R16 The following recommendations are available to examiners as results for ratification by the Research Degrees Examination Board:

Pass
Pass subject to minor amendments
Pass subject to major amendments
Re-examination of thesis (with or without second viva)
Consideration for a lower, related award
Academic Fail

Results of the Examination

R16.1 The options open to examiners in determining the result of the examination are as follows and apply to all research degrees students regardless of when they first registered:

Pass

R16.2 Where the student’s thesis meets the criteria for the specified award and the student satisfies the examiners in all elements of the assessment, the examiners will make a formal recommendation for award to the Research Degrees Examination Board.

Pass subject to Minor amendments

R16.3 Where the student’s thesis broadly meets the criteria for the specified award and the student satisfies the examiners in all other elements of the assessment, the examiners will make a formal recommendation for award to the Research Degrees Examination Board, subject to the completion of minor amendments. Where the examiners have made a recommendation for award subject to minor amendments the student will be given up to three months from the date on which the student receives notification of the corrections required. One examiner will be required to confirm, using the appropriate pro forma, that the amendments are appropriate and have been made within the specified time-frame. Which examiner will do this will be agreed between the examiners themselves. If the student fails to make the amendments in the time-frame or the examiner is unable to confirm that the amendments are satisfactory the procedure under Failure to satisfy after minor or major amendments or after representation will apply.

Pass subject to Major amendments

R16.4 Where the student’s thesis is thought to be able to meet the criteria for the specified award with additional work, the examiners will make a formal recommendation for award to the Research Degrees Examination Board subject to the completion of major amendments within six months. A further oral examination will not normally be required where a six month amendment period is given. Where the examiners have made a recommendation that the student be permitted to make major amendments to their thesis, the student will be given up to six months from the date on which the student receives notification of the corrections required. The examiners will confirm, using the relevant pro forma, that the amendments are appropriate and have been made within the specified time-frame. If the student fails to make the amendments in the specified time-frame or the examiner is unable to confirm that the amendments are satisfactory, the procedure outlined under Failure to satisfy after minor or major amendments or after representation will apply.

Re-examination of thesis (with or without a second viva)

R16.5 Where the student’s thesis, though inadequate, is thought to be able to meet the criteria for the specified award, the examiners may determine that the student be permitted to re-present their
The following recommendations are available to examiners as results for ratification by the Research Degrees Examination Board:

- **Pass**
- **Pass subject to minor amendments**
- **Pass subject to major amendments**
- **Re-examination of thesis (with or without second viva)**
- **Consideration for a lower, related award**
- **Academic Fail**

thesis in a revised form within 18 months for the PhD, or Professional Doctorate examination and 12 months for the MPhil. The examiners may at their discretion require a further oral examination to be held. Where the examiners have determined that the student’s thesis, though inadequate, is thought to be able to meet the criteria for the specified award, the student will be given 18 months (12 months for the MPhil) from the date on which the student receives notification of the corrections required to re-present their thesis in a revised form and may be required to attend a further oral examination to be held. The examiners will confirm, using the relevant pro forma, that the amendments are appropriate and have been made within the specified time-frame. If the student fails to make the amendments in the specified time-frame or the examiner is unable to confirm that the amendments are satisfactory, the procedure outlined under Failure to satisfy after minor or major amendments or after representation will apply.

**Consideration for a lower, related award**

**R16.6** Where the student’s thesis does not meet the criteria for the specified award, the student may be considered for a related, lower degree (where available). Major or minor amendments, or the re-presentation of the thesis within 18 months may be permitted by the examiners before the student is considered for the related, lower degree. Where additional time has already been granted for major or minor amendments or after the re-presentation of the thesis, no further additional time will normally be given to the student to prepare the thesis for examination under option.

a) **for examination for the PhD degree only** - where the examiners have recommended that the student be considered for a related, lower degree, the examiners may consider whether the student has met the criteria for the award of an MPhil degree unless this is a dual or joint degree with an institution that does not offer the MPhil (although if appropriate the student may be offered an MPhil single award from King’s College London only). If the student’s thesis does not meet the criteria, the examiners will recommend to the Research Degrees Examination Board that the student be failed.

b) **professional doctorates** – where the individual programme specification permits, the examiners will forward the thesis to the relevant Postgraduate Assessment Board for consideration of an exit award.

**Academic Fail**

**R16.7** Where the student’s thesis does not meet the criteria for the award of a research degree and the thesis is unsuitable for minor or major amendments or re-presentation within 18 months the examiners will recommend to the Research Degrees Examination Board that the student be recorded as an Academic Fail. A student who fails to satisfy the examiners will not be permitted to re-enter for the examination.

**R16.8** When the two examiners appointed are unable to reach agreement, they shall report this to the Board, which shall appoint an additional examiner who is external to the College. The examiners may also recommend the appointment of a third examiner at any time, if they consider it
The following recommendations are available to examiners as results for ratification by the Research Degrees Examination Board:

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- Pass subject to major amendments
- Re-examination of thesis (with or without second viva)
- Consideration for a lower, related award
- Academic Fail

Whenever possible the additional examiner shall be of Professorial status and shall have considerable experience of examining for a research degree of the University of London.

Failure to satisfy the examiners after minor or major amendments or after the re-presentation of the thesis

R16.9 Where a student fails to satisfy the examiners after minor or major amendments or after the re-presentation of the thesis the examiners will either:

a) recommend to the Research Degrees Examination Board that the student be recorded as an Academic Fail; or

b) recommend the student for consideration for a related, lower degree (as set out above). The examiners have the discretion to permit an additional calendar month for the student to make further minor amendments before making a final decision.

R16.10 In both cases the student has the right to appeal under regulation R18.

Useful links
- Centre for Doctoral Studies
- Core Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Degrees
- Academic Appeals for students on Research Degree Programmes (R18)

Exemptions: not anticipated. For advice contact exemptions@kcl.ac.uk.