 above) and the candidate satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners will report that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the PhD degree.
- (b) if the thesis otherwise fulfils the criteria but requires minor amendments and if the candidate satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners may require the candidate to make within three months amendments specified by them. The amended thesis shall be submitted to the examiners or one of their number nominated by them for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory.
- (c) if the thesis, though inadequate, shall seem of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to re-present their thesis in a revised form within 18 months. Examiners shall not, however, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to a viva voce examination. The examiners may at their discretion exempt from a further viva voce examination, on re-presentation of their thesis, a candidate who under this regulation has been permitted to re-present it in a revised form.
- (d) if the thesis satisfies the criteria for the degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the viva voce examination, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to re-present the same thesis, and submit to a further viva voce examination within a period specified by them and not exceeding 18 months.
- (e) if, after completion of the examination including the viva voce examination or re-examination for the PhD degree, the examiners determine that a candidate has not reached the standard required for the award of the degree nor for the re-presentation of the thesis in a revised form for that degree, they shall consider whether the thesis does or might be able to satisfy the criteria for the award of the MPhil degree. If they so decide, the examiners shall submit a report which demonstrates either (a) how the criteria for the MPhil degree are satisfied, or (b) what action would need to be taken in order for these criteria to be satisfied⁸. Thereafter the following conditions and procedures will apply:

⁸In reporting they shall have regard to the different normal maximum lengths of the thesis for the PhD and MPhil degrees but shall have discretion to waive the thesis length for the degree if appropriate.

Either

- (i) the candidate will be informed that they have been unsuccessful at the examination for the PhD degree, but that their examiners have indicated that they have reached the standard required for the award of the MPhil degree or with minor amendments to their thesis they will satisfy the criteria for the degree, and that they may be considered for the award of the MPhil degree if they indicate within two months that they wish to be so considered. Any minor amendments required shall be made within three months and the amended thesis shall be submitted to the examiners or one of their number nominated by them for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory.
- (ii) a candidate who indicates that they wishes to be considered for the award of the MPhil degree under this Regulation will not be required to submit the thesis, as may be required under the Regulations for the MPhil degree, or to undergo a viva voce examination thereon, but will be required to fulfil the requirements for the MPhil examination in all other respects.
- (iii) a candidate who has reached the standard for the award of the MPhil degree who does not indicate that they wish to be considered for the award of that degree within the period given in paragraph (i) above will be informed that they have failed to satisfy the examiners for the PhD degree and that they may no longer be considered for the award of the MPhil degree.

or

- (iv) if the thesis, though inadequate, shall seem of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to enter the examination for the MPhil degree and re-present their thesis in a revised form within 12 months. The examiners may at their discretion exempt from a further viva voce examination, on re-presentation of their thesis, a candidate who under these regulations has been permitted to re-present it in a revised form.
- (f) The examiners may determine that the candidate has not satisfied them in the examination. The examiners shall not, however, save in very exceptional circumstances, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to a viva voce examination.

8.3.4 If the examiners are unable to reach agreement, their reports shall be referred to a panel comprising the Director of the Graduate School, a College Consul for the appropriate Faculty and the Academic Registrar (or their nominees), which shall determine the action to be taken.

8.3.5 A candidate who fails to satisfy the examiners will not be permitted to re-enter for the examination. A candidate may however apply to the College to register for another programme of study leading to the submission of a thesis on a different topic.

8.4 Conduct of MPhil Examination

8.4.1 Except as provided in paragraph 8.4.3(c) the examiners, after reading the thesis, shall examine the candidate orally on the subject of the thesis and, if they see fit, on subjects relevant thereto.

8.4.2 Candidates are required to present themselves for the examination at such place and time as the College may direct and to bring with them to the viva voce examination an additional copy of their thesis, as stated in paragraph 6.6 above.

8.4.3 There are five options open to examiners in determining the result of the examination as follows:

- (a) if the thesis fulfils the criteria (set out in paragraph 5.2 above) and the candidate satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners will report that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the degree of MPhil.
- (b) if the thesis otherwise fulfils the criteria but requires minor amendments and if the candidate satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners may require the candidate to make within three months amendments specified by them. The amended thesis shall be submitted to the examiners or one of their number nominated by them for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory.
- (c) if the thesis, though inadequate, shall seem of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to re-present their thesis in a revised form within 12 months. Examiners shall not, however, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to a viva voce examination. The examiners may at their discretion exempt from a further viva voce examination, on re-presentation of their thesis, a candidate who under this regulation has been permitted to re-present it in a revised form.
- (d) if the thesis fulfils the criteria but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the viva voce examination, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to re-present the same thesis, and submit to a further viva voce examination within a period specified by them and not exceeding 12 months.
- (e) the examiners may determine that the candidate has not satisfied them in the examination. The examiners shall not, however, save in very exceptional circumstances, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to a viva voce examination.

8.4.4 If the examiners are unable to reach agreement, their reports shall be referred to a panel comprising the Director of the Graduate School, the College Consul for the relevant Faculty and the Academic Registrar (or their nominees), which shall determine the action to be taken.

8.4.5 A candidate who fails to satisfy the examiners will not be permitted to re-enter for the examination. A candidate may however apply to the College to register for another programme of study leading to the submission of a thesis on a different topic.

9 Notification of Results of Examinations

9.1 After the examiners have reached a decision, the candidate shall be notified by the Academic Registrar of the result of their examination. The degree shall not be awarded until an electronic version of the successful thesis has been deposited with the Academic Registrar (see paragraph 5.3.6).

9.2 A diploma under the seal of the College shall be subsequently delivered to each candidate who has been awarded a degree.

- 9.3 The diploma for the degree will bear the names of the candidate in the form in which they appear in the records of the College at the date of issue.

10 General

- 10.1 Except insofar as paragraph 5.3.3. applies, the work in the thesis submitted by the candidate must be their own and submission of a thesis for examination for the PhD or MPhil degree will be regarded as a declaration of this fact.
- 10.2 All work submitted as part of the requirements for any examination of the College must be expressed in the candidate's own words and incorporate their own ideas and judgments. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as though they were the candidate's own and is an examination offence. Direct quotations from the published or unpublished work of another must always be clearly identified as such by being placed inside quotation marks, and a full reference to their source must be provided in the proper form. A series of short quotations from several different sources, if not clearly identified as such, constitutes plagiarism as much as does a single unacknowledged long quotation from a single source. Equally, if another person's ideas or judgments are summarised, the candidate must refer to that person in their text, and include the work to which reference is made in the bibliography.
- 10.3 Allegations of plagiarism will be considered in accordance with the Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures, which are available from the Academic Registrar, as will any other allegations of examination misconduct, including, but not limited to:
- (a) deliberate attempts to represent falsely or unfairly the ideas or work of others;
 - (b) the invention or fabrication of data;
 - (c) the submission of work commissioned from another person.
- 10.4 The College has approved an Academic Appeals Procedure for Research Programmes; this can be accessed at: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/about/governance/academic-governance/academic-policy/complaints-appeals-and-discipline/>