Additional Instructions to Examiners
For Practice-led Research Degree Candidatures

Doctor of Philosophy
Master of Philosophy

2013-2014

Please refer to the start date as indicated on the front of the report form
A Regulations for practice-led candidatures commencing study prior to 01 September 2010

(1) The degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Candidates in certain disciplines may be granted permission by the relevant committee to present for examination an alternative form of thesis as follows. In all cases the presentation of the thesis or other work for the degree should also be satisfactory.

(a) in the School of Music:
   either (i) a substantial portfolio of compositions, written specifically in pursuit of the degree, which display mastery in the application of compositional techniques and originality of conception and which are worthy of public performance, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, normally of between 15,000-20,000\(^{1}\) words; or (ii) a substantial series of recorded performances undertaken by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, displaying technical and interpretive mastery and revealing original insights, and which are worthy of public consumption, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, normally of between 15,000-20,000\(^{1}\) words;

(b) in the School of Design:
   either (i) a substantial collection of original designs for textiles and/or textile derived materials, created specifically in pursuit of the degree, which display mastery in the application of technical method, artistic merit, and originality of invention, and which are worthy of public exhibition, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, normally of between 15,000-20,000\(^{1}\) words, which also discusses the structure and composition of the collection and its relationship to historical and contemporary developments in textile design; or (ii) a substantial collection of practical work which displays mastery and originality in studio-based work and is worthy of public exhibition, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, normally between 15,000-20,000\(^{1}\) words which also demonstrates independent critical ability and which may also take the form of a catalogue with the accompanying written submission or, subject to the approval of the relevant committee, another appropriate textual form\(^{2}\);

(c) in the School of English:
   a single substantial, or a series of, performance(s) or workshop(s) created by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, demonstrating the research pursued and the results of that research, which achieve creative or other practical utterance and which reveal original insights which are worthy of demonstration and scrutiny within a public forum. This together with a written submission of normally between 30,000-40,000\(^{5}\) words in length, which will demonstrate an integral critical engagement with the body of creative practice that complements it, or which it complements, and which will provide a clear outline of the research pursued and articulate how the research is embodied in the practice;

(d) in the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies:
   a substantial collection of practical work which displays mastery and originality in studio-based work and is worthy of public exhibition, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice;

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\(^{1}\) There may be academic reasons for exceeding the specified maximum length and any applications to exceed the stipulated length must be considered and approved by the relevant Graduate Board Group.

\(^{2}\) Any case requesting permission to present research in a form that is not prescribed by these regulations must be presented for consideration by the relevant Graduate Board Group by no later than the date on which the candidate is transferred to full PhD registration.
embodied in the practice, normally between 15,000-20,000\(^3\) words which demonstrates independent critical ability and which may also take the form of a catalogue with the accompanying written submission or, subject to the approval of the relevant committee, another appropriate textual form\(^{10}\);

(e) **in the School of Performance and Cultural Industries:**
either (i) a substantial portfolio of Creative Writing, written specifically in pursuit of the degree, which displays mastery of language and form, and originality of conception, revealing insights which are worthy of publication, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, which will normally be between 15,000-20,000\(^7\) words; or (ii) a substantial series of performances created by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, displaying technical and interpretive mastery and revealing original insights which are worthy of demonstration and scrutiny within a public forum, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, which will normally be between 15,000-20,000\(^7\) words;

(f) **in the Schools of Music and Performance and Cultural Industries:**
a substantial series of performances which are demonstrably interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary in nature created by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, displaying technical and interpretive mastery and revealing original insights which are worthy of demonstration and scrutiny within a public forum, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, which will normally be between 15,000-20,000\(^7\) words;

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3 There may be academic reasons for exceeding the specified maximum length and any applications to exceed the stipulated length must be considered and approved by the relevant Graduate Board Group
submission or, subject to the approval of the relevant committee, another appropriate textual form; or

(c) **in the School of English:**
a single, or a series of, performance(s) or workshop(s) created by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, demonstrating the research pursued and the results of that research, which achieve creative or other practical utterance and which reveal independent insights which are worthy of demonstration and scrutiny. This together with a written submission of normally between 10,000-20,000 words in length, which will demonstrate an integral critical engagement with the body of creative practice that complements it, or which it complements, and which will provide a clear outline of the research pursued and articulate how the research is embodied in the practice; or

(d) **in the School of Fine Art, History of Art and Cultural Studies**
a substantial collection of practical work which displays mastery in studio-based work and is worthy of public exhibition, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, normally of between 10,000-15,000 words which demonstrates an independent contribution to knowledge and scholarship and which may also take the form of a catalogue with the accompanying written submission or, subject to the approval of the relevant committee, another appropriate textual form; or

(e) **in the School of Performance and Cultural Industries:**
a series of performances created by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, displaying technical and interpretive mastery and revealing independent insights which are worthy of demonstration and scrutiny within a public forum, together with a written submission which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, normally of between 10,000-15,000 words and which demonstrates an independent contribution to knowledge and scholarship.

(f) **in the Schools of Music and Performance and Cultural Industries:**
a series of performances which are demonstrably interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary in nature created by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, displaying technical and interpretive mastery and revealing independent insights which are worthy of demonstration and scrutiny within a public forum, together with a written submission, which provides an exposition of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, which will normally be between 10,000-15,000 words.

(3) Where an MPhil is awarded as a result of an unsuccessful PhD examination the degree may not be awarded with distinction.

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4 Any case requesting permission to present research in a form that is not prescribed by these regulations must be presented for consideration by the relevant Graduate Board Group by no later than the date on which the candidate is transferred to full PhD registration.
Candidates undertaking practice-led research may be granted permission by the relevant committee to present for examination an alternative form of thesis. Details of alternative submissions are provided in the Ordinances and Regulations and Programmes of Study for Research Degrees, published at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/rds/handbooks.html, under Regulation 25 for PhD and 36 for MPhil as shown below:

**The degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

Candidates in certain disciplines and staff candidates by published work may be granted permission by the relevant committee to present for examination an alternative form of thesis as follows:

A body of work demonstrating an original contribution to knowledge and scholarship, which comprises of a substantial body of creative practice* produced by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, displaying critical understanding and being worthy of public presentation, together with a written submission, which provides an exploration of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, which will normally be between 15,000-50,000 words.

**The degree of Master of Philosophy**

Candidates in certain disciplines may be granted permission by the relevant committee to present for examination an alternative form of thesis as follows:

a body of work demonstrating an independent contribution to knowledge and scholarship, which comprises of a substantial body of creative practice* produced by the candidate in pursuit of the degree, displaying critical understanding and being worthy of public presentation, together with a written submission, which provides an exploration of the research question(s) and indicates the manner in which the research is embodied in the practice, which will normally be between 10,000-30,000 words.

**Footnote associated with the Regulations**

* Areas of creative practice are currently offered in the following Schools: School of English, School of Fine Art, History of Art & Cultural Studies, School of Music, School of Performance & Cultural Industries, and School of Design; and at York St John University. Requirements for practice-led research degree candidatures are available in the relevant School/ York St John University Handbooks and from Research Student Administration.

(2) Where an MPhil is awarded as a result of an unsuccessful PhD examination the degree may not be awarded with distinction.
The Graduate Board has provided the following additional guidance to assist examiners appointed to examine a practice-led research degree submission:

The following advice is applicable to all practice-led research degree submissions irrespective of the start date of study:

**Advice for examiners**

Practice must be integral within the methodology and dissemination of a practice-led research degree and the final assessment should consider the submission as a whole (practice and written element). In reaching a decision upon the quality of a practice-led submission it is important that examiners do not assess practice and written elements separately.

**Assessment of live practice**

There must be no formative feedback by examiners prior to the viva; feedback should be given after the final *viva-voce* examination. Any notes taken at a live practice/performance must not be disclosed and must be retained by the examiner until included in the preliminary report, immediately prior to the final *viva-voce* examination.

**Guidance for preliminary report**

As noted above, examiners should consider the submission as a whole. Where live practice is held on the same day as the viva, examiners may wish to add notes to the end of the preliminary report prior to the viva.

**Guidance for referral**

Current regulations allow examiners at either examination or at a resubmission to ask candidates to pass any tests which they prescribe to demonstrate knowledge. Therefore, for instance, examiners are permitted to ask a candidate to reproduce live performance or a similar task to demonstrate any aspect of practice.

September 2013