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1
Welcome to doctoral study at Sussex

A very warm welcome from the Doctoral School and congratulations on obtaining a place to study on a research programme at Sussex. Choosing Sussex to pursue your graduate studies was a crucial decision for you and it is a privilege for us to have the opportunity to work with you at this vital stage in your career.

Sussex has a large and cosmopolitan graduate community, with an international reputation for research and a culture driven by interdisciplinary problem-solving. As a Doctoral Researcher, you make an invaluable contribution to the Sussex research culture and the spirit of critical inquiry for which it is renowned. The Doctoral School provides a range of support – from advice on funding to professional development opportunities – across Sussex Schools and their diverse doctoral programmes. Do visit our website http://www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/doctoralschool/, it contains information about events, programmes and opportunities relevant to you as well as up-to-date guidance on the resources available to support you – both professionally and personally – at Sussex.

This handbook is designed as a guide to the day-to-day organisation of doctoral studies at Sussex as well as the policies and procedures – from registration to graduation – that will govern your progress through your research. Like any large institution, Sussex is a complex place; this handbook sets out who and what you need to know as a Doctoral Researcher. Not everything will apply to everyone but we have set out the basic ‘lifecycle’ of a Doctoral Researcher, including the people who will be working with you during your period of study. Your supervisor, or supervisory team, is at the core of your studies but each School also has a Director of Doctoral Studies (DDS) responsible for graduate research who is a key point of contact for our Doctoral Researchers.

The pursuit of doctoral research is one of the most interesting, exhilarating and (sometimes) daunting experiences you can have. You are pursuing your studies at a time of significant change in the postgraduate landscape, with national and international discussion on the future shape of doctoral research. The Doctoral School is committed to developing the critical and creative environment for postgraduate study at Sussex, including the provision of opportunities for participation in research workshops, skills training and professional development throughout your period of study.

PROFESSOR GEORGE KEMENES
DIRECTOR OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL
AUGUST 2019
INTRODUCTION

1.1 ABOUT THE HANDBOOK

The purpose of this handbook is to provide guidance and information to help Doctoral Researchers navigate through the University’s requirements for research degrees. It signposts the key stages and processes involved in the lifecycle of a Doctoral Researcher, and clarifies who is responsible for doing what at each stage. The handbook is divided into chronological sections based on the typical Doctoral Researcher journey from registration to graduation.

This handbook specifies the minimum standards for a range of activities leading to the award of a research degree at Sussex, and has regulatory status. All Doctoral Researchers are also expected to comply with the University Regulations as set out here: www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/govdocuments/regulations

As independent researchers, Doctoral Researchers are subject to the same research policies as academic faculty, and Doctoral Researchers and their supervisors should familiarise themselves in particular with the University’s Code of Practice for Research and with additional research governance policies set out here: www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/rqi/policy/research-policy as well as copyright guidance set out here: www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/policies/information/copyright

University-level policy regarding research degree matters is normally approved by the Doctoral Studies Committee in consultation with Schools and with the Research Degrees Examination Board, and ratified by Senate. Changes to policy and regulations normally take effect from the start of the academic year and this handbook applies to all Doctoral Researchers for the 2019-20 session. Doctoral Researchers and supervisors are expected to keep up to date with any minor changes that may be made to this framework that may be communicated to them throughout the year by e-mail and advertised on the Research Student Administration Office website: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao

This handbook along with the Handbook for Research Supervisors and Directors of Doctoral Studies 2019-20 is available to download from the Research Student Administration Office website: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao

1.2 SOURCES OF ADVICE AND HELP

The following departments and people provide support to Doctoral Researchers. For further advice, please see section 22 for ‘Doctoral Researchers: where to go if you need help?’

THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

The Doctoral School is a University-wide collaboration with the aim of supporting Doctoral Researchers across the University, sharing our vibrant intellectual culture and helping you become part of the research community at Sussex. Specifically, it enables an institutional framework for the provision of University-wide skills training and professional development opportunities, as well as co-ordinating a regular programme of social activities and events relevant to the particular needs and interests of Doctoral Researchers.

• Research Student Administration Office

Your main point of contact with all issues regarding registration, progress and examination matters should be with the Research Student Administration Office www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao. This office deals with all aspects of Doctoral Researcher administration from registration and examination to graduation, including the production of ‘To Whom it May Concern’ letters and issuing of CAS/ATAS for international Doctoral Researchers.

The Research Student Administration Office is based in Sussex House. The reception is open from 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. Enquiries may be made by phone, 01273 876550 (internal extension 6550), or email: researchstudentoffice@sussex.ac.uk

• Researcher Development Programme

The experience of studying for a doctoral qualification is at once unique and shared. Your work with your supervisor or supervisory team will be at the core of your studies, however, the Doctoral School also co-ordinates a range of events to support your development as a researcher (from communicating your research to undertaking a literature review; from the use of social media to learning how to use data analysis software). You are strongly encouraged to explore what is on offer via the Researcher Development Programme – not least for the opportunities it offers to meet other researchers and to develop interdisciplinary research networks within and beyond Sussex. www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/doctorschool/researcherdev/
The Researcher Development Programme is mapped to the Vitae Researcher Development Framework (RDF) which describes the knowledge and skills of effective researchers. You should discuss your development needs with your supervisor on commencement of your doctorate, and by consulting the RDF you will be able to identify the skills required to undertake your project. It’s a good idea to review your skills on a periodic basis as you progress, and as part of your ongoing professional development. There are some further online resources to help you with this at www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/doctoralschool/researcherdev/yourdevelopmentneeds Contact: researcher-development@sussex.ac.uk with enquiries.

• **Doctoral Training Partnerships**

Established by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), the Sussex ESRC DTC is one of a network of 21 Doctoral Training Centres in the UK. Funded by the ESRC and Sussex, the Centre provides approximately 22 studentships each year for social science research; Doctoral Researchers join 1 of 6 interdisciplinary pathways: Understanding Behaviour; Global Social Transformations; Knowledge and Society: Well-being, Health and Communities; Citizenship, Justice and Security; Global Economic Performance.

More information may be found here: www.sussex.ac.uk/doctoralschool/internal/esrc

Sussex is also the co-ordinating institution for the Consortium for Humanities and the Arts South-East England, one of 11 new Doctoral Training Partners with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Our partners are Courtauld Institute of Art, Essex, Goldsmiths, Kent, Open University and UEA; together we expect to support over 375 Doctoral Researchers in the arts and humanities over the period of the AHRC award. More information may be found here: www.chase.ac.uk

• **Sussex Research Hive**

The Sussex Research Hive is the Library’s designated area for researchers, open to all Doctoral Researchers and research staff. It provides private study areas, bookable meeting rooms and space for information discussion and collaborative work. SAGE Publications have given funding to support both the Research Hive and the Library’s innovative work in engaging with the research community at Sussex. Three Research Hive Scholars support the area whilst engaging with and fostering the research community at Sussex. The Scholars are on hand in the Hive to talk about the support available to researchers and to find out what users want from their research community. These hours are advertised in the Research Hive and on the events calendar at the bottom of this page: www.sussex.ac.uk/library/research/hive

• **Funding**

Visit www.sussex.ac.uk/doctoralschool/funding for details of support available to researchers wishing to collaborate with other research organisations, undertake international study visits, present at overseas conferences and engage with potential employers.
When you register for a research degree at Sussex, you will be based in one of our 11 Schools of study. The Schools form the academic heart of the University, driving forward academic development in research and teaching and fostering an interdisciplinary approach to learning. Each School provides a stimulating and supportive environment in which you will flourish supervised by staff at the forefront of their fields. Many of our Schools bring together related departments, capitalising on the connections between subjects to deliver new and exciting opportunities for Doctoral Researchers. Representatives ensure that the views and opinions of Doctoral Researchers are heard within the University, and that Doctoral Researchers have a mechanism to influence how departments are run. There are various officers within each School who will be able to provide you with advice and assistance during your time as a Doctoral Researcher:

- **Director of Doctoral Studies**
  The role of the Director of Doctoral Studies is to assist the Head of School in ensuring that the University’s and School’s strategic and operational plans for Doctoral Researchers and postdoctoral staff are achieved, to include meeting the growth agenda, to play an essential role in ensuring that the standards set for Doctoral Researchers and supervision are maintained, and to provide leadership in developing new initiatives and formulating policy on matters relevant to Doctoral Researchers and postdoctoral staff.

- **Director of Student Experience**
  The role of the Director of Student Experience is to assist the Head of School in ensuring that the University’s and School’s strategic and operational plans for student support are achieved. To provide leadership in developing and contributing to policy determined at University level under the direction of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) and also by the School’s senior management team, in the areas of student support and the student experience, to helping to ensure consistent practice.

- **Research Convenor**
  Some departments have a Research Convenor who assists the Director of Doctoral Studies. In these cases, the Research Convenor is responsible for the allocation of supervisors, oversight of supervisory arrangements for Doctoral Researchers in the department or research centre, liaison with the Director of Doctoral Studies over any changes of research supervisor, organisation of departmental arrangements for the Progression Review of Doctoral Researchers and submission of a departmental report to the Director of Doctoral Studies on the outcome of reviews conducted by the department.

- **Research and Enterprise Co-ordinator**
  The Research and Enterprise Co-ordinator is part of the School administrative team and is responsible for local induction arrangements, maintaining records of Doctoral Researchers and supervisory arrangements including reporting on frequency of supervisory contact, assisting with the planning of the annual progression review and viva, assisting with the administration of studentships, and processing expenses for Doctoral Researchers.

- **Doctoral Researcher Representatives**
  The Student Rep scheme is co-run by the University of Sussex and the University of Sussex Students’ Union. Doctoral Researcher Reps provide an essential link between Doctoral Researchers, the Union and the University. Doctoral Researcher Reps are Doctoral Researchers, elected by University of Sussex and by Brighton and Sussex Medical School to represent the views and interests of Doctoral Researchers in their subject. Reps find out about issues impacting on Doctoral Researchers’ studies and experience. They may raise these informally with individual members of staff or more formally at department, school, and university level committees in order to effect positive change. Being a Doctoral Researcher Rep gives an opportunity to learn and practice new life skills that can improve your employability. There is a strong tie between Doctoral Researcher Reps and Students’ Union School Councillors, to ensure that important issues feed in to the decision making processes of the Students’ Union. A number of Doctoral Researcher Reps are elected to hold positions on University committees to raise issues at a higher level. Doctoral Researcher reps are elected in October every year. Find out more about the scheme here: [www.sussexstudent.com/studentreps](http://www.sussexstudent.com/studentreps)
There are a range of support services which provide advice and help to Doctoral Researchers across the University:

- **Student Life Centre**
  The Student Life Centre is the first place to come when you have questions, queries, worries or concerns. Their information desk is open all day 9-5 and they offer email and telephone advice, easily bookable appointments and welfare drop-in sessions (usually 11-4) for urgent concerns.
  The Student Life Centre offers information and advice to all Sussex Doctoral Researchers. Their aim is to help you have the best university experience you can, whatever your circumstances, by ensuring you get the appropriate guidance and support if you run into problems. For more information, see: [www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/index](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentlifecentre/index)

- **Student Support Unit**
  The Support Unit is a team of specialist advisors who work with students who may need support at the university due to a long-term condition, such as disability, learning difficulties or mental health problems. For more information, see: [www.sussex.ac.uk/studentsupport](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/studentsupport)

- **International Student Support**
  Coming to study in the UK is an exciting experience, with opportunities to broaden your academic, social and cultural horizons; we also recognise it can be a time of anxiety, especially when you are making arrangements to leave home. The International Student Support office aims to offer you a high level of support and immigration advice to ensure that to ensure that your time with us is as rewarding and problem-free as possible. For more information, see: [www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport)

- **Careers and Employability Centre**
  The Careers and Employability Centre is part of Student Services at the University of Sussex. For more information see: [www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/index](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/index), and works within the University’s equality and diversity policy: [www.sussex.ac.uk/equalities/](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/equalities/)

The Centre runs training courses specifically for Doctoral Researchers. For more information, see the Researcher’s Guide to the Careers and Employability Centre: [www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/services/researchers](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/careers/services/researchers)

- **English Language for Academic Study**
  English Language for Academic Study workshops and one-to-one tutorials are available free of charge for Doctoral Researchers for whom English is a second or additional language. The workshops also offer guidance on academic referencing and plagiarism. The aim is to raise Doctoral Researchers’ awareness of academic practice, language and culture. The sessions are run through the Sussex Centre for Language Studies: [www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/elas](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/languages/english/elas)

- **Fundamentals of Teaching & Learning in HE**
  Fundamentals of Teaching & Learning in HE is the University’s training module for new, early-career and more experienced Higher Education teachers. Fundamentals is a Master’s level module accredited by the Higher Education Academy (HEA), meaning successful completion of the module can gain you Associate Fellowship of the HEA.
  Fundamentals is open to all Doctoral Researchers, whether you are currently teaching or not, although to benefit most from the module, you should consult with your supervisor about the best moment in your studies to undertake the training. Most people find it beneficial to settle into Sussex and their PhD before taking the module, and while you are required to complete Fundamentals if you want to teach at Sussex, you can do this either before or alongside your teaching.
  The module consists of 5 workshops, with a group assignment presented for assessment in the final workshop. We run the module 8 – 10 times across the academic year, allowing you to book a time of year that works best with your studies and teaching.
  Full details of the module, including how to register and content covered can be found at: [www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/enhancement/devawardsrecognition/stt](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/enhancement/devawardsrecognition/stt)
The next section of the handbook sets out the ‘milestones’ – from registration to graduation – that apply to nearly all Doctoral Researchers studying for a research degree at Sussex (e.g. research plan or equivalent; thesis submission; viva).

Some processes happen only once, some occur every year (e.g. progression review).

There is also a sub-section on procedures that will apply only to Doctoral Researchers in particular fields of study (e.g. Doctoral Researchers undertaking fieldwork) or to individuals in particular circumstances (e.g. Doctoral Researchers applying to intermit).
On arrival
2 REGISTRATION

Registration is the formal process of recording that you have become a member of the University. Once you have registered you will be able to engage in supervision, attend researcher development workshops, use labs, and use the Library, Computing and other University facilities.

Once registered for the first time you will receive a University registration card which includes membership of the Students’ Union.

If you are in receipt of a postgraduate student loan, the Research Student Administration Office will notify the Student Loan Company when you have completed registration. The Student Loan Company will then release your first loan installment.

If you have queries regarding registration, please contact researchstudentprogress@sussex.ac.uk. If you have queries regarding your student loan, please contact the Student Finance England Postgraduate Loan Team: www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england.

2.1 REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

In order to remain a candidate for the degree you are required to renew your registration each academic year. Information regarding online registration will be sent to you by email in August/September each year.

2.2 CONTACT BY POST

The University will contact you by email in the first instance, using your University of Sussex email address. Should the University need to contact you by letter, the following addresses will be used:

- correspondence for full-time, part-time or pre-submission Doctoral Researchers will be sent to term-time addresses
- correspondence for fieldwork/distant learning Doctoral Researchers will be sent to fieldwork/distant learning addresses

2.3 TERM TIME ADDRESS

When you register you should confirm your term-time address, any changes to your address should be updated on your details via Sussex Direct.

2.4 HEALTH SERVICE

You and your dependents may register with the University Health Service.

2.5 COUNCIL TAX

Full-time registered Doctoral Researchers living in University-managed accommodation are generally exempt from paying Council Tax and the University supplies details of tenants to the local authority.

If you are a full-time Doctoral Researcher not living in University accommodation, upon request the Research Student Administration Office we will provide you with a letter confirming your registration status which you may use to establish your Council Tax liability with the local authority.

If you are a part-time or pre-submission Doctoral Researcher you should contact your local Council Tax Office for further information on any discounts you may be eligible for.

2.6 ELECTORAL REGISTRATION

Arrangements to register you to vote whilst a Doctoral Researcher at the university are managed through annual registration. Please note in order to vote you must be registered.
3 INDUCTION

All Doctoral Researchers offered a place are notified in advance of a programme of University and School level induction events which are designed to inform them about, and help them settle into, their studies at the University. Prior to their attending the University all Doctoral Researchers are provided with access to a dedicated web pages which outline the full package of support that is available during induction, as well as more general background information about the University, support services and practical advice.

Your School will ensure that all new Doctoral Researchers meet their supervisor and the Research Convenor as early as possible.

In addition to a wider induction of Doctoral Researchers by the University, your School will arrange meetings for new Doctoral Researchers presided over by Directors of Doctoral Studies, or nominees, at which you should be familiarised with ‘The Responsibilities of Research Degree Supervisors and Doctoral Researchers’.(see below)

A more informal social gathering may also be arranged at which current postgraduates including Doctoral Researchers and appropriate faculty will be present. All new Doctoral Researchers will be provided with key information relating to the requirements expected of them and sources of support that are available.

3.1 NEW DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS: ONLINE INDUCTION RESOURCE

The Doctoral School has developed a new resource to help you manage the early days of your doctorate – bringing together video interviews with doctoral researchers and staff from across the University, webinar recordings and lots of useful tools. See: www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/doctorschool/new-doctoral-researchers

3.2 PERSONAL WEB PROFILE

Once you have commenced your research degree you are encouraged to set up a personal profile on the University’s website. The profile facility allows you to present yourself and your research on the Sussex website and you can also ask your School to display your profile on the School webpages. This can help raise your academic profile and promote your research. For details of how to create your profile, visit: www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/doctorschool/researcherdev/onlineprofile

4 SUPERVISION

4.1 MAIN SUPERVISOR

In most cases you will have a main supervisor and then one or more secondary supervisors, all of whom will provide you with advice and guidance throughout your time at Sussex. Your main supervisor is responsible for communication with the Research Student Administration Office and will take the lead in the administration of your research progress. In cases of joint or co-supervision, one of your two supervisors will be responsible for taking this role. You are required to submit via Sussex Direct a record of each meeting with your supervisor(s) – a mutually agreed summary of the key issues discussed and agreed deadlines – for both submission of work and feedback.

4.2 CHANGE OF SUPERVISOR

In some cases it may be necessary for the School to change your supervisor(s) during the course of your studies. This could be temporary, due to research leave or illness, or it could be on a permanent basis, for example as a result of a change in the focus of your project or if your supervisor leaves the University. In all cases the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School will ensure that appropriate replacement supervision is arranged as soon as possible.

4.3 CLARIFYING HOW SUPERVISION WILL WORK

You should have your first meeting with your supervisory team within your first two weeks after registration. This meeting should include a discussion of the schedule of supervisory meetings and also consider your, and your supervisors’ expectations of supervision. A positive relationship with your supervisors will be a key factor in the success of your doctorate, and the questionnaire to ‘clarify the roles, responsibilities and expectations’ of Doctoral Researchers and their supervisors (see section 23) can be used for this purpose. It is vital that a record of these early supervisions are made in Sussex Direct.

4.4 MID-YEAR REVIEW OF SUPERVISION

All Doctoral Researchers and supervisors are required to engage, at a mid-point each year, in a discussion regarding supervision. A record of this discussion must be made online in the same way as standard supervisions and it may be useful to return to the expectations questionnaire (see section 23) that is normally used at the outset of registration. You are asked to reflect on supervision, and if appropriate to share these views with your supervisors, with the aim of improving the quality and efficiency of future supervision for all involved.
5 RESPONSIBILITIES

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

- maintaining regular contact with the main supervisor in accordance with University policy on attendance, engagement and absence for Doctoral Researchers, available at: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/regulations
- within 3 months of first registration, to organise a meeting with the supervisor to discuss the Researcher Development Framework
- to prepare a research plan (or School equivalent) which must be approved by the supervisor and Director of Doctoral Studies; your School will inform you of specific requirements and timing but this must be completed by the end of the second term of study at the latest. The research plan must include your most recent Training Needs Analysis
- discussing with the supervisor/s the type of guidance and feedback which will be most helpful, discussing expectations of supervision (see section 4.3) and agreeing upon a schedule of meetings
- keeping a record of supervisory meetings using the online system, to be confirmed by supervisors
- taking the initiative in raising problems or difficulties, however elementary they may seem
- for the safety of themselves and others, Doctoral Researchers working in a potentially hazardous research environment must take the initiative to ensure that they are competent in any relevant research techniques to be used. Those travelling to potentially unsafe areas for fieldwork need to obtain insurance accordingly
- planning a research project which is achievable within a schedule consistent with the normal expectations of the University, and maintaining progress in line with that schedule
- maintaining the progress of work in accordance with the stages agreed with the main supervisor, including in particular the presentation of written material as required in sufficient time to allow for comments and discussion before proceeding to the next stage
- providing the work required by your School, including a brief formal report to the Director of Doctoral Studies, as part of the Progression Review process

- deciding when to submit the thesis, taking due account of the supervisor/s advice, and of University requirements regarding the length, format and organisation of the thesis
- taking responsibility for their own personal and professional development
- agreeing their development needs via the Training Needs Analysis with the main supervisor at the outset of the programme, reviewing these on an annual basis, and attending any relevant development opportunities so identified
- being familiar with institutional regulations and policies that affect them, including the regulations for their qualification
- being familiar with funding arrangements, terms and conditions, including length of funding and funder requirements should any changes to study be made
- being aware of the University’s Code of Practice for Research and adhering to the requirements and observing the principles contained therein. Visit: https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=code-of-practice-for-research-june-2018.pdf&site=377
- being aware of the University’s Open Access policies and the copyright implications of publishing their thesis in the institutional repository. Visit: https://www.sussex.ac.uk/library/research/openaccess

If you consider that your work is not proceeding satisfactorily for reasons outside your control, you should discuss the matter with the supervisor/s and, failing satisfaction, with the Director of Doctoral Studies and/or Research Convenor who will advise on any grievance procedures. In particular, you should ask to meet the Director of Doctoral Studies if you feel that you are not establishing an effective working relationship with your supervisors, bearing in mind that the alleged inadequacy of supervisory or other arrangements during the period of study would not constitute grounds for an appeal against the result of a research degree examination unless there were exceptional reasons for it not having come to light until after the examination, in which case it might be considered. A guide has been developed to help you feel secure and confident in raising any issues, which also lists many useful outlets for help. If required, refer to section 23 for Doctoral Researchers: where to go if you need help.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESEARCH DEGREE SUPERVISORS

The main supervisor is directly responsible in their role as supervisor to the Director of Doctoral Studies and, through that officer, to the Head of School. The main supervisor (or co-supervisor in the case of joint supervisions) is expected to provide the Doctoral Researcher with advice at every stage in the planning and conduct of research and in the writing of the thesis and to ensure, through the Director of Doctoral Studies, that replacement supervision is available in the event of any significant period of absence. The more specific responsibilities of the main supervisor are as follows:

• maintaining regular contact with the Doctoral Researcher in accordance with University policy on attendance, engagement and absence for Doctoral Researchers, available at: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/regulations/
• within 3 months of first registration, to organise a meeting with the Doctoral Researcher to discuss the Researcher Development Framework
• to agree a schedule of regular meetings with the Doctoral Researcher in accordance with School policy, and consider the expectations of supervision (see section 4.3 and 23) with the Doctoral Researcher
• to confirm the draft records of supervisory meetings using the online system
• to approve a research plan (or School equivalent) produced by the Doctoral Researcher and to pass this to the Director of Doctoral Studies for further approval. Schools will have specific requirements and deadlines but the research plan must be completed by the end of the second term of study at the latest
• to complete an annual report on the Doctoral Researcher’s progress for consideration within the framework of the School and/or department’s Progression Review procedures, for later submission to the Director of Doctoral Studies
• to provide advice and support to the Doctoral Researcher on the preparation of a suitable thesis research outline during the first year of their study, in accordance with School procedures
• to request written work as appropriate, and return such work with constructive criticism and within reasonable time
• if working in a potentially hazardous research environment, ensuring and monitoring that the Doctoral Researcher possess adequate technical competence in any relevant research techniques, so that they present no undue risk to themselves, others, and/or University facilities
• to give detailed advice on the necessary completion of successive stages of work so that the thesis may be submitted within the scheduled time
• to ensure that the Doctoral Researcher is made aware of inadequacy of progress or of standards of work below that generally expected
• to identify prospective examiners

The more general responsibilities of those involved in the Doctoral Researcher’s supervision are as follows:

• to be accessible to the Doctoral Researcher at other appropriate times when they may need advice
• to give guidance about the nature of research and the standard expected, the planning of the research programme, literature and sources, attendance at taught classes, requisite techniques (including arranging for instruction where necessary), and the problem of plagiarism
• to be familiar with the standard expected of research degree examiners, consistent with the guidance laid down by relevant Research Councils
• to arrange as appropriate for the Doctoral Researcher to talk about their work to faculty or graduate seminars, and to be well briefed about the procedures involved in oral examinations
• to provide clarification on the guidance or comment that will be offered on the Doctoral Researcher’s written submissions
• to ensure that the Doctoral Researcher is aware of the University’s Code of Practice for Research and that they adhere to the requirements and observe the principles contained therein
• to ensure that the Doctoral Researcher is aware of the University’s Open Access policies and the copyright implications of publishing their thesis in the institutional repository
• to advise on the need for training in the ethical, legal and other conventions used in the conduct of research, and supporting the Doctoral Researcher in the consideration of these as appropriate
• to ensure that the Doctoral Researcher is aware of institutional-level sources of advice, including careers guidance, health and safety legislation and equal opportunities policy
• to maintain and develop the necessary skills and expertise in order to perform all facets of the role effectively (including taking up appropriate continuing professional development opportunities as agreed by the Doctoral School Board)
6 RESEARCH OUTLINE

Your research progress is reviewed annually and is an important process. The first stage is the preparation of a research plan (or School equivalent) which sets out the overall plan, objectives and timetable for your research. This needs to be completed by the end of your second term of full-time study at the latest. Your research plan will need to include a proposed thesis title, be endorsed by your supervisor and approved by the Director of Doctoral Studies.

6.1 TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS

You must complete a Training Needs Analysis with your supervisor at the start of each year. By reflecting on your training needs you can identify areas for development and then target specific workshops and courses, such as those offered by the Doctoral School that focus on these areas. Your Training Needs Analysis should be considered by the panel assessing your academic progress as part of your annual review.

6.2 ETHICAL REVIEW

All staff and Doctoral Researchers whose research involves living subjects will require ethical approval before their research may commence. To determine whether you need an ethical review, during your first year you will need to complete an ethical review checklist. Subsequently, if appropriate, you will need to gain ethical approval for your research via a committee review: www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/governance

7 PROGRESSION REVIEW PROCESS

In each year of registration you will need to achieve satisfactory progress in your research. The Director of Doctoral Studies in your School will advise the Research Student Administration Office on whether you have academic clearance to progress.

Although you should raise any concerns you may have during the course of your registration, the Progression Review process does also provide a confidential opportunity to draw attention to any problems you may be experiencing, or any areas where you might be better supported by your department or School.

7.1 CONSIDERATION OF YOUR RESEARCH

Your School will define the academic work that is required to be produced as part of your Progression Review. This will vary by discipline, and by the year in which you are studying. The work required could typically include draft thesis chapters, a review of literature, an advanced plan of research, presentation of data and findings or a draft paper for publication. The format in which your work is presented will be defined by your School.

In all instances, the work required for Progression Review must be an integral part of your research, and material that is required anyway in the production of your thesis.

7.2 DOCTORAL RESEARCHER REPORT

In addition to the presentation of your research (7.1 above) as part of the Progression Review, you will be asked to complete a report outlining your progress. This report will be confidential, and for your Progression Review members only. If your Progression Review meeting includes your secondary supervisor, separate arrangements will be made in your School for you to raise issues confidentially.

Your Doctoral Researcher report should provide the following areas of detail:

• the current stage of your research. Your report should refer to your research outline, explaining any changes and indicating the most recent developments. If you are on fieldwork, or have completed it in the past year, you should outline its successes and any issues that arose

• any issues you are experiencing in your research which might need access to further specialised advice or resources

• whether your work has been significantly impeded by any non-academic factors or if you expect it to be in the next few months

• how many times you have been in contact with your supervisor/s and whether that has been satisfactory

• whether you feel that you have been receiving adequate and appropriate feedback and advice

• any courses or training you have undertaken in the past year and whether there are any further requirements that you feel you need
• your funding arrangements
• research objectives for the forthcoming year
• when you realistically expect to submit your thesis
• any other factors that you would like to draw to the attention of the Director of Doctoral Studies

7.3 SUPERVISOR’S REPORT
Your main supervisor will also be asked to complete a report which details:

• whether you are making satisfactory progress in accordance with the plans in your research outline
• your relationship with your supervisor and whether you have kept in touch adequately
• when your supervisor realistically expects your thesis to be submitted
• whether, in your supervisor’s opinion, there is any risk that you will not submit by your deadline
• whether any non-academic factors may have impeded your work sufficiently to make a case for intermission
• whether your supervisor thinks that you need any specialist training, advice, or special resources
• any problems identified and the possible solutions to rectify those problems.

Your supervisor’s report will not be made available to you, so that both your report and the supervisor’s report are entirely confidential to the progression review panel.

7.4 PROGRESSION REVIEW MEETING
You will be required to attend a formal Progression Review meeting with at least one member of Faculty who will be nominated by the Director of Doctoral Studies and who is not your main supervisor. This meeting is sometimes referred to as a ‘Thesis Panel’.

Your supervisor/s may also attend with your, and the Director of Doctoral Studies’, agreement. The meeting is to discuss your academic progress and may include an academic defence of the subject matter of the thesis or ‘mini viva’.

While all Doctoral Researchers must undergo a Progression Review each year, if your thesis submission or completion is imminent, your School may agree to conduct your progression review without the needs for an in-person meeting. Doctoral Researcher and Supervisor reports are required in the normal way, for consideration by the review panel. In such cases, the Progression Review must agree a plan to completion, and ensure that the Intention to Submit process and nomination of examiners is completed in the timescales prescribed (refer to section 10.1).

Following the Progression Review, a recommendation will be made to the Director of Doctoral Studies on your registration status for the following academic year.

The Director of Doctoral Studies will confirm to the Research Student Administration Office that:

• all reports have been completed by both the Doctoral Researcher and the supervisor
• the Progression Review meeting has taken place
• a decision has been taken on your registration for the following academic year.
7.4.1 UNSATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Following your annual review, if your progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory, there are three options which your School may consider.

1. You may be offered a period of provisional registration. Your School will set the conditions that you have to meet by the end of that period (e.g. completion of a chapter) in order to progress and be fully registered.

2. Your registration may be transferred (downgraded) from PhD to MPhil.

3. You may be refused permission to register in the following academic year.

Any period of provisional registration should normally conclude before the commencement of the following academic year.

If the decision is to refuse progression to the next academic year the following steps will be taken:

- The departmental review group, or equivalent within your School assigned to conduct the Progression review should produce a detailed report on your academic progress, highlighting aspects that are not satisfactory and include a recommendation to refuse registration in the next academic year.

- The report should be forwarded to the School Research Degree Committee chaired by the Director of Doctoral Studies. If the School Research Degree Committee accepts the recommendation it should forward the recommendation including the departmental report and a minute of the Research Degree Committee discussion and conclusion to the Research Student Administration Office.

- The Research Student Administration Office will review the papers to confirm that proper procedures have been followed and that the recommendation is not in contravention of any regulations.

- The Research Student Administration Office will then send the documents on to the Chair of the Doctoral Studies Committee for final consideration and approval.

- The Chair of the Doctoral Studies Committee will approve the refusal if they agree with the recommendation, and notify the Research Student Administration Office of its decision.

- the Research Student Administration Office will write to you to inform you of the outcome and advise you of your right to appeal and the procedure involved.

7.5 APPEAL

If you have been refused permission to re-register and consider that the decision was based on inadequate evidence or taken in an improper manner, you have the right to appeal against that decision in writing to the Secretary of the Research Degree and Professional Doctorate Appeals Board within 21 days of notification of the decision.

If you have been refused permission to re-register you will receive a letter from the Research Student Administration Office informing you of this and setting out the procedure for appeal which can also be found here: www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/complaintsappeals/academic/

7.6 INTERIM PROGRESSION REVIEWS

Your Progression Review will normally occur in the Spring/Summer. It is however possible to convene a Progression Review at any point in the year. Doctoral Researchers or supervisors can request an Interim Progression Review, for the approval of the Director of Doctoral Studies. Directors may themselves also convene an Interim Progression Review.

The process and range of outcomes of Interim Progression Reviews are the same as described for Progression Reviews.

7.7 GENERAL MONITORING OF YOUR PROGRESS AND ATTENDANCE

Your School will advise you of the character and frequency of the research supervision that you can expect to have with your supervisor/s. At minimum there should normally be one formal meeting each month between Doctoral Researcher and supervisor, all of which need to be recorded via Sussex Direct. Your supervision records will create a useful history of discussions with your supervisors which you can refer to during your research.

Your school will apply procedures to monitor your attendance on a regular basis, in accordance with the University policy on attendance, engagement and absence for Postgraduate Doctoral Researchers, available at: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/regulations/
8 FIELDWORK

On successful completion of your first annual review, you may be permitted to carry out research elsewhere in the interests of your academic work providing that you spend at least half of your minimum prescribed period of registration as a Doctoral Researcher at the University.

Before you proceed on fieldwork you should ensure:

- your thesis title and research outline/research topic have been submitted and approved
- you have ethical approval for fieldwork where necessary
- you have completed the necessary risk assessments and insurance applications
- you have received notification in writing from the Research Student Administration Office that approval has been granted for you to proceed on fieldwork
- if you are attending a Research Skills Course as a compulsory requirement for your studies that you have completed this course before going on fieldwork

The general expectation is that 100% of the relevant fees will normally be paid. With respect to periods away on fieldwork, however, a discount of 35% may be agreed, subject to the approval of the Director of Doctoral Studies. This discount will only be approved where a clear case can be made on the basis that you will not have access to the standard facilities, infrastructure and support network that would normally be available to you.

Please ensure that any change of address – for fieldwork or otherwise – is kept up to date in Sussex Direct.

Please contact the Research and Enterprise Coordinator in your School to make any necessary arrangements with regard to your work space.

Please note that, in accordance with the arrangements approved by your School and the University policy on attendance, engagement and absence for Postgraduate Doctoral Researchers, you must maintain regular contact with your supervisor/s to advise on your progress while you are undertaking fieldwork.

8.1 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Please complete an application to undertake fieldwork or to study away from the University, which is available from the Research Student Administration Office website, www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/forms

Once completed your application should be passed to your main supervisor who will make a recommendation to the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School. The Director of Doctoral Studies in your School will then make a decision on your application.

The completed form will be sent to the Research Student Administration Office who will write to inform you of the decision.

Please note that you must apply for permission to undertake fieldwork in advance and retrospective applications will not be approved.

8.2 APPLICATION TO EXTEND YOUR PERIOD OF FIELDWORK OR PERIOD OF STUDY AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY

In order to extend your period on fieldwork or study away from the University please complete the application form available from the Research Student Administration Office website, www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/forms before the end of your current period of fieldwork.

If your supervisor supports your request they will make a recommendation to the Director of Doctoral Studies who will notify the Research Student Administration Office of the final decision. The Research Student Administration Office will then write to you to notify you of the decision.

8.3 RETURN FROM FIELDWORK OR STUDY AWAY FROM THE UNIVERSITY

On your return from fieldwork or study away from the University please update Sussex Direct with your correct term-time address and check that addresses held on Sussex Direct are correct.
9 PRE-SUBMISSION STATUS (ALSO REFERRED TO AS ‘WRITING-UP’ STATUS)

Please note that not all Doctoral Researchers will transfer to pre-submission status and you may have any registration status (full-time, part-time or pre-submission) at the time you submit your thesis. Pre-submission status does not automatically occur; an application to transfer to pre-submission status must be made. This is particularly important to note if you are a Doctoral Researcher with funding of three years or less. After your funding ends, if an application for pre-submission status has not been made, standard fees will be charged.

You can apply to transfer to pre-submission status (sometimes referred to as ‘writing up status’) if you have completed your research work and collected all your data. Your supervisor must approve a well-worked first draft of your thesis as well as a detailed timeline and plan to submission before you are eligible to transfer to pre-submission status. Please discuss your progress with your supervisor before you complete an application form for pre-submission status.

Pre-submission status is not normally approved before the completion of three years full-time study or five years part-time study, and cannot be applied retrospectively. As you cannot apply retrospectively, it is important that you discuss your transfer to pre-submission status with your supervisor ahead of time.

A reduced tuition fee is payable for Doctoral Researchers registered on pre-submission status. Pre-submission can be applied for in blocks of three months (3, 6, 9 or 12 months) up to a maximum of one year and your tuition fees will be adjusted accordingly. Please note that if you are applying for less than one year, your timetable to submission must be realistic and must match the length of time requested on pre-submission status. If you do not submit your thesis before the end of your period of pre-submission, you will need to apply to extend this.

Doctoral Researchers on pre-submission status are entitled to at least two meetings with their supervisory team per three months, unless agreed otherwise with your School. The supervisor will read and comment on a revised full draft of the thesis while the Doctoral Researcher is registered on pre-submission status.

You will not be entitled to:
- Use of work-rooms, laboratories or similar facilities
- University accommodation
- Membership of, or election to, University Committees

Although a reduced fee is charged while you are on pre-submission, you will still continue to receive the same level of use of the Library and Computing Service up to your maximum date of registration.

An application form for pre-submission status is available from the Research Student Administration Office website. Once completed, your application form should be passed to your main supervisor who will make a recommendation to the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School. The Director of Doctoral Studies will then make a decision regarding your application. The completed form will be sent to the Research Student Administration Office who will write to inform you of the decision.
Submission
10 SUBMISSION

10.1 NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SUBMIT YOUR THESIS OR PORTFOLIO

You should give at least two months’ notice of your intention to submit your thesis or portfolio to the Research Student Administration Office by completing the intention to submit form available from the Research Student Administration Office website, www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/forms and attaching a copy of your summary to the form (below is a description of what the summary should include). You should then pass the form to your main supervisor. You will receive written confirmation of receipt from the Research Student Administration Office.

Two months’ notice is required as internal and external examiners need to be identified and formally appointed by the Research Degrees Examination Board. Failure to give full notice of your intention to submit will delay the examination of your thesis.

Please note that you must be registered at the time of the submission of your thesis or portfolio.

10.2 NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS

If you are being funded through your studies, and there is commercially sensitive information within your thesis, funders can request a non-disclosure agreement. This would be between your examiners and the University of Sussex. In these instances, staff in the Research Student Administration Office can advise researchexams@sussex.ac.uk and arrange for an agreement to be signed.

10.3 SUMMARY

The summary or abstract should provide a synopsis of the thesis, and should clearly state the nature and scope of the research undertaken and contribution made to the knowledge of the subject. It should include a brief statement of the method of investigation where appropriate, an outline of the major divisions or principal arguments of the work and a summary of any conclusions reached.

A loose leaf copy of the summary should be submitted with your Intention to Submit form and a copy should be bound (not loose) into each of your temporary bound theses/portfolios when submitted.

Your summary should be single spaced and each copy should be on a separate sheet of A4 paper, separately printed, and must not exceed 300 words, except in the following subjects: Education/Social Work, Music-Theatre Performance, Creative Writing and Media Practice, which must not exceed 600 words.

Each summary should include a heading set out in the following style:

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

YOUR FULL NAME DEGREE FOR WHICH THE THESIS OR PORTFOLIO IS SUBMITTED

TITLE OF THESIS OR PORTFOLIO

SUMMARY

10.4 PREPARATION OF YOUR THESIS OR PORTFOLIO FOR EXAMINATION

Your thesis should be submitted to the Research Student Administration Office either in person or by post. Theses submitted by post should be addressed to the Research Student Administration Office, Sussex House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RH. Please note that you must be fully registered in order to submit your thesis.

Tier 4 sponsored Doctoral Researchers wishing to apply for the Doctorate Extension scheme must indicate this at the point of submission (refer to section 21.7)

Once you have submitted your thesis, your registration status changes to ‘research examination’. While you are in this status you will not be required to re-register annually and fees are not accrued.

10.4.1 NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED

You should submit three copies of your thesis in temporary binding.
10.4.2 TEMPORARY BINDING

Three copies of the thesis should be submitted in temporary binding, and an electronic PDF copy if required by your examiners, as follows:

- The pages of the thesis should be held together in a soft cover by an adhesive spine and should not be stitched or have holes punched in them.
- The Print Unit (York House) offers a thermal binding service for reasonable rates.
  www.sussex.ac.uk/sef/services/print
- A portfolio of musical compositions and associated commentary should have a spiral binding.

10.4.3 LANGUAGE OF THESIS OR PORTFOLIO

Apart from quotations, the thesis or portfolio should be written in English.

The Doctoral Studies Committee may approve the submission of a thesis in a language other than English in exceptional circumstances.

10.4.4 LENGTH AND FORMAT OF THESIS OR PORTFOLIO

- The maximum word length for a PhD thesis is 80,000 words.
- The maximum word length for an MPhil thesis is 40,000 words.

In the following subjects no limits are specified:
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Engineering and Design
- Environmental Science
- Informatics
- Mathematics
- Physics & Astronomy
- SPRU: Science & Technology Policy Research

The maximum word length includes footnotes and bibliography but excludes any appendices. Any request to exceed the word limit would not normally exceed 10% of the stated maximum and must be submitted via the Approval to Exceed Thesis Length form and approved by your School, as here: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/forms/

10.4.5 MUSICAL COMPOSITION

A PhD or MPhil taken by musical composition should be submitted in the format of a portfolio of compositions and a discursive or written component.

The portfolio must contain at least one substantial composition and one or more related shorter compositions.

The substantial composition should consist of either:
- a written score to be scored either for larger forces or for smaller forces in which case it should exceed 15 minutes in duration
- or an equivalent-scale musical, sonic or audio-visual work for digital media
- or an equivalent-scale musical performance of original work, which must be documented on DVD and submitted with the critical commentary
  - the written component [associated commentary] must be between 8000 and 10,000 words in length. The portfolio of compositions should normally contain at least one large-scale work and a number of related smaller compositions.

The large-scale work should consist of either:
- a written score for larger forces or for smaller forces in which case it should exceed 30 minutes in duration
- an equivalent-scale musical, sonic or audio-visual work for digital media
- an equivalent-scale musical performance of original work documented on DVD and submitted with the critical commentary.
  - the written component [associated commentary] must be between 20,000 and 40,000 words in length.

10.4.6 MUSIC-THEATRE PERFORMANCE

The thesis should consist of either a substantial performance work, or a performance work with a portfolio of compositions or other creative work, and a discursive and critical written component.

The performance may involve any media or disciplines in combination with music, and may or may not involve the Doctoral Researcher themselves. The performance work...
must be documented on electronic media, which must be submitted with the critical commentary.

The MPhil discursive or critical written component of the thesis will be between 10,000 and 20,000, PhD will be between 20,000 and 40,000 words in length. The summary for both the MPhil and the PhD shall not exceed 600 words.

10.4.7 CREATIVE WRITING

The MPhil shall be no more than 40,000 words in length. The PhD shall be no more than 80,000 words.

The thesis will be an original piece of creative writing and research. Many creative writing theses will consist of a creative component:

- In any recognised genre of creative writing, together with a related critical study
- The critical component should occupy no less than 20% and no more than 80% of the total word length
- Where poetry is the chosen genre, the creative component will be a book length manuscript and the critical component will be no less than 25,000 words (MPhil) or 50,000 words (PhD)
- The thesis may also be presented in such a way that the creative and critical components are interwoven to create a distinctive whole. In this instance, the creative and critical components may be seen, for example, as two different but interdependent responses to the same topic
- Or the creative component may arise out of the critical component (or vice versa) and be a vehicle for exploring it further
- In either case, the summary for both the MPhil and the PhD shall not exceed 600 words.

10.4.8 DRAMA, THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

The thesis can either be submitted as a written thesis or through a combination of thesis and performance work. Where the thesis does not include a practice-based component it should follow the standard thesis format and guidelines (80,000 words for a PhD, 40,000 words for an MPhil).

Thesis and practice: the submission should consist of either a substantial practice-based work, such as a performance, a series of workshops, an installation or a durational work, or a portfolio of works. The work must be documented in relevant and retainable form such as video/digital recording, scores or scripts, photographic evidence or a combination of these, agreed and approved by the supervisor(s). The work may or may not involve the student as performer but must be entirely her/his work. The practice-based component must be accompanied by a discursive, critical written component of between 10,000 and 20,000 words (MPhil) and between 20,000 and 40,000 words (PhD). The summary for both the MPhil and the PhD must not exceed 600 words.

10.4.9 MEDIA PRACTICE

The thesis will consist of a substantial creative work, or a portfolio of creative work, in either video or digital imaging or photography or interactive media or sound or any other digital media or combination of media, and a discursive and critical written component.

The work may incorporate live performance and installation in which case these elements must be documented in retainable forms, such as videos, scripts and plans, that are approved by the supervisor(s).

The MPhil discursive or critical written component of the thesis will be between 10,000 and 20,000 words in length and PhD between 20,000 and 40,000 words in length. The summary for both the MPhil and the PhD must not exceed 600 words.

10.4.10 PAPERS STYLE THESIS

You may incorporate, as an integral part of the thesis, any of your work published or submitted for publication before the submission of the thesis, provided that the greater proportion of the work for the thesis has been carried out after registration for the degree and under supervision. Candidates submitting a ‘papers-style’ thesis are required to include a declaration confirming their contribution to each paper, especially in cases where the co-author is a supervisor. Examiners will be asked to pay particular attention to consistency or otherwise in the quality of those parts of the thesis which have not been submitted for publication (linking chapters).
Please note that in preparing a ‘papers style’ thesis you should bear in mind that the examiners will be judging the overall contribution of the research project in addition to the quality or impact of the individual papers. You should therefore include a section in the introduction to your thesis which explains how your project represents a significant contribution to knowledge. The introduction should also be expanded to include a short description of each chapter or paper and their contribution to the overall project. You should also prepare a final chapter bringing the papers and chapters together into a conclusion.

Please note that you may amend the original papers for inclusion in your thesis, even if they have already been published elsewhere. For example, a single set of appendices containing your data, and a single bibliography, will aid the examiners in reading and evaluating the overall thesis.

10.4.11 PHD BY PUBLISHED WORKS

This course of registration relates to those who are the author of substantial research-led publications prior to registration.

This PhD is awarded for the submission of a portfolio of published research of the same standard as a typical PhD. The work can take the form of refereed articles, chapters, monographs, scholarly editions, software and creative work (including fine art, audiovisual works, design, music or performance) or other original artefacts, as long as they are available or traceable in the public domain.

Three copies will be required of a portfolio consisting of the following: an abstract of the submission, including a list of the items of published work; the items of published work; and a 10,000 word supporting paper that:

- summarises each published work to be submitted
- provides a commentary on the status of the publishing outlets
- describes the interrelationship of the published works to be submitted
- gives a critical review of the current state of knowledge and research in the relevant field
- reports on the reception of the published works as indicated by citations and reviews
- demonstrates how the published works to be submitted have made a significant contribution to knowledge in a particular field.

10.4.12 DOCTOR OF EDUCATION AND DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

The thesis must not normally exceed 50,000 words. The summary for both the Doctor of Education and Doctor of Social Work must not exceed 600 words.

10.5 PRESENTATION OF YOUR THESIS

As it is important that your thesis is presented for examination in a complete form before submission you are advised to check:

- all chapters/sections are present and complete, correctly numbered and in the correct order
- tables of contents, etc. are present and correct
- all Figures and Tables are present, inserted in the correct place, have an appropriate title and legend where necessary, and are in final form and appropriately numbered
- a minimum font size of not less than 9 is suggested after insertion of a Figure into the main text of the thesis
- the text has been carefully checked to remove typographical, spelling and grammatical errors. As complete elimination is very difficult, insertion of a few corrections at a later stage is usually allowed, although please be advised that more than one error per page is not considered acceptable
- the bibliography is presented in an acceptable format, your supervisor should be able to advise you further
- references are cited accurately, and every reference cited in the text is given in the bibliography and vice-versa
- all pages are present and correctly numbered and located
- you have correctly set out subject-specific aspects such as statistical analyses, formulae or quotations.

ADVISORY NOTE

You may wish to retain the services of a proof reader or editor to assist you in completing a draft of your thesis.

A thesis presented for examination in an incomplete or poor form could result in the examiners being unable to assess the academic work properly.
10.5.1 FORMAT OF THE THESIS OR PORTFOLIO

The approved format of your thesis or portfolio is as follows:

Paper
- A4 and of good quality
- Doctoral Researchers in countries where A4 paper is difficult to source may submit on US Letter sized paper
- there is no size restriction on drawings, map and similar documents.

Typeface
- the typeface should be clear and easy to read.

Printing
- on one side of the paper only.

Spacing
- for the main text, double or one-and-a-half line-spacing
- for indented quotations or footnotes, single line-spacing.

Margins
- the left-hand-side should be 4cm
- the top and bottom margins should be 2.5cm deep
- the right hand margin should be 2cm.

10.5.2 PAGINATION

Pages should be numbered consecutively through the main text, excluding photographs and/or diagrams which are not embodied in the text.

Page numbers should be located centrally at the top of the page.

Any photographs or diagrams not included in the text must be indexed separately by reference to the page which follows it.

10.5.3 TITLE PAGE

The title page should include:
- the full title of the thesis and the sub-title if any
- the full name of the author
- the qualification aimed for
- the name of the University of Sussex
- the month and year of submission.

10.5.4 TABLE OF CONTENTS

A table of contents should be included in the thesis and should list in sequence with the page numbers all relevant sub-divisions of the thesis including:
- the titles of chapters
- sections and paragraphs as appropriate
- the bibliography
- the list of abbreviations and other functional parts of the thesis
- any appendices and the index (if provided).

Drawings, maps and similar documents should preferably be included with the text, but may, if necessary, be submitted in a portfolio lettered in similar fashion to the text.

10.5.5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

A composite bibliography should be presented at the end of the thesis after the main text and before any appendices.

Individual bibliographies for sub-divisions of the thesis should not be employed.

The composite bibliography should be:
- either numbered consecutively, as far as possible, in the same order as references appear in the text, with numbers only in the text
- or be placed in alphabetical order of authors, sub-divided chronologically by year of publication, with authors’ names and years of publications in the text.
• in the latter case publications in the same year by the same author(s) should be distinguished in the bibliography and the text by letters in alphabetical sequence (e.g. 1979a, 1979b)

• referencing system: please use the referencing system most prevalent in your discipline. The same referencing system should be used throughout the thesis.

10.5.6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the introduction to your thesis, you should set out the sources of your information, such as particular libraries, archives, organisational records, private papers and department files.

You should also set out the plan of your research procedures, indicating what general categories of persons you interviewed and you should indicate any special conditions of access to information.

10.5.7 STATEMENT

Your thesis or portfolio must include a signed declaration bound into the thesis or portfolio after the title page which states:

• the thesis or portfolio, whether in the same or different form, has not been previously submitted to this or any other University for a degree, unless you are re-submitting the thesis or portfolio for re-examination

• to what extent any material has already been submitted as part of required coursework, at any university and any award obtained as a result

• The sources from which the information has been derived and, if any part of the thesis or portfolio results from joint work with other persons. If so, the extent to which the thesis or portfolio has drawn on the work of those others and the portion of the thesis or portfolio which you claim to be your own original work

• in the case of the papers-style thesis, the declaration must state the candidate’s contribution to each paper.

EXAMPLES OF STANDARD STATEMENTS

EXAMPLE 1 – WORK SUBMITTED ELSEWHERE FOR EXAMINATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has not been and will not be, submitted in whole or in part to another University for the award of any other degree. However, the thesis incorporates to the extent indicated below, material already submitted as part of required coursework and/or for the degree of:

In ...........................................................................................................
(subject)
which was awarded by
...........................................................................................................
(institution)
Signature: ....................................................................................................

EXAMPLE 2 – WORK NOT SUBMITTED ELSEWHERE FOR EXAMINATION

I hereby declare that this thesis has not been and will not be, submitted in whole or in part to another University for the award of any other degree.

Signature: ....................................................................................................

10.6 PLAGIARISM, COLLUSION AND OTHER FORMS OF MISCONDUCT

It is an offence for any Doctoral Researcher to be guilty of, or party to, collusion, plagiarism or any other form of misconduct in an examination or work which is submitted for assessment. It is also an offence to commit any form of misconduct during the course of your research.

The main types of misconduct are defined as follows:

10.6.1 PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the use, without acknowledgement, of the intellectual work of other people, and the act of representing the ideas or discoveries of another as one’s own in written work submitted for assessment. To copy sentences, phrases or even striking expressions without acknowledgement of the source (either by inadequate citation or failure to indicate verbatim quotations), is plagiarism; to paraphrase without acknowledgement is likewise plagiarism. Where such copying or paraphrase has
occurred, the mere mention of the source in the bibliography shall not be deemed sufficient acknowledgement; each such instance must be referred specifically to its source. Verbatim quotations must be either in inverted commas, or indented, and directly acknowledged.

10.6.2 FRAUD

Deliberate deception, usually involving the invention of data or the fabrication of results or observations. It does not include unintentional error or professional differences in interpretation or judgement of data.

10.6.3 COLLUSION

Collusion is the preparation or production of work for assessment jointly with another person or persons unless explicitly permitted. An act of collusion is understood to encompass those who actively assist others as well as those who derive benefit from others’ work. Where joint preparation is permitted but joint production is not, the submitted work must be produced solely by the candidate making the submission. Where joint production or joint preparation and production of work for assessment is specifically permitted, this will be stated explicitly in the relevant course documentation. This does not preclude collaborative working arrangements (e.g. experimental research in laboratories) where this is permitted by the School; however, the Doctoral Researcher is required to acknowledge in the thesis where the results of collaborative work are presented and outline the contributions made by each party.

10.6.4 INTERFERENCE

Intentional damage to, or removal of, the research-related property of another.

10.6.5 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING RESEARCH

Intentional non-compliance with the terms and conditions governing the award of external funding for research or with the University’s policies and procedures relating to research, including accounting requirements, ethics, and health and safety regulations.

At the time you submit your thesis, you will be asked to sign a statement to confirm that you understand the definition of plagiarism and that the sources used in your thesis have been fully acknowledged.

Allegations or complaints of misconduct committed by Doctoral Researchers will be investigated by the appropriate authority, depending on the timing and nature of the allegation. Where a Doctoral Researcher is found guilty of misconduct, a range of penalties may be applied, up to and including disqualification from eligibility for the award for the most serious offences. The detailed procedures for the consideration of misconduct by Doctoral Researchers, or others, engaged in research can be accessed at: www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/research/rqi/policy/research-policy

10.6.6 TURNITIN FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Turnitin, the text-matching service can be accessed via the online learning portal ‘Canvas’, at https://canvas.sussex.ac.uk/courses/6596

Turnitin enables you to check the text in chapters or sections of your thesis or research reports, to ensure that material from other sources have all been identified and referenced. Turnitin does this by comparing your submitted text with its enormous database of digital text from journals, books, conference proceedings, web pages, and archived student papers. You then have a confidential and detailed report on text similarities, which you can use to identify material taken from other sources. The site also provides links to helpful resources such as copyright and referencing information and guidance for researchers.

Where examiners or internal assessors of your work request so, an electronic copy of your thesis will be requested to be submitted through Turnitin. The resulting originality report will be shared with you and all involved.
11 THE EXAMINATION PROCESS

Your thesis will be examined by at least one examiner, unless you are a member of Sussex staff when you would normally be examined by two external examiners. One copy of your thesis or portfolio will be sent by the Research Student Administration Office to each of your examiners and the remaining copy will be kept in the Research Student Administration Office.

As part of the examination process you will be required to attend a viva voce examination in defence of your thesis or portfolio. The internal examiner will contact both you and the external examiner to arrange a mutually convenient time to hold the viva voce examination. Please note that if you refuse to agree a time, or if you do not attend at the agreed time, you risk failure of the examination and the examiners will have the right to go ahead and conduct the examination and make a recommendation to the Examination Board, on the basis of the evidence before them, i.e. the thesis alone.

Your supervisor, with your agreement, may be invited by the examiners to attend your viva voce examination. If a supervisor does attend a viva voce examination they should only contribute to the discussion if directly addressed by the examiners.

If anyone additional attends at a viva voce examination as an observer this must be approved by the Director of Doctoral Studies of your School and on the condition that they play no part in the examination. Your consent must be obtained, and the rationale for the additional person attending must be clearly explained to you in advance, and confirmed at the outset of the viva.

Where it is School or departmental level policy, or where there are particular circumstances that warrant it, an independent chair may be employed at your viva voce examination. Where this is the case, you will be notified in advance.

The examination is normally held approximately two to three months after the time of submission of your thesis. If you will be unavailable to attend the viva voce examination for any period of time you should inform the Research Student Administration Office at the time of submission.

If you are unable to attend your viva voce examination due to illness, you should inform the internal examiner and the Research Student Administration Office as soon as possible in order that an alternative date may be arranged.

In exceptional circumstances a viva may be conducted via Skype or videoconference. These arrangements must be approved by the Research Degrees Examination Board well in advance. Contact the Research Student Administration Office for details.

Please note that you may not make contact with your examiners at any time other than to arrange the viva date as this may result in the examination being invalidated. Any contact, if necessary, should be made via your supervisors.

Schools will ensure that Doctoral Researchers are offered support in preparation for the viva (for example participation at a suitable workshop, offer of a mock viva or reference to relevant written guidance materials).

Your principal source of support in preparation for the viva should be your main supervisor, though input from others involved in your supervision is also encouraged.

The opportunity to present and defend academic work should take place regularly and form part of the Progression Review.

Centrally-run workshops on preparation for the viva are available to all Doctoral Researchers. Details can be found on the Doctoral School website.

11.1 BASIS OF ASSESSMENT

In order to decide whether you have met the required standard for the degree for which you are being examined, your examiners will be guided by the assessment criteria for your degree. They will also take into account the doctoral-level qualification descriptors produced by the Quality Assurance Agency, which specify standards and characteristics that are expected of those who are awarded doctoral-level qualifications. See the Research Student Administration Office website for details: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/examiners
11.2 THE ROLE OF THE RESEARCH DEGREES EXAMINATION BOARD

The role of the Research Degrees Examination Board is to formally appoint examiners on behalf of Senate and to consider the recommendations made by those examiners on the outcome of the doctoral examination. The Research Degrees Examination Board will then make a recommendation to Senate on the award of the degree, and the Research Student Administration Office will communicate the result to the Doctoral Researcher.

Most of the work of the Research Degrees Examination Board is carried out by the three ‘specialist members’, who are appointed by Doctoral Studies Committee for a three-year term, and who must have experience of graduate work at research degree level in the humanities, social sciences or science or engineering. The Exam Board Chair has discretion to call a meeting of the full Research Degrees Examination Board to consider any cases where the recommendation of the examiners, following the viva, does not appear to be straightforward.

The Research Degrees Examination Board becomes involved with a Doctoral Researcher’s progress at various points during the examination process:

- at the time of the appointment of examiners (at least two months before the thesis is submitted)
- when they have received the individual and joint reports of the internal and external examiners for consideration of the recommended outcome (several weeks after the viva)
- when they recommend the award of the degree to Senate (after all corrections requested by the examiners have been made to the thesis and approved by the examiners).

11.3 EXAMINATION OUTCOME CATEGORIES

The outcome of the examination is based both on the quality of the submitted thesis and the candidate’s performance in the viva. The examiners will recommend one of the following outcomes to the Research Degrees Examination Board:

1. Unconditional pass

   The thesis is of doctoral quality and may be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy unconditionally. A very small number of minor typographical errors, which can be corrected immediately but do not require checking by the examiners, are permitted.

2. Pass with minor corrections

   The thesis is of doctoral quality and will pass pending the completion of minor corrections. This category allows for a period of up to three months during which the candidate may undertake the following types of minor corrections: spelling/typing errors, textual errors, reordering of material, correction of citations, and correction of figures, tables and diagrams, and the addition of a small number of paragraphs for clarification or qualification.

3. Pass with corrections

   The thesis is of doctoral quality and will pass pending the completion of a number of more substantial corrections. This category allows for a period of up to six months during which the candidate may undertake the following types of corrections in addition to those specified in category 2: more substantial addition of paragraphs, including the incorporation of some new material, reordering and restructuring of chapters, or some additional data analyses.

4. Major revisions and re-submission for the PhD

   The thesis is not of doctoral standard but may be resubmitted for examination for the award of Doctor of Philosophy. This category allows for a period of up to 12 months during which the candidate is required to thoroughly revise their thesis for resubmission, using the guidance set out in the examiners’ joint report. Fees are payable for this additional year.

5. Award of the MPhil

   The thesis is not of doctoral standard and may not be resubmitted for the award of PhD, but the MPhil may be awarded according to one of the three pass categories above, the corrections to be approved by the examiners.

6. Fail

   The candidate be failed and not be permitted to revise and re-submit the thesis for examination.
11.4 NOTIFICATION OF EXAMINATION RESULT

Please note that the only definitive notification of the outcome of your examination is from the Research Student Administration Office. Any informal indication by your examiners of your performance is not definitive.

11.5 PASS SUBJECT TO MINOR CORRECTIONS, OR CORRECTIONS

If your thesis or portfolio is referred for corrections only (outcomes 2 and 3, section 11.2) you must return your corrected thesis to the Research Student Administration Office who will seek approval from your examiners. The corrected thesis must be accompanied by a cover-note to examiners, listing the location and detail of all changes made to the thesis.

In exceptional circumstances it is possible to apply for an extension of up to one month (minor corrections) or three months (corrections) through the Research Student Administration Office. You will not be required to re-register whilst under minor corrections or corrections.

11.6 REVISION AND RE-SUBMISSION OF A THESIS OR PORTFOLIO

If you have not met the standard required for the award at the first attempt you will be required by the Examination Board to revise and resubmit your thesis or portfolio for re-examination within one year (outcome 4, section 11.2). The Research Student Administration Office will write to you to inform you of the recommended revisions and of the date by which your thesis or portfolio must be resubmitted. In exceptional circumstances it is possible to apply for an extension of up to six months through the Research Student Administration Office, with registration fees applying.

You will be asked to confirm your acceptance of the decision of the Examination Board of revision and resubmission and pay any appropriate fees. You should consult your supervisor regarding the recommended revisions but you must not communicate with the examiners during the period of revision. Your revised thesis must be submitted to the Research Student Administration Office who will arrange for a second examination.

Once you have resubmitted your thesis for re-examination, you will not be able to revert to the original offer made by the Examination Board following your original examination.

11.7 UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

If you are unsuccessful in your examination, the University will retain one copy of the thesis which shall become the property of the University.

11.8 RETURN OF THESES

On request, the Research Student Administration Office will return copies of your thesis to you:

- by recorded delivery, if you live in the United Kingdom
- by registered surface mail or by insured mail (if you live outside the United Kingdom)
- or you may collect your thesis in person from the Research Student Administration Office.

Please note that the Research Student Administration Office are unable to take responsibility for the safe delivery of theses by post, we would be happy to make alternative arrangements for you but they would be at your own expense.

As a precaution we advise you to retain a copy of any work submitted for examination.

11.9 SUBMISSION OF THE FINAL VERSION OF THE THESIS

On successful completion of the examination process you must submit an electronic copy of your thesis. You must not change the thesis title at this stage unless your joint examiners’ report has specifically requested a change.

IT Services have several electronic guides that relate to creating and managing PDFs: www.sussex.ac.uk/its/help

The electronic version of your thesis will be uploaded into the institutional repository, Sussex Research Online, where it will be available for download via open access.
11.10 THIRD PARTY COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

Before submitting the hard and electronic copies of your thesis, you should check that you are able to use any third party material e.g. photographs, images, diagrams, maps and long extracts from other works.

While you are permitted to use third party material in a thesis for the purposes of examination, you do not automatically have permission to make these materials freely available online. Under copyright law, making a thesis available online is considered a form of ‘publishing’ as it makes the work available to the public. Every attempt should be made, at the earliest opportunity, to gain permission from the rights holder to include such material. All permission should be obtained in writing and an electronic copy of the correspondence should be submitted along with the electronic copy of your thesis.

Further information on third party copyright permissions, including what to do if permission is not granted, is available from the Library website at: www.sussex.ac.uk/library/info/copyright

The following is intended to illustrate the kinds of material, which may be termed confidential sources, and to offer guidance on the problems which such material presents.

11.11 THE NATURE OF CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

The following are examples of sources of confidential information which may be encountered by Doctoral Researchers:

- information from documents or files which were produced under the authority of a public agency or Government department, and made available by private agencies, such as firms, or individuals, with or without conditions
- information from letters written by individuals in a public or private capacity which have not been published or available in a public archive for more than one hundred years
- information from interviews with individuals about the activities and/or personnel of public or private organisations.

Any material which is protected by copyright should also be considered to determine whether it is also confidential.

In the course of their research, Doctoral Researchers may obtain information from confidential sources, and then face decisions about how to take account of the information, and how to clear it for publication. The problems should not be put aside until the thesis has been written. It is important to realise that a thesis is legally considered to have been published as soon as it is made available to anyone at all, and therefore it cannot be written as a private document.

11.12 TREATMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES

Given that a thesis is a publication it cannot, without permission, include quotations from, or citations of, documents or letters or oral statements which are confidential. Doctoral Researchers who have obtained confidential information should proceed as follows:

- Every effort should be made to find published sources which make points or substantiate data which have been encountered in confidential sources.
- Some institutions allow a researcher to consult records on condition that manuscripts of any material intended for publication are submitted to them for approval prior to publication; in such cases, copies of the letter stating conditions of access and signifying approval of the thesis manuscript should be included when the thesis is submitted for examination.
- Doctoral Researchers may be given documents or letters held by a private individual who is an employee, or former employee, of some public or private institution. If Doctoral Researchers wish to quote from or cite documents or letters belonging to such private collectors, they should obtain written permission from the originators of the letters or documents, whether personal or institutional.
- In many cases, the amount of confidential material which Doctoral Researchers will obtain in the course of their research can be dealt with simply, but if students intend to base their theses to a large extent on such sources, then they should discuss this matter carefully with their supervisor at the outset of their studies and continue to review outstanding copyright matters on an annual basis as their thesis progresses, keeping a record of any actions that need to be taken prior to submission.
- The Researcher Development Programme includes regular copyright workshops run by the Library which are specifically intended to assist Doctoral Researchers by raising awareness and understanding of the copyright issues involved in e-theses submission. Details are available via the Doctoral School website.
11.13 ACCESS TO THESES AND EMBARGO ARRANGEMENTS

When a thesis is submitted, it is subject to the following arrangements:

1. it is made available for use in the electronic University Repository, Sussex Research Online
2. it is automatically uploaded to the British Library ‘EThOS’ service and hence becomes publicly available for download subject to the acceptance of the EThOS End User Licence Agreement
3. details of the thesis, sometimes including abstracts, are sent to various national, international and subject bodies, and to bibliographies.

There may be valid reasons for restricting access to your thesis. Usually this will be for a limited period. Below are some common reasons why you may need to restrict access to your thesis:

• you have an agreement with a publisher to publish all or part of your thesis
• your thesis contains commercially sensitive information that may prejudice the commercial interests of another person or company
• your thesis contains material that was obtained under a promise of confidentiality
• your thesis contains sensitive material about an individual or individuals that may endanger their physical or mental well-being.

All requests for an embargo should be discussed in the first instance with your supervisor who will advise you on how to proceed. Access may, with the approval of the Director of Doctoral Studies, be restricted for a period of up to three years via the thesis embargo form available on the Research Student Administration website.

If your thesis contains material for which you do not have cleared copyright, you may remove that material to a separate volume which will be permanently embargoed. In such cases you will need to submit one hard bound copy of your thesis which will be placed in the University Library for consultation by scholars but not on public access. However you must make every effort to obtain copyright during the preparation of your thesis.

11.14 FEEDBACK ON YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A DOCTORAL RESEARCHER

You will be asked to complete an end-of-programme evaluation form following your submission which will provide an opportunity for feedback to the Doctoral School on the working of your examination process, as well as some overall reflections on your experience as a Doctoral Researcher during your time at Sussex.

All Doctoral Researchers are encouraged to complete the national Postgraduate Research Student Experience Survey. This survey is the primary way in which the University reflects on and makes changes to its Doctoral Researcher offer. The survey contains questions about supervision, research culture, resources and expectations and will be publicised by email direct to all Doctoral Researchers.

12 GRADUATION

Graduation ceremonies are currently held in January and July. You will be sent details of the next appropriate ceremony based on the expected date of your viva.

Please note there is no guarantee that you will have completed in time to be eligible to graduate at the ceremony you have been sent the details for, as the process of submitting, examining and correcting your thesis typically takes several months.

In order to graduate, you must have no outstanding academic commitments or fees. If you are asked by your examiners to make corrections to your thesis after your viva, these corrections must be completed and approved by the Research Degrees Examination Board before you will be eligible to graduate.

See the Graduation webpages for more details of your ceremony [www.sussex.ac.uk/graduation](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/graduation)
Further information
13 CHANGING STATUS FROM FULL-TIME TO PART-TIME OR VICE VERSA

You can apply to change between full- and part-time (in either direction) if your circumstances change, for example, for personal or employment reasons. If a medical or health condition arises, it may be more appropriate to take an intermission from your studies, unless your health issue indicates that a different rate of study is more suitable.

If you change between full- and part-time (in either direction), your maximum date of registration will be re-calculated. However, only one change between full-and part-time study is normally possible and changes during the last six months of your registration are not permitted. If there is a difference between your funding and University end-date, you may need to apply for an extension of registration.

Once you have completed the form, you should send it to your main supervisor who will make a decision on your request and make a recommendation to the Director of Doctoral Studies in your school whether or not your registration status should be changed. The Director of Doctoral Studies may then approve the change of registration and will inform the Research Student Administration Office who will then write to you to notify you of the decision.

The University does not offer part-time mode for Doctoral Researchers sponsored on a Tier 4 visa. Please refer to section 21 for further details.

14 INTERMISSION

Throughout the research degree, full-time Doctoral Researchers can apply for up to 12 months’ intermission and part-time Doctoral Researchers can apply for up to 24 months’ intermission. Intermission is taken in periods of months, beginning on the first of a month.

Doctoral Researchers sponsored on a Tier 4 visa should refer to sections 21.3 and 21.4 regarding intermission and authorised absence.

If your studies are funded, it is your obligation to be aware of the terms and conditions of your funding award, and how these are affected by an intermission, or any other change to your registration. If you are funded by a US Federal Direct Loan, advice must be taken from the Financial Aid Office before any changes to your registration are made. usfinancialaid@sussex.ac.uk

Please be aware that intermission is not a right and the University may set conditions for your return. If you take a period of intermission on health grounds, to ensure that there is support in place, your return will be subject to the university’s Fitness to Study policy (www.sussex.ac.uk/adqe/standards/fitnessstudystudy). Please also note that intermission is granted in addition to parental leave.

Should it be necessary for you to request intermission you should consult your main supervisor in the first instance. You should then complete an application form which is available from the Research Student Administration Office website. If your supervisor supports your request they will make a recommendation to the Director of Doctoral Studies who will notify the Research Student Administration Office of the final decision. The Research Student Administration Office will then write to you to notify you of the decision.

Up to an additional 12 months of exceptional intermission may be granted and any such application will be considered by the Chair of Doctoral Studies Committee based on a recommendation by the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School.

15 CHANGE FROM MPHIL TO PHD AND VICE VERSA

If you wish to apply to transfer your registration from the MPhil to PhD you should consult your main supervisor, providing him/her with a written application which consists of a copy of written work produced so far and a statement of the way in which the thesis will be developed, including a timetable.

Your main supervisor will pass your application to the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School together with his/her recommendation.
If you have a Tier 4 visa, you should consult an International Student Adviser before making these changes. They will advise on whether you need to make a new visa application before the course change. Some changes require you to apply from overseas.

www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/

Recommended practice is that the application will then be considered at an internal viva examination which should be conducted by a member of the School other than your main supervisor, your supervisor may be present with the agreement of the Doctoral Researcher. The recommendation will then be passed to the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School who will then make a decision on your application and inform the Research Student Administration Office who will then write to inform you of the outcome.

If you are refused permission to change your registration from MPhil to PhD and consider that the decision was based on inadequate evidence or taken in an improper manner, you have the right to appeal against that decision in writing to the Secretary of the Research Degree and Professional Doctorate Appeals Board within 21 days of notification of the decision.

If you wish to change from PhD to MPhil, you should discuss this and seek the agreement of your supervisors and Director of Doctoral Studies. If agreed, your School will notify the Research Student Administration Office.

16 CHANGE OF THESIS TITLE

Your thesis title should be approved with your research plan as part of the annual review process in your first year. Should you wish to change the title of your thesis you should consult your main supervisor in the first instance.

If your supervisor agrees with the change you should then complete an application form which is available from the Research Student Administration Office website.

If you have a Tier 4 visa, changing your thesis title can have implications for future visa applications. Please consult an International Student Adviser

www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/

17 CHANGE OF SUPERVISOR

If you wish to request a change to your supervision you should consult with your Research Convenor or Director of Doctoral Studies in the first instance. If either your Research Convenor or Director of Doctoral Studies is involved as main or second supervisor you should consult your Head of School. You may also seek advice from the Doctoral Researcher representative in your School before making a formal request. Section 23 of this handbook provides information on outlets that are available to Doctoral Researchers if help and advice is needed.

The Director of Doctoral Studies in your School will then make a decision on your application and inform the Research Student Administration Office who will then write to inform you of the outcome.

In some cases it may be necessary for the School to change your supervisor/s during the course of your studies. This could be temporary, due to research leave or illness, or it could be on a permanent basis, for example as a result of a change in the focus of your project or if your supervisor leaves the University. In all cases the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School will ensure that appropriate replacement supervision is arranged as soon as possible.

18 WHAT TO DO IF YOU WANT TO WITHDRAW FROM YOUR STUDIES

If you wish to withdraw from your studies you should contact your supervisor in the first instance to discuss your decision. It is also advisable to contact your School Research Enterprise Co-ordinator as, depending on your reasons for wishing to withdraw from your studies, there may be an alternative option available to you. You may also find it useful to contact the Student Life Centre for advice and support before making a decision.

You should notify the Research Student Administration Office or your School’s Research and Enterprise Coordinator of your intention to withdraw from your studies. You will be provided with a withdrawal form that you should complete and return to the Research Student Administration Office. Within the form, you will have the opportunity to provide feedback on your experience at the University of Sussex if you wish.
If you are a Tier 4 sponsored Doctoral Researcher, your right to work in the UK would cease with effect from the first day of your withdrawal, and this would end the University’s sponsorship of your Tier 4 visa.

If your studies are funded, it is your obligation to be aware of the terms and conditions of your funding award, and how these are affected by a withdrawal. If you are funded by a US Federal Direct Loan, advice must be taken from the Financial Aid Office before any changes to your registration are made. usfinancialaid@sussex.ac.uk

19 Extension to your Registration Period

Minimum and maximum periods of registration for research degrees are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
<th>MODE OF STUDY</th>
<th>MINIMUM PERIOD OF REGISTRATION</th>
<th>MAXIMUM PERIOD OF REGISTRATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Philosophy</td>
<td>full-time</td>
<td>one year</td>
<td>three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>part-time</td>
<td>two years</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy</td>
<td>full-time</td>
<td>two years</td>
<td>four years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>part-time</td>
<td>three years</td>
<td>six years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Education, Doctor of Social Work</td>
<td>part-time</td>
<td>four years</td>
<td>six years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In exceptional circumstances you may request an extension to your period of registration past your maximum period of registration. Exceptional circumstances may include illness, accident, exceptional personal circumstances, maternity, paternity, or adoption. You may apply for an extension of three, six, nine or twelve months.

You may be registered full-time, part-time or with pre-submission status for the period of your extension. Please note that in addition to the relevant tuition fee, an extension fee of £125 is payable the first time an extension is granted. This fee is not charged for any subsequent extensions.

Should it be necessary for you to request an extension to your maximum date of registration, you should consult your main supervisor in the first instance. You should then complete an application form, available on the Research Student Administration Office website. If your supervisor supports your request, they will add a statement in support of the extension to the application form and make a recommendation to the Director of Doctoral Studies, who will then notify the Research Student Administration Office of the final decision. The Research Student Administration Office will then write to you to notify you of the decision.

When making your request for an extension, you should supply the following:

- a statement setting out the reason for the request for an extension
- a statement of the current progress of your research and writing-up
- a timetable for the completion and submission of your thesis
- any documentary evidence in support of the request

Any extension granted will constitute a final period of registration. If the Director of Doctoral Studies does not agree to grant you an extension, you will be expected to submit your thesis by your maximum date of registration. If you cannot submit your thesis by your maximum date of registration, you will be required to withdraw on academic grounds and you will no longer be a candidate for a University of Sussex degree.

A further year of exceptional extension may be granted (making 6 years total registration for full time Doctoral Researchers, and 8 years for part-time) and any such application must be approved by the Chair of Doctoral Studies Committee based on a recommendation by the Director of Doctoral Studies in your School.

FURTHER INFORMATION
20 LEAVE

20.1 ANNUAL LEAVE

The University recognises the importance of time away from work/study as a key feature of healthy and productive Doctoral Research. Doctoral Researchers are strongly encouraged to plan ahead, and to use their entitlement of annual leave, which is eight weeks/40 working days including public holidays and University closure days. Doctoral Researchers should notify their supervisors in writing of when they intend to take their annual leave. Those Doctoral Researchers holding Tier 4 visas sponsored by the University may take annual leave without risk to their immigration status. While on annual leave, Doctoral Researchers and supervisors should continue to make contact every month. Before taking annual leave, Tier 4 visa holders must complete the holiday request application form which is available on the Research Student Administration website. www.sussex.ac.uk/tsao/forms/

20.2 MATERNITY LEAVE

All Doctoral Researchers are entitled to one full year (52 weeks) of maternity leave. Doctoral Researchers may decide when they wish their maternity leave to begin, but should inform the Research Student Administration Office no later than two months before the start date. Please see the information below if you are a Research Council funded Doctoral Researcher.

Tier 4 visa holders should consult an International Student Adviser for advice about how periods of maternity leave may affect their immigration status. www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/

20.3 ADOPTION LEAVE

Adoption leave is granted on the same basis as maternity leave. Please see the information below if you are a Research Council funded Doctoral Researcher.

20.4 PATERNITY LEAVE

Fathers are entitled to up to 10 days (two weeks) ordinary paternity leave and up to 26 weeks of additional paternity leave. Doctoral Researchers may decide when they wish their paternity leave to begin, but should inform the Research Student Administration Office of their intentions no later than two months before the start date. Please see the information below if you are a Research Council funded Doctoral Researcher.

20.5 MATERNITY, PATERNITY, ADOPTION AND SHARED PARENTAL LEAVE FOR RESEARCH COUNCIL FUNDED DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Research Council funded Doctoral Researchers are entitled to 52 weeks of maternity or shared parental leave. The first 26 weeks will be paid at full stipend rate, pro-rated as necessary for part-time Doctoral Researchers. The following 13 weeks will be paid at a level commensurate with statutory maternity pay. The final 13 weeks are not paid. Partners are entitled to up to 10 days paid Ordinary Paternity Leave on full stipend. Partners may be entitled to up to 50 weeks of Shared Parental Leave; this may include paid and unpaid leave. Depending on the individual circumstances, any paid leave will be at full stipend. Adoption Leave is granted on the same basis as maternity leave. There is no qualifying period for maternity, paternity, adoption or shared parental leave.

Research Council funded Doctoral Researchers are encouraged to contact the University of Sussex Doctoral School to discuss their parental leave prior to making an application to discuss the potential impacts on their funding and/or stipend payments: www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/doctoralschool/

21 INFORMATION SPECIFIC TO INTERNATIONAL/TIER 4 SPONSORED DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS:

21.1 VISA EXTENSIONS

If you need to apply for a Tier 4 visa extension, you will need to request a Confirmation of Acceptance for Study (CAS) from the University and you should contact the Research Student Administration Office, who will provide you with the necessary documentation. In line with the University’s CAS issuing policy, CAS extensions will only be offered when records of engagement are up to date and meet the required frequency. We recommend that you begin this process at least three months before your visa is due to expire. For more information on visa extensions and the application process, please check the International Student Support webpages: www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/
21.2 CHANGING TO PART-TIME STATUS

The University does not allow Doctoral Researchers who hold a Tier 4 visa to transfer to part-time status. Part time study may be permitted on some other visa types but you should discuss the implications with an International Student Advisor (based in International Student Support) before making any change to your visa status.

21.3 AUTHORISED ABSENCE

Doctoral Researchers holding a Tier 4 visa can apply for one period of authorised absence, which must not exceed 60 days, during the duration of their course.

During periods of authorised absence, the University will continue to act as your sponsor. If you require a break longer than 60 days, or you have already had a period of authorised absence, please refer to section 21.4 Intermission below.

Periods of authorised absence will normally be granted for maternity, paternity or adoption leave, health issues which would not ordinarily result in an absence exceeding 60 days or care-dependant reasons.

During the period of authorised absence Doctoral Researchers must maintain regular contact with their supervisors.

Although working rights under a Tier 4 visa remain unchanged during authorised absence, seeking time to work and/or financial issues are not eligible reasons to request authorised absence.

Doctoral Researchers may state the period when they wish their period of authorised absence to begin, but the application should be with the Research Student Administration Office no later than two months before the start date. The Authorised Absence request form should be used, as here: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/forms/

Further information regarding authorised absence is available within appendix 1 of the policy on attendance, engagement and absence for Postgraduate Doctoral Researchers, available here: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/regulations/

21.4 INTERMISSION

If a Tier 4 visa holder takes a period of intermission, the University is required to report this to UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). UKVI will curtail (cancel) the current visa and students should leave the UK. When students are ready to resume their studies, they can request a new CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) from the Research Student Administration Office. The Doctoral Researcher must then return to their home country and apply to the University for a new CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance to Study) and a new visa when they are ready to resume their studies.

The right to work in the UK would cease with effect from the first day of your period of intermission, and you should therefore notify any current employer that you will not be permitted to undertake any further work.

21.5 CHANGE OF STUDY LOCATION, FIELDWORK AND HOLIDAY

Tier 4 sponsored Doctoral Researchers should keep supervisors up to date at all times with their location and the progress of their research. A temporary period of study outside of the UK – that is not a period of fieldwork – in excess of three months requires notification to the Research Student Administration Office via the Change of Study Location form, as here: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/forms/

Students who are changing their study location for less than 3 months are required to notify their supervisors of their temporary location and update their contact details on Sussex Direct.

Please note that periods of fieldwork does not affect your Tier 4 visa status but a report is made to the UKVI confirming a change of study location for the period of the fieldwork. The fieldwork process described in section 8 should be followed by all Tier 4 sponsored Doctoral Researchers, noting the requirement for at least one monthly engagement continues during periods of fieldwork.
Tier 4 sponsored Doctoral Researchers are required to use the Holiday request form, which includes periods during non-term time. As here: www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/forms/

21.6 SUMMARY OF TIER 4 REQUIREMENTS AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF REGISTRATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration Status</th>
<th>Minimum Engagement Per Month</th>
<th>Minimum Supervision Per Month</th>
<th>Working Permission (Tier 4 Only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standard registration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorised absence* (Tier 4 only, 60 days maximum)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermission</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldwork</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>more than 20hrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-submission / post-submission / corrections</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Recommended frequency of at least 2 every 3 months (pro-rata)**</td>
<td>20hrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*although supervision may not occur, tier 4 sponsored Doctoral Researchers are required to maintain one monthly contact with supervisors during any period of authorised absence or holiday.

**unless otherwise explicitly agreed and documented to reflect specific circumstances.

21.7 DOCTORATE EXTENSION SCHEME:
The Doctorate Extension Scheme (DES) enables Doctoral Researchers to seek work/undertake employment for a 12 month period upon completion of their PhD. You must apply for this while your Tier 4 visa is still valid and before you have formally completed your PhD. Records of engagement must comply with the University policy on attendance, engagement and absence for Doctoral Researchers before a CAS can be issued to support a DES visa application. You should start planning your DES visa application at least two months before you are due to submit your thesis. Contact the International Student Support team for advice: www.sussex.ac.uk/internationalsupport/index

22 DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS: WHERE TO GO IF YOU NEED HELP?

22.1 OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

- The university doctoral community consists of Doctoral Researchers, Researchers, Supervisors, and Professional Services staff. All members of this community are committed to the values of mutual respect, professionalism and collegiate support.

- Doctoral Researchers are encouraged to raise any matters with their supervisors whenever possible. The following guidance is intended to signpost support in addition to primary contact with supervisors.

- Doctoral Researchers are encouraged to raise issues as early as possible. When appropriate, the university supports informal action and resolution without the need for a formal process.

- Any issue raised with a member of university staff will be treated confidentially, at the request of the Doctoral Researcher.
22.2 WHAT HAPPENS IF I RAISE AN ISSUE?

• All issues or problems can be raised in confidence. No issue raised will influence the academic progress or future career prospects of a Doctoral Researcher.

• One type of issue that can occur during a doctorate concerns supervision. While there is not a right to a change in supervision, the university is committed to all parties working together to resolve supervision issues.

• Doctoral Researchers are encouraged to raise any potential mental health or wellbeing issues that influence their studies. In 2018 an Office for Student and Research England award was made to the University to support the mental health of Doctoral Researchers. The project’s overarching aim is to provide a sustainable best practice model for the sector to address the challenge of Doctoral Researcher mental health. In particular it will focus on the aims of prevention and early intervention. Secondary aims include the development and implementation of new practice for supporting Doctoral Researchers; enhanced staff and student training across the institution, and working in partnership with statutory health services.

Alternate people are available to all Doctoral Researchers, should the matter concern the individual it would normally be raised with. This may arise where a Director of Doctoral Studies is also the acting Supervisor. In these instances, the School Director of Student Experience can help. In all cases, the University of Sussex Students Union Advocacy and Advice service provides support independent to the University.

https://www.sussexstudent.com/support/university-issues/

• The steps taken in response to an issue will be agreed with Doctoral Researchers at the outset. For example, this could be an informal discussion between a third party and a Supervisor, or the Doctoral Researcher being referred to a specialist support service.

22.3 THREE WAYS TO ACCESS HELP

1. PEER SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY

• At early stages, Doctoral Researchers are encouraged to consult their peers, friends and family. School Doctoral Researcher representatives are there to represent and link Doctoral Researchers together. Drawing on the experience of later years Doctoral Researchers or Post-Docs to work through problems is highly recommended.

• A great independent source of PhD inspiration – www.thesiswhisperer.com

• Unsure of how to find your peers? Try your School’s Research & Enterprise Coordinator

2. INFORMAL HELP

• The next stage may be an informal chat with someone in your School or a central department. All matters can be raised confidentially, or escalated if requested.

People who can help:
• in the School: Directors of Doctoral Studies, Research Conveners, Director of Student Experience
• university support: The Student Life Centre, Doctoral School, USSU, International Student Support
• Online information: New Doctoral Researchers at Sussex – https://pgrsussex.wordpress.com
Vitae and Researcher Development – www.sussex.ac.uk/internal/doctoralschool/new-doctoral-researchers
• Unsure where to start? Try the Student Life Centre

3. FORMAL HELP

• If stages 1 and 2 above have not resolved the matter, a formal issue can be raised. This would always require the explicit consent of the Doctoral Researcher and in some cases a written summary

People who can help:
• Director of Doctoral Studies
• Research Student Administration Office
• Advocacy and Support within the USSU

Further information:
• University complaints and appeals process/Handbook for Doctoral Researchers
www.sussex.ac.uk/wellbeing/studentlife/harassment
• University policy on bullying and harrassment
• Unsure where to start? Try the Research Student Administration Office
Complete the questionnaire separately, share, and then meet to discuss. For each pair of statements below, estimate your position. For example, for the first statement, if you believe very strongly that it is the supervisor’s responsibility to select a research topic you should circle “1”, if you think both the supervisor and Doctoral Researcher share the responsibility to select a research topic, circle “3”; or if you think it is the Doctoral Researcher’s responsibility, circle “5”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 = Supervisor’s responsibility (high)</th>
<th>5 = Doctoral Researcher’s responsibility (high)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is the supervisor’s responsibility to select a research topic</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor decides which theoretical framework or methodology is most appropriate</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor should develop an appropriate programme and timetable of research and study for the Doctoral Researcher</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the Doctoral Researcher is introduced to the appropriate services and facilities in the department and the University/HEI</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisors should only accept Doctoral Researchers when they have specific knowledge of the Doctoral Researcher’s chosen topic</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A warm, supportive relationship between supervisor and Doctoral Researcher is important for successful candidature</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor should insist on regular meetings with the Doctoral Researcher</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor should check regularly that the Doctoral Researcher is working consistently and on task</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor is responsible for providing emotional support and encouragement to the Doctoral Researcher</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor should insist on seeing all drafts of work to ensure that the Doctoral Researcher is on the right track</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor should assist in the writing of the thesis if necessary</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The supervisor is responsible for decisions regarding the standard of the thesis</td>
<td>1 2 3 4 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24 APPEALS PROCEDURES FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

24.1
You may appeal against a decision by the examiners of your thesis following your examination. If you wish to appeal a decision by your examiners, you should submit your appeal in writing to the Secretary of the Research Degree and Professional Doctorate Appeals Board, with supporting evidence, no later than 21 days after publication of the result.

24.2
The grounds for an admissible appeal are as follows:
(a) that there exist circumstances affecting the Doctoral Researcher’s performance of which the examiners had not been made aware when their decision was taken, and which could not reasonably have been presented to the examiners;
(b) that there were procedural irregularities in the conduct of the examination (including administrative error) of such a nature as to cause reasonable doubt whether the examiners would have reached the same conclusion had they not occurred;
(c) that there is evidence of prejudice or of bias on the part of one or more of the examiners.

24.3
Please note, however, that there is no right of appeal in the University against the academic judgement of the examiners. Nor does the alleged inadequacy of supervisory or other arrangements during the period of registration constitute grounds for an appeal unless there are exceptional reasons for the information not having come to the attention of the examiners until after the examination.

24.4
You may also appeal against a decision that your registration be withdrawn, that you be refused permission to re-register, or that you be refused permission to change your registration from Master of Philosophy to Doctor of Philosophy (or vice-versa). You should submit your appeal in writing within 21 days of the notification of the decision.

24.5
Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that all the relevant evidence is available to the appropriate authority before a decision on re-registration or change of registration is made. Evidence produced later will be taken into account only when there are good reasons for it not having been presented in good time.

24.6
Where an appeal is deemed to be admissible, the outcome will be decided in the vast majority of cases by the Chair of the Research Degree and Professional Doctorate Appeals Board on the basis of the evidence available and advice from relevant officers. The more detailed procedures for the consideration of research degree appeals are set out within the regulations for your degree accessible via www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/govdocuments/regulations

24.7
More detailed guidance on the appeals procedures, and the process for submitting an appeal, can be found on the appeals website via www.sussex.ac.uk/ogs/complaintsappeals/academic

24.8
There is no right of appeal within the University against a decision of the Research Degree and Professional Doctorate Appeals Board or against the outcome of any process of reconsideration instituted by that Board.

24.9
The Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA) provides an independent scheme for the review of Doctoral Researcher appeals. Once the University’s internal procedures have been exhausted, the University will issue a Completion of Procedures letter. Doctoral Researchers wishing to pursue the avenue of an independent review by the OIA must submit their application to the OIA within three months of the issue of the Completion of Procedures letter. Further details about the OIA are available at www.oiahe.org.uk.