

## Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

### MPhil

- 1.1 The standard of the degree of **Master of Philosophy** (MPhil) is that of a good Honours graduate who has satisfactorily completed research training and has investigated and evaluated, or critically studied, an appropriate topic over not less than 24 months of full-time study, or equivalent, and has presented a satisfactory thesis. In addition, a candidate for the award of MPhil must be able to demonstrate a full and proper understanding of the research methods appropriate to the field of study.
- 1.2 The text of an MPhil thesis in science, engineering or art and design, excluding ancillary data, must not normally exceed 20,000 words; in the arts, humanities or social sciences, the limit is 40,000 words.
- 1.3 Where a submission incorporates material in other than written form, or the research involved creative writing or the preparation of a scholarly edition, the text of a thesis for the degree of MPhil must normally be of 20,000 words.
- 1.4 The FHEQ states the following:

**MPhil degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:**

- (i) a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice;
- (ii) a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;
- (iii) originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;
- (iv) conceptual understanding that enables the student:
  - to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline;
  - to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

**Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:**

- (a) deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- (b) demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;
- (c) continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level;

**and will have:**

- (d) the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;
  - decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations; and
  - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

## **PhD**

- 1.5 The standard of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** is that expected of a good Honours graduate who has satisfactorily completed research training and has investigated and evaluated, or critically studied, an appropriate topic over not less than 24 months of full-time study, or equivalent, resulting in a significant original contribution to knowledge, and has presented a satisfactory thesis.
- 1.6 The text of a PhD thesis in science, engineering or art and design, excluding ancillary data, must not normally exceed 40,000 words; in the arts, humanities or social sciences, the limit is 80,000 words.
- 1.7 Where a submission incorporates material in other than written form, or the research involved creative writing or the preparation of a scholarly edition, the text of a thesis for the degree of PHD must normally be of 40,000 words.
- 1.8 The FHEQ states the following:

**Doctorates (PhDs) are awarded to students who have demonstrated:**

- (i) the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline, and merit publication;
- (ii) a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice;
- (iii) the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- (iv) a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

**Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:**

- (a) make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- (b) continue to undertake pure and/or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas, or approaches;

**and will have:**

- (c) the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.