



**Manchester Academy for
Healthcare Scientist Education**

The DClinSci Research Project

A Guide to Assessment

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– For Workplace and Academic Supervisors
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The Substantial Research Project (C2)

- C2 is the major research component of the DClinSci.
- C2 may be (but does not have to be) based on implementation of C1 (innovation project)
- Research proformas approved by University & RCPATH
- Examined by Thesis & *viva voce* (with external examiner)

What will the thesis look like?

One of two possible formats may be used:

Format 1 – The Standard Thesis

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=7420>

Format 2 – Journal Format

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/graduate/code/submissionandexamination/>

Electronic submission of PDF via eThesis submission portal required for both formats

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/using-the-library/staff/research/services/ethesis/>

+ 2 paper copy prints of the PDF submission



Standard Thesis

Expected length 20-40,000 words

(A PhD thesis would be 80,000 words maximum length)

Structure:

- Electronically generated cover page
- Title page + Submission statement
- List of contents, tables, figures etc.
- Abstract + (optional) Lay abstract
- Declaration/copyright statement/Acknowledgements
- **Brief statement for Examiners***
- Chapters;
 - Introduction/Literature review
 - Aims & Objectives
 - Methodology
 - Results chapters (1 or more)
 - Discussion/conclusion & future work
 - References
 - Appendices

Published papers arising from the thesis may be included in the Appendices

Journal Format Thesis

Expected length 20-40,000 words

(A PhD journal format thesis would be 90,000 words maximum length)

Structure:

- Electronically generated cover page
- Title page + Submission statement
- List of contents, tables, figures etc.
- Abstract + (optional) Lay abstract
- Declaration/copyright statement/Acknowledgements
- **Brief statement for Examiners***
 - Rationale for submitting in journal format & description of thesis structure
 - Systematic Review/Literature Review
 - Presentation of results and their analysis in a format suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal – Empirical papers
 - Critical Appraisal Paper drawing together the various outcomes of the work in a coherent whole and indicating future directions for the work
 - References
 - Appendices

Standard or Journal Format?

Journal format is not suitable for everyone

Things to consider:

1. Does the data lend itself to more than one paper? How many? Not proscribed...
2. Conflict between producing multiple papers to fit Journal format or producing one much higher impact paper
3. Journal format theoretically makes it easier to get data to publication
4. May include published papers, draft papers, work in progress – but must only include research conducted during the DCLinSci and must tell a coherent “story”
5. It is expected that the student had the major role in any joint-authored paper included and that they have written the paper

Student and supervisors need to discuss this as early in the project as possible and revisit several times – don't leave the decision too late!

DClinSci - Statement for Examiners*

We recommend inclusion of a statement within the thesis to show the context of the research project within the wider content of the whole DClinSci.

i.e. show the nature of the taught component

Leadership & Management

Section B/FRCPath

Innovation project & any engagement with public

Examination process

Thesis must be submitted by the end of year 5

Notice of submission must be given 6 months – 6 weeks before this date

Notice of submission triggers nomination of examiners

Internal and External Examiners must be nominated

Criteria for Examiners

<http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=7444>

The external examiner must:

- i. have expertise in the area of work to be examined;
- ii. be experienced in research, and have recently published, or have equivalent professional experience;
- iii. normally have been an examiner for a postgraduate research degree or have had experience of the postgraduate research degree examination process - external examiners examining for the first time should have experience of supervising a research student and examining as an internal examiner;
- iv. hold a postgraduate research degree at the level he/she is examining, or have equivalent professional experience;
- v. hold/have held an appointment within the university system, although it is permissible to appoint an appropriate person from outside the university sector; e.g., a senior industrial scientist or professional practitioner who is aware of the standards required.

Acceptable to discuss nomination with the student

You **MUST** discuss the nomination with the Programme Director for your specialty

Outcomes and resubmission process

Note: Students must have successfully completed the “taught” component of the Doctorate before being examined for the research component.

After submission the thesis is sent out to internal and external examiners who read it and make an *independent preliminary* report. These are exchanged prior to viva.

Viva must be arranged within 12 weeks of examiners receiving thesis (ideally earlier than this)

Supervisors may attend the viva (*if student agrees*) but may not participate in any way.

Outcomes and resubmission process

Following Viva the following outcomes are possible:

Award (with no corrections) (Ai)

Award (with minor corrections) (Aii)

Refer for re-examination under one of the following categories:

Bi – satisfactory in substance but presentation/some content defective **no oral Re-examination needed.**

Bii - satisfactory in substance but presentation/some content defective **oral Re-examination required.**

Biii – Unsatisfactory in substance, defective in presentation/content, requires further research and a further oral examination

C – Fail

Graduation

Graduation ceremonies take place in July and December

