

## R13 The recommendations available to examiners as results for ratification by the Research Degrees Exam Board are set out in the Research degree examination outcomes appendix.

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R13.1 The options open to examiners in determining the result of the examination are as follows and apply to all research degree students regardless of when they first registered:

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

### Pass

R13.2 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 Exams Board.

### Pass subject to minor amendments

R13.3 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 Exams Board, subject to the completion of minor amendments.

R13.4 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 from the Research Degrees Exams office following ratification of the report by the Research Degrees Exams Board.

R13.5 One examiner will be required to confirm that the amendments are appropriate and have been made within the specified timeframe. Which examiner will do this will be agreed between the examiners themselves and will be confirmed on the Decision form.

R13.6 If the student fails to make the amendments in the timeframe 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 re-examination’ below will apply.

#### Pass subject to major amendments

- R13.7 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 Exams Board subject to the completion of major amendments within six months.
- R13.8 A further oral examination will not be required where a six month amendment period is given.
- R13.9 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 the joint examination report and notification of the corrections required by the Research Degrees Exams office following ratification of the report by the Research Degrees Exams Board.
- R13.10 Both examiners must confirm that the amendments are appropriate and have been made within the specified timeframe.
- R13.11 If the student fails to make the amendments in the specified timeframe 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 re-examination’ below will apply.

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

- R13.12 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 thesis in a revised form within eighteen months for the PhD or Professional Doctorate examination and twelve months for the MPhil.
- R13.13 The examiners should indicate on the examination pro-forma whether a further oral examination must be held.
- R13.14 If the examiners indicate on the decision form that a second oral examination should be held, then they cannot change this result at the point of the re-examination and the second oral examination must take place. Examiners cannot request a second oral examination following the re-examination of the thesis if this was not indicated on the original decision form.
- R13.15 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 eighteen months (twelve months for the MPhil) from the date on which the student receives the joint examination report and notification of the corrections required by the Research Degrees Exams office following ratification of the report by the Research Degrees Exams Board.

- R13.16 As this is a re-examination to confirm degree, the examiners will examine the amended thesis, submit preliminary reports (when a second oral examination was required) and will provide a second joint examination report. The examiners will be asked to confirm whether the amended thesis now meets the criteria to award the degree.
- R13.17 If the student fails to make the amendments in the specified timeframe or the examiners are unable to confirm that the amendments are satisfactory, the procedure outlined under 'Failure to satisfy after minor or major amendments or after re-examination' below will apply.
- R13.18 Students whose thesis examiners require them to resubmit within eighteen months will be transferred back to writing up status in order that their progress towards resubmission can be monitored, and therefore will be charged writing-up fees.

#### Consideration for a lower, related award

- R13.19 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).
- R13.20 Minor or major amendments, or the re-examination of the thesis within eighteen months, may be permitted by the examiners before the student is considered for the related, lower degree.
- R13.21 Where additional time has already been granted for major or minor amendments or after the re-examination of the thesis, no further additional time will normally be given to the student to prepare the thesis for examination.
- R13.22 For examination for the PhD 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 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).
- R13.23 If the student's thesis does not meet the criteria, the examiners will recommend to the Research Degrees Exams Board that the student be failed.
- R13.24 For examination of Professional Doctorates only: Where the individual programme specification permits, the final reports and outcome will be sent by the examiners to the Research Degrees Exams office, who will forward the

information to the relevant Postgraduate Assessment Board for consideration of an exit award.

### Academic Fail

R13.25 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 eighteen months the examiners will recommend to the Research Degrees Exams Board that the student be recorded as an Academic Fail.

R13.26 A student who fails to satisfy the examiners will not be permitted to re-enter for the examination.

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

R13.27 Where a student fails to satisfy the examiners after minor or major amendments or after the re-examination of the thesis, the examiners will either:

- a) recommend to the Research Degrees Exams 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).

R13.28 The examiners have the discretion to permit an additional calendar month for the student to make further minor amendments before making a final decision.

R13.29 In both cases the student has the right to appeal under the Academic appeals for research degree students appendix (R15).

### Additional Examiner

R13.30 When the examiners appointed are unable to reach agreement when approving major amendments or following a re-examination, they shall report this to the Research Degrees Exams Board, which shall appoint an additional examiner who is external to the university.

R13.31 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.

Useful links

[Centre for Doctoral Studies](#)

[Academic Appeals for research degree students \(R15\)](#)

[Glossary](#)

**Exemptions:** can be submitted by Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies for consideration by the Dean for Doctoral Studies. [Apply here](#). All outcomes are reported to PRSS.

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