



Senate

Paper title	Draft Academic Regulations for the Master by Research (ResM)
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to approve the draft Academic Regulations for the Master by Research (ResM) on the recommendation of the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board.
Points to note and further information	<p>In November 2021 Senate and Council approved the addition of the award of Master by Research to Ordinance A16, section 1.5 denoting research degrees (FHEQ level 7) awarded by Queen Mary.</p> <p>The ResM is a master’s level programme of supervised research of one calendar year (FT). There are no taught modules. The programme differs from the Master of Research as the focus is on a specific subject, studied through research methods. Examination is by submission of a dissertation with outcomes of pass, pass with amendments, resubmission and fail. There are no alternative exit awards.</p> <p>The Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Degree Programmes apply with certain exceptions and specific regulations applying to the ResM only as set out in the attached paper. The draft Regulations were considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board and the Education Quality and Standards Board on 18 May 2022.</p> <p>It comes under the remit of the Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board (RDPEB) for new programme approval and the award of the degree.</p> <p>The introduction of this new programme aligns with the Queen Mary strategic aims to innovate in and develop education programmes, increase research student numbers, and expand opportunities to carry out research.</p>
Questions to consider	Senate is asked to approve the draft Academic Regulations for the Master by Research (ResM).
Regulatory/statutory reference points	OfS Regulations and policies.

Strategy and risk	<p>Queen Mary Strategy 2030</p> <p>The programme objectives align with the strategic aims to innovate in and develop education programmes, increase research student numbers, and expand opportunities to carry out research.</p> <p>Risk</p> <p>No strategic risks are anticipated. Master’s by Research degrees are offered by many UK universities.</p>
Reporting/ consideration route for the paper	<p>Draft proposals were considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board and the Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB).</p> <p>Final recommendations are proposed by RDPEB to the Senate for approval.</p>
Sponsors	<p>Professor Tim Warner, Dean for Postgraduate Research</p>
Contact	<p>Mary Childs Research Degrees Office m.childs@qmul.ac.uk</p>

Draft Academic Regulations 2022-23 for the new award of Master by Research (ResM)

Introduction

This paper sets out the changes to the Academic Regulations for 2022-23 required for the new award of Master by Research (ResM).

The following changes to regulations govern the elements of the award of degree of Master by Research that differ from the regulations for Postgraduate Research Degree Programmes. In respect to all other matters, the Postgraduate Research Degree Programmes regulations apply unless otherwise specified.

The following PGR Regulations are not applicable to ResM programmes:

- Transfer from another institution (Reg. 8.15-8.16)
- Annual progression review (Regs. 8.66-8.70)
- Transfer to writing-up status (Regs. 8.20 – 8.24)
- Availability of theses (Regs. 8.126-8.127). The dissertation will not be deposited with the Library.

Regulation clause numbers refer to the draft Academic Regulations for 2022-23.

Chapter 1 Framework and Governance

1. Reg. 1.7 Postgraduate awards (research)

Before Master of Philosophy insert

- ❖ Master by Research (ResM) (level 7)

Chapter 8 Regulations for Postgraduate Research Programmes

2. Reg. 8.7 Queen Mary awards

Before Master of Philosophy insert

- ❖ Master by Research (ResM)

3. Reg. 8.12 Registration and enrolment

After Master of Philosophy insert

- ❖ Master by Research (ResM)

4. Period of registration

Programme length for the ResM is:

- Full-time: 12 months
- Part-time: 24 months
- The research studies and submission of the dissertation must be completed within the 12 (FT) or 24 (PT) months period. There is no period of writing-up of the research dissertation.
- The maximum period of study for the award of ResM is:
 - 2 calendar years full-time
 - 3 calendar years part-time.

4.1 Regulations on the minimum registration period

Insert new Reg. 8.36 “The minimum period of full-time study for the award of ResM is one calendar year.”

Insert new Reg. 8.38 “The minimum period of part-time study for the award of ResM is two calendar years.”

Insert new Reg. 8.39 “The minimum period of study for the award of ResM prior to submission of the research project dissertation for examination shall be ten months full-time study or the part-time equivalent.”

4.2 Regulations on the maximum registration period

Insert new Reg. 8.45 “The maximum period of full-time study for the award of ResM is 2 calendar years.”

Insert new Reg. 8.46 “The maximum period of part-time study for the award of ResM is 3 calendar years.”

4.3 Exceptions to the maximum and minimum registration periods

A ResM student may be permitted to extend their submission deadline by up to one month at the discretion of their school/institute. A request for an extension to the submission deadline exceeding one month and up to a maximum of six months must be considered by the Research Degree Programmes and Examination Board.

Amendment to Reg 8.47

Exceptionally, Senate or its delegated authority may permit a student to submit the thesis for examination either before the minimum registration period, or after the maximum registration period, or to extend the writing up period and/or period of registration for a maximum of 12 months. The maximum extension for the ResM is 6 months.

5. Title of thesis or dissertation

In the sub-title “MD(Res)” add “, ResM”

Amendment to Reg. 8.60

Senate or its delegated authority approves the title of the thesis for the MD(Res) and the

title of the dissertation for the ResM prior to registration for the research studies programme.

6. Monitoring academic progress

The regulations for annual progression review do not apply to ResM programmes.

There should be a review of research progress, at say 3-4 months for full-time students and part-time equivalent, to assess whether a student is making satisfactory progress and has access to the research resources and supervisory support required for a successful outcome. A school/institute's arrangements will be described in the programme guidance for students.

Amendment to the end of Reg. 8.67

Insert: For a student on a ResM programme the programme guidance shall describe the arrangements for monitoring a student's academic progress in their research studies.

7. Examination entry

Examination entry is the formal process by which a student notifies Queen Mary of their intention to submit the thesis/dissertation and be examined for the degree for which they are registered. A new regulation is required for the ResM.

Insert new Reg. 8.86:

“For a student on a ResM programme the programme guidance shall describe the arrangements for examination entry. In exceptional circumstances, Senate or its delegated authority may permit an extension of the dissertation submission deadline. A student may be permitted to extend their submission deadline by up to one month at the discretion of their school/institute. A request for an extension to the submission deadline exceeding one month and up to a maximum of six months must be considered by the Research Degree Programmes and Examination Board. The period of extension must be within the maximum period of study. Extensions will not be granted retrospectively.”

8. Submission of dissertation for examination

The examination process will be managed within the school/institute. Candidates submit for examination a research project dissertation according to the school/institute procedure set out in the programme guidance for students.

Insert new Reg. 8.90 “For a student on a ResM programme the programme guidance shall describe the requirements for the submission of the dissertation for examination.”

9. Requirements for a thesis/dissertation

The scope of the research project dissertation would be what might reasonably be expected after one year's full-time study or 24 months part-time study. The dissertation must not exceed 30,000 words.

Under the sub-title “Word limits”, in Reg. 8.93 concerning word limits, insert

iv. ResM – 30,000 words

10. Panel of examiners

The research project dissertation will be assessed by a minimum of two examiners: an internal examiner and an external examiner. Examiners for the ResM may be appointed for an individual examination or for a group of students (as for postgraduate taught programmes) if the dissertations are in cognate fields of study. Examiners are required to meet the criteria for the appointment of examiners for postgraduate taught programmes. Examiners are approved by the Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board as appropriate.

Insert new Reg 8.96 “A Panel of Examiners is established for an individual examination of a ResM or for a group of students where the dissertations are in cognate fields of study.”

11. Examination requirements

The examination for ResM is by submission of the dissertation.

An oral examination is required for certain examination outcomes. If required, the oral examination will normally be held within three months of the date of submission of the dissertation. Section 12 below on Decisions of Examiners sets out when an oral examination would be mandatory.

The minimum period of study prior to submission of the research project dissertation for examination shall be ten months full-time study or the part-time equivalent as specified in section 4 above of this paper.

Insert new Reg. 8.98 “The examination for ResM is by submission of the dissertation. An oral examination is required for certain examination results as set out in Regulation 8.111. If required, the oral examination will normally be held within three months of the date of submission of the dissertation.”

Insert new Reg. 8.104 “For the ResM, each examiner prepares an independent report on the dissertation. The examiners exchange reports before meeting to determine the result of the examination and to agree their joint final report that details their judgement of the dissertation(s) and reasons for the decision(s) they have reached.”

12. Decisions of the Panel of Examiners

Outcomes for ResM

This section has been prepared with reference to other universities’ examination outcomes for an equivalent degree within the University of London. It provides for the outcomes of:

- pass;

- minor amendments to be made within six weeks;
- re-presentation of the dissertation in a revised form for a second and final time within six months. The first examination must include an oral examination to select this outcome;
- fail. The first examination must include an oral examination to select this outcome.

In the section “Decisions of the Panel of Examiners” insert new sub-heading “Outcomes for ResM” and new regulations 8.110 and 8.111 as follows:

8.110 “Except as provided in paragraph 8.105 the examiners read the dissertation and agree the result of the examination.”

8.111 “The options open to examiners in determining the result of an examination are as follows:

- i. if the dissertation fulfils the criteria for the Master by Research degree as set out in Appendix 1, the examiners report that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the Master by Research degree;
- ii. if the dissertation otherwise fulfils the criteria for the Master by Research degree as set out in Appendix 1, but requires minor amendments, the examiners may require the student to make amendments to the dissertation specified by them within six weeks. The amended dissertation shall be submitted to the examiners, or to one of their number nominated by them, for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory. If the amendments are made by the deadline and are satisfactory, the examiners will report that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the Master by Research degree. If the candidate fails to meet these requirements the examiners will submit the candidate to an oral examination. Following this oral examination the examiners may report that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination or recommend that the candidate resubmit the dissertation within 6 months for a second and final time;
- iii. if the dissertation, though inadequate, shall seem of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may determine that the student be permitted to re-present their dissertation in a revised form for a second and final time within six months. This option is not available to examiners re-examining a dissertation. The examiners shall not make such a decision without first submitting the candidate to an oral examination. The resubmitted dissertation shall be submitted to both examiners;
- iv. the examiners may determine that the candidate has not satisfied them in the examination, that the degree should not be awarded and that the student should not be permitted to re-present his/her dissertation in a revised form for examination. The examiners shall not, however, save in exceptional circumstances, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to an oral examination;
- v. students who fail to submit or resubmit the dissertation by the required deadline will be deregistered.

There are no alternative awards.

13. Degree requirements, Appendix 1 of Chapter 8 of the Academic Regulations

Degree requirements [INSERT ResM,] MPhil, PhD, MD(Res), EngD, DrPS, DPsych, DClinDent

Below the heading insert a new section for the Master by Research as follows.

Master by Research

1. The minimum period of study shall be one calendar year's full-time study or the part-time equivalent.
2. Assessment for the award shall in all cases be by submission of a dissertation and the examination will be conducted in English. The scope of the dissertation shall be what might reasonably be expected after one year of full-time study or the part-time equivalent, and the length shall not, other than in the most exceptional circumstances, exceed 30,000 words.
3. The dissertation shall: [NOTE. This generally follows the MPhil requirements with some amendments in track changes]
 - a. consist of the candidate's own account of their investigations of a suitable research problem, hypotheses or research questions; [The part played by the candidate in any work done jointly with the supervisor(s) and/or fellow research workers must be clearly stated by the candidate and certified by the supervisor.]
 - b. be either a record of original work or an ordered and critical exposition of existing knowledge;
 - c. be an integrated whole and present a coherent account of the main findings and their significance, providing a critical discussion of relevant major theories, debates and concepts; [A series of papers, whether published or otherwise, is not acceptable for submission. Research work already published, or submitted for publication, at the time of submission of the dissertation, either by the candidate alone or jointly with others, may be included. The published papers themselves may not be included in the body of the dissertation, but may be adapted to form an integral part of the dissertation and thereby make a relevant contribution to the main theme of the dissertation. Publications derived from the work in the dissertation may be bound as supplementary material at the back of the dissertation.]
 - d. demonstrate the capacity to design and carry out an independent research project using appropriate research methods and utilizing suitable skills and techniques
 - e. give a critical assessment of the relevant literature, describe the method of research and its findings and include a discussion on those findings;and
 - f. be written in English and the literary presentation shall be satisfactory, displaying good presentation and referencing skills.