



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

**REGULATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF MD (RES)**

(Doctor of Medicine (Research))

With effect from September 2009

University of London
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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MD(Res)

Candidates for the MD(Res) degree are required to comply with any additional regulations prescribed by the College of registration.

Introduction

The MD(Res) degree is aimed specifically at students in clinical practice. The course of study will provide students with the opportunity to develop:

- the ability to recognise and validate problems
- original, independent and critical thinking and the ability to develop theoretical concepts
- a knowledge of recent advances within the field in related areas
- an understanding of research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application with the research field
- the ability to critically analyse and evaluate the research findings and those of others
- an ability to summarise, document, report and reflect on progress

It is expected that students will make a substantial contribution to knowledge in their clinical area, normally leading to published work.

1. Admission and Eligibility

1.1. Application for admission to a course of study for the degree of MD(Res) should be made to the relevant College in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the College to which application is made.

1.2. To be eligible for registration for the MD(Res) degree, a candidate must *either*

(a) have obtained the MB,BS degrees of the University of London *or* some other registerable primary qualification in Medicine and be eligible for full registration or hold limited registration with the General Medical Council; *or*

(b) have obtained the BDS degree of the University of London and/or be eligible for registration with the General Dental Council.

2. Registration and Attendance

2.1. Every student is required to pursue a regular course of study as prescribed by the College.

2.2. The length of the course shall be determined for each student individually by the

authorities of the College at which he/she is registered, but in no case shall it be less than laid down in paragraph 2.3. below.

2.3. The **minimum** length of course for the degree of MD(Res) shall be two calendar years of full-time study or the equivalent in part-time study.

2.4. The student's research proposal must be approved prior to registration for the degree.

2.5. Before a candidate is admitted to the examination for the degree, the College shall report that he/she has completed the course in accordance with the relevant regulations.

3. Transfer of Registration

3.1. A College may permit a student to transfer from the MD, MS, MDS, MPhil or PhD degree to the MD(Res) degree in accordance with the conditions specified by the College, provided that the student is eligible to register for the MD(Res) and provided that no transfer of registration is permitted after entry to the examination for any one of these degrees. Registration for the MD(Res) degree may date from initial registration for the degree from which transfer has been made.

3.2. On transfer of registration, the registration for the original degree will lapse.

4. Supervision and Course of Study

4.1. A College shall have a code of practice for supervisors and research students and appoint a supervisor for each of its students registered for the MD(Res) degree in accordance therewith.

4.2. At least one of the supervisors shall be a full-time member of academic staff of the status of senior lecturer or above or a person holding an honorary senior lecturer contract at the College of registration for the degree.

4.3. Students are required to have a formal review at the end of each year of the course of study to confirm that satisfactory progress has been made.

4.4. Appropriate taught elements will be incorporated in the programme of study.

5. Requirements of a Thesis

5.1. A thesis for the MD(Res) degree will deal with any branch of medicine, or surgery or medical or dental science.

5.2. It is a condition of the award of the degree that the clinical research involved in the thesis shall conform to high ethical standards. If the University is not satisfied on this point the degree will not be awarded irrespective of the merit of the thesis in other respects.

5.3. The scope of the thesis shall be what might reasonably be expected after three or at most four years of full-time study.

5.4. The thesis shall:

(a) consist of the candidate's own account of his/her 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 bound as supplementary material at the back of 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;

(f) and not exceed 50,000 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).

5.5. The greater proportion of the work submitted in a thesis must have been done after the initial registration for the degree.

5.6. A candidate will not be permitted to submit as his/her thesis one which has been submitted for a degree or comparable award of this or any other university or institution, but a candidate shall not be precluded from incorporating in a thesis covering a wider field work which he/she has already submitted for a degree or comparable award of this or any other university or institution provided that he/she shall indicate on his/her entry form and also on his/her thesis any work which has been so incorporated.

5.7. A candidate may submit the results of work done in conjunction with his/her supervisor and/or with fellow research workers provided that the candidate states clearly his/her own personal share in the investigation and that the statement is certified by the supervisor (*see also paragraph 5.10*).

5.8. A candidate must have the title of his/her thesis approved in accordance with the procedures specified by the College.

5.9. The decision to submit a thesis in any particular form rests with the candidate alone and the outcome of the examination is determined by two or more examiners acting jointly.

5.10. A candidate must include in each copy of his/her thesis a signed declaration that the work presented in the thesis is his/her own (*see also paragraph 5.7*) and that the thesis presented is the one upon which the candidate expects to be examined.

5.11. A thesis must be presented for examination in a final form in typescript or print and be bound in accordance with the instructions issued by the Head of the Academic Office of the University (see <http://www.london.ac.uk/binding>).

5.12. After the examination has been completed and before the degree is awarded, successful candidates are required to submit to the Research Degree Examinations Office of the University, for lodging in the College library, two copies of their theses, one hard-bound and one soft-bound, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Head of the Academic Office, if the copies of the theses submitted for examination did not conform with this specification.

5.13. Every candidate is required to present a short (final) abstract of his/her thesis of not more than 300 words and bound with each copy of the thesis submitted to the University. One additional loose copy of the abstract must also be provided.

6. Entry to Examination and Submission of Thesis

6.1. A College shall submit a completed entry form for each of its candidates to the Research Degree Examinations Office of the University (*see also paragraph 6.3 below*).

6.2. A candidate shall be examined in accordance with the regulations in force at the time of his/her entry or re-entry.

6.3. The entry form may not be submitted to the University earlier than six months before the completion of the prescribed course and **must** be submitted at least **four months** before the submission of the thesis.

6.4. A candidate is required to submit with his/her entry form to the examination a short description of the content of the thesis in about 300 words to assist in the appointment of suitable examiners.

6.5. If the candidate has not submitted his/her thesis for examination within 18 months (or such shorter period as shall be stipulated by the College) from the submission of the entry form for the examination, the entry will be cancelled unless for special reasons the candidate's College requests otherwise.

6.6. A candidate will be required to submit two copies of his/her thesis either typewritten or printed in accordance with instructions obtainable from the Research Degree Examinations Office (*see paragraph 5.11 above*). A candidate may be required to provide a third copy of his/her thesis if a third examiner is appointed at any stage in the examination process.

6.7. A candidate for the MD(Res) degree is required to bring to the oral examination a copy of his/her thesis paginated in the same way as the copies submitted to the University.

7. Availability of Theses

7.1. It is a requirement for the award of the degree that one copy of a successful thesis is placed in the library of the candidate's College and one copy in the University of London Library.¹ The College copy shall be the archival copy and shall be in hard-bound form.

7.2. Subject to paragraph 7.3 below, candidates for the MD(Res) degree 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 MD(Res) degree of the University of London shall, if a degree is awarded, be deposited in the library or electronic institutional repository of the appropriate College and in the University of

¹ Provided that where, in the opinion of the College of registration, the thesis includes material that is of significance for national security, arrangements may be made, with the agreement of the graduate concerned, so that the copies of the thesis placed in the public domain may have certain parts excised from them; in such cases the copies of the thesis placed in the public domain shall include an accompanying statement indicating by whom and at what location the full thesis on which the award was made may be consulted.

London Library and that, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 7.2(d) below, my thesis be made available for public reference, inter-library loan and copying.

(b) I authorise the College or University authorities as appropriate to supply a copy of the abstract of my thesis for inclusion in any published list of theses offered for higher degrees in British universities or in any supplement thereto, or for consultation in any central file of abstracts of such theses.

(c) I authorise the College and the University of London Libraries or their designated agents to make a microform or digital copy of my thesis for the purposes of electronic public access, inter-library loan and the supply of copies.

(d) I understand that before my thesis is made available for public reference, inter-library loan and copying, the following statement will have been included at the beginning of my thesis or clearly associated with any electronic version:

The copyright of this thesis rests with the author and no quotation from it or information derived from it may be published without the prior written consent of the author.

(e) I authorise the College and/or the University of London to make a microform or digital copy of my thesis in due course as the archival copy for permanent retention in substitution for the original copy.

(f) I warrant that this authorisation does not, to the best of my belief, infringe the rights of any third party.

(g) I understand that in the event of my thesis not being approved by the examiners, this declaration will become void.

7.3. A candidate may apply to his/her College for restriction of access, for a period not exceeding two years, to his/her thesis and/or the abstract of the thesis on the grounds of commercial exploitation or patenting or in very exceptional circumstances and in accordance with the procedure adopted by the College for consideration of such applications.

8.1. Method of Examination

8.1. A candidate for the MD(Res) degree must submit a thesis and be examined orally, save as prescribed otherwise in paragraphs 9.9-9.13 below.

9. Conduct of Examination

9.1. Examiners will be appointed for each candidate in accordance with the Instructions for the Appointment of Examiners for the Degree of MD(Res) (*attached as an Annex to these Regulations*).

9.2. 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 a College, are removed.

9.3. The examiners shall prepare independent preliminary written reports on the thesis to assist in conducting the oral examination (or the preparation of the joint report in those cases where no oral examination is held - *see paragraphs 9.11(c)/(d) below*). Copies of the preliminary reports should be submitted to the Research Degree Examinations Office of the University 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 oral examination, a joint final report shall be prepared for submission to the University. The joint final report will be released routinely to candidates for their personal information. It will also be sent to the Head of the College at which the student was registered.

9.4. Each joint final report of the examiners shall indicate whether the thesis meets the requirements specified in paragraphs 4.1.-4.3. and shall include a reasoned statement of the examiners' judgment of the candidate's performance.

9.5. Examiners have the right to make comments in confidence to the University 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 candidate's College or of the University.

9.6. The supervisor shall be invited, unless the candidate indicates otherwise on his/her entry form, to attend the oral examination of his/her MD(Res) candidate 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 oral examination shall be held in private.

9.7. The oral examination must normally be conducted in London. The University may, however, exceptionally agree that the examination be conducted elsewhere if there are circumstances which make this expedient.

9.8. 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.

9.9. Except as provided in paragraphs 9.11(c) the examiners, after reading the thesis, shall examine the candidate orally.

9.10. Candidates are required to present themselves for oral, practical or written examinations at such place and times as the University may direct and to bring with them to the oral examination an additional copy of their thesis, as stated in paragraph 6.7 above.

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

- (a) if the thesis fulfils the requirements set out in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.4 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 MD(Res) degree;
- (b) if the thesis otherwise fulfils the requirements set out in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.4 above, 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 his/her thesis in a revised form within 18 months. Examiners shall not, however, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to an oral examination. The examiners may at their discretion exempt from a further oral examination, on re-presentation of his/her 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 oral examination, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to re-present the same thesis, and submit to a further oral examination within a period specified by them and not exceeding 18 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 an oral examination.

9.12. If the examiners are unable to reach agreement, their reports shall be referred to the Research Degrees Committee, which shall determine the action to be taken.

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

10. Notification of Results

10.1. After the examiners have reached a decision, the candidate shall be notified by the Head of the Academic Office of the University of the result of his/her examination. The degree shall not be awarded until two copies of the successful thesis, bound in the appropriate formats, have been lodged with the Research Degree Examinations Office of the University (*see paragraph 5.12 above*).

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

10.3. 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.

11. General

11.1. Communications sent from the University to an individual student must be regarded as applying to that student only.

11.2. Except insofar as paragraph 5.7 applies, the work in the thesis submitted by the candidate must be his/her own and submission of a thesis for examination for the MD(Res) degree will be regarded as a declaration of this fact.

11.3. All work submitted as part of the requirements for any examination of the University of London must be expressed in the candidate's own words and incorporate his/her 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 his/her text, and include the work to which reference is made in the bibliography.

11.4. Allegations of examination misconduct will be considered under the appropriate procedure of the College of registration. These include , but are not limited to:

11.4.1. plagiarism;

11.4.2. deliberate attempts to represent falsely or unfairly the ideas or work of others;

11.4.3. the invention or fabrication of data;

11.4.4. the submission of work commissioned from another person.

11.5. If a candidate has entered the examination for the MD(Res) degree, but the authorities of a College, or of a central activity, or of the University Library, or the University Accountant notify the Head of the Academic Office of the University that he/she has not settled with them or made acceptable arrangements to settle any account outstanding, no report will be made on the result of the examination until the same authority certifies that payment has been made in full.

11.6. The University has approved a Procedure for Consideration of Appeals by Candidates for

Research Degrees, which is available from the Head of the Academic Office of the University. An application under the Procedure must be made within two months of notification of the result of the examination to the candidate. (see http://www.london.ac.uk/research_degrees).

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS FOR THE DEGREE OF MD(Res)

1. For each candidate the relevant College shall normally appoint two persons to act as examiners, but the College may, if it considers it desirable, appoint three persons to act as examiners jointly.
2. The examiners shall be expert in the field of the thesis and be able to make an independent assessment of the student.
3. At least one of the examiners shall be external to the University of London (that is, not only external to the candidate's College).
4. One examiner shall normally be from a College of the University.
5. The candidate's supervisor/adviser shall not be an examiner.
6. All the examiners shall be external to the candidate's College when the candidate is also a member of the academic staff of the College.
7. A College shall appoint an examiner from overseas only in exceptional circumstances where the College considers that such an appointment is necessary. If an examiner from overseas is appointed, the College must be satisfied that the examiner appointed is familiar with the British higher education system.
8. At least one of the examiners for each candidate shall, whenever practicable, have had experience in examining for a research degree of this University.
9. When two examiners are appointed in the first instance the College shall also appoint, when called upon by the University at the request of the examiners, an additional examiner who is external to the University. The original examiners shall so request before they report formally that they are unable to reach agreement and may do so at any time, if they consider it desirable. Whenever possible the additional examiner shall be of professorial status and shall have considerable experience of examining for a research degree of this University.