

DClinSci Years 4 & 5

UoM Life Sciences

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Current Timeline for Full DClin Sci Cohort 1

Innovation proposal and Lay presentation complete

Literature review complete

March 2019

Thesis planning meeting

September 2019

Thesis progress meeting

March 2020*

End date (thesis submission; viva within 3-6 months)

Interrupt : March 2021 end date

*This cohort had dispensation to ask for a 6 month extension outside of the normal extension process so could elect for Sept 2020 end date

Current Timeline for Full DClin Sci Cohort 2

Innovation proposal and Lay presentation complete

Literature review complete ?

December 2019

Thesis planning meeting

March 2020

Thesis progress meeting

September 2020

End date (thesis submission; viva within 3-6 months)

How do the roles of the two supervisors compare?

• Workplace Supervisor

- Detailed understanding of the project background
- Understanding of the constraints on the student
- Usually close by to give day-to-day advice

• Academic Supervisor

- Understands the academic process for Doctoral degrees
- Has experience of supervising PhDs/MDs
- Understands the constraints
- Can find the University person to provide guidelines for the degree

How do the supervisors interact?

- Usually by Skype or teleconference.
- One face-to face meeting each year is important/preferable
- Academic supervisor should take lead on reading drafts of thesis.

What to do if you need advice?

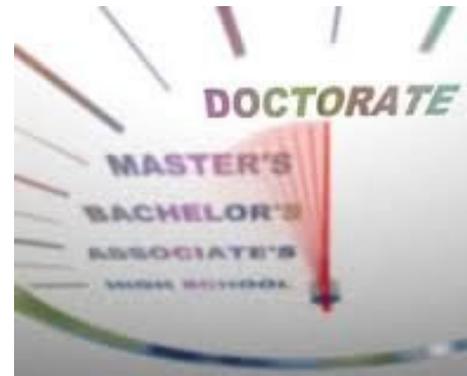
- Academic supervisor
 - Contact administrators re guidelines
 - Liaise with Programme Directors about project content
 - Contact MAHSE about deferrals
- Workplace supervisor
 - liaise with line manager about time constraints
 - Contact NSHCS on HSST
 - Get advice on funding from the Commissioners

What is a Professional Doctorate?

A Research Degree: meeting Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) **Level 8** criteria and FQ-EHEA for Doctoral Degrees

It requires:

- 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.
- A systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge
 - at the forefront of an academic discipline
 - or at forefront of area of professional practice
- A detailed understanding of applicable techniques
 - for research
 - and advanced academic enquiry



How does Professional Doctorate differ from PhD?

1. Inclusion of structured elements

emphasis on candidate acquiring skills relevant to professional practice,
in addition to producing original research

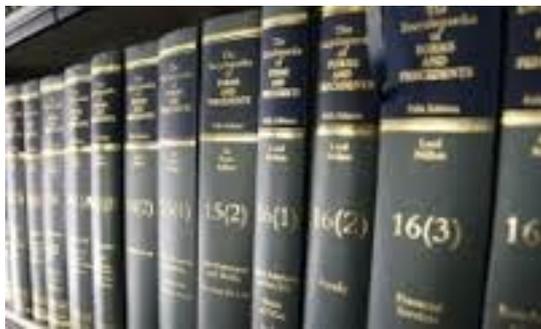
2. Situate professional knowledge developed over time in an academic framework

3. The Research project is relevant to and embedded within candidate's profession

4. Professional Doctorates aim to

develop an individual's professional practice

support them in producing a contribution to (professional) knowledge



Doctoral Standard Research

- **It is not just optimising an assay/technique**
 - although this can be part of the research if it includes for example:
 - evaluation of patients or samples
 - and extensive analysis to show improvement

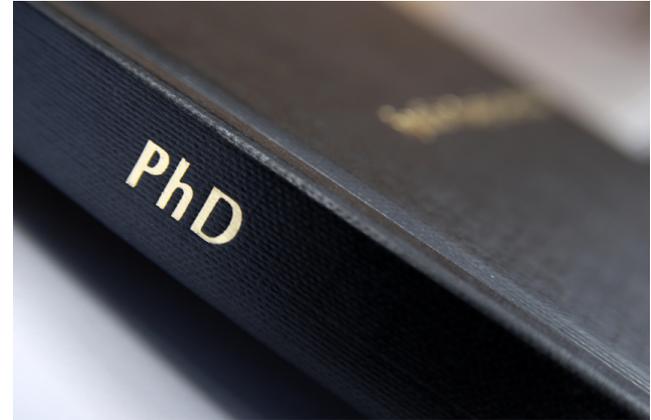
Do something now if you think this may be a problem

The Examination Process

- Discuss when thesis should be submitted now
- Determine the appropriate format now and perhaps modify with time
- Six months to go-suggest external examiner by discussing at a supervisory meeting
- Agree logistics for feedback on the thesis
- Ensure meet the University submission requirements
- Discuss examination process at viva (with academic supervisor)

Overview

- Two formats
Journal format or Traditional
- Suggested word count 20 - 40,000 words
- Presentation should follow the policy of the registering institution
 - UoM <http://documents.manchester.ac.uk/display.aspx?DocID=7420>



Overarching Thesis Structure

Journal Format	Traditional Format
Abstract	Abstract
Systematic Review / Literature Review	Introduction / Literature Review
Empirical Paper(s)	Methodology (where appropriate)
Critical Appraisal Paper	Results Chapter(s)
References	Discussion and Conclusion
Appendices	References
	Appendices

Standard Thesis Format

20-40,000 words (must not exceed 50,000 words) PhD thesis 80,000 words maximum

Detailed Structure:

- Electronically generated cover page
 - Title page + Submission statement
 - List of contents, tables, figures etc.
 - **Abstract** + (optional) Lay abstract
 - Declaration/copyright statement/Acknowledgements
-
- **Introduction/Literature review**
 - Aims & Objectives
 - **Methodology**
 - **Results chapters (1 or more)**
 - **Discussion/conclusion & future work**
 - **References**
 - **General Appendices**
 - Appendix with details of rest of Course
 - Appendix with Innovation Proposal
 - Published papers arising from the thesis



Journal Format Thesis

Expected length 30-50,000 words (PhD would be 90,000 words maximum)

Detailed Structure:

- Electronically generated cover page
- Title page + Submission statement
- List of contents, tables, figures etc.
- **Abstract** + (optional) Lay abstract
- Declaration/copyright statement/Acknowledgements
- Rationale for submitting in journal format & description of thesis structure
- Context of the research & rationale and strategy for the research
- **Systematic Review or Literature Review**
- Methodology & critical analysis of the methods
- **Empirical Results Paper(s)**-Presentation of results in format suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journal
- **Critical Appraisal Paper**-Summary/conclusion drawing together the various outcomes of the work in a coherent whole and future directions
- **References**
- **General Appendix**
- Appendix with details of rest of Course
- Appendix with Innovation Proposal

Systematic Review

- Default format for Literature Review –closely linked to the main research project
- May not suit all projects and should be discussed with supervisory team
- The level of systematic review should also be agreed
- Presentation:
 - Follow the format and guidelines for the target journal
 - If no word count given the review should be a maximum of 8,000 words (*excluding references and tables*)

Empirical Results chapter

- Paper(s) prepared in accordance with guidelines of a specific journal
- **Word count:** in line with target journal (if none stated 8,000 maximum)
- **Co-authors:** contribution of co-authors clearly acknowledged
- **Reference list:** target journal's referencing style. Include DOI numbers.
- **Figures and Tables:** formatted as in the journal
- **Footnotes:** Can be used to refer the reader to additional discussion points in the *critical reflections paper*

Empirical Results Paper

- **Introduction:** Present background and argument for your study. Be explicit about aims, research question and/or hypotheses.
- **Method:** Include type of review/design, inclusion/exclusion criteria for papers or participants, measures, procedures, quality appraisal or statistical analysis plan
- **Results:** Balance descriptive text and tabulated information with an analysis of data.
- **Discussion:** Present a summary, a discussion of findings drawing on relevant literature, strengths and limitations of study, clinical and/or theoretical implications, suggestions for future research, conclusions.

Critical Appraisal Paper

- focus of this section is a consideration of how project contributes to theory and clinical practice in particular field.
- should put the Systematic review and project in the wider context of research and clinical practice and link them to relevant theoretical underpinnings.
- *It is not expected that this paper would be submitted to a journal*

What to include as Critical Appraisal?

- Refer to and appraise the research process as a whole, making reference to what was not done and why it was not done, as well as to the work that was actually carried out.
- Strengths and weaknesses of the project (i.e. the work actually carried out rather than the methodology or line of enquiry as a whole)
- Advantages and disadvantages of the broad methodological approach used in the project and consideration of alternative methodologies that could have been utilised.
- Limitations of the line of enquiry as a whole
- Implications for theory and for clinical practice
- Suggestions for further research or implementation

How to choose Standard or Journal Format?

Things to consider:

1. Does the data lend itself to more than one paper? How many? Not prescribed...
(BUT - A SINGLE PAPER IS NOT USUALLY SUITABLE FOR JOURNAL FORMAT THESIS)
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 only on work done during project not before, draft papers, work in progress – but must tell a coherent “story”
5. Student has major role in any joint-authored paper and they must have written 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!

Plagiarism

- No concern regarding “plagiarism” between literature review and thesis
- Would expect update of literature review
- “cut and paste” only an issue if similarities WITHIN thesis ie make sure not cut and pasting from introduction/systematic review into results chapters

Examination process

- Thesis must be submitted in year 5
- Notice of submission ideally 6 months before end date to allow time to recruit examiners
- Comments back from both supervisors on thesis chapters
- Notice of submission triggers nomination of examiners-usually chosen by Supervisors but requires approval by Programme Directors
- Internal and External Examiners will be formally notified by the Exams Office once the notice of submission is completed
- Usual for Supervisors to check the external examiner is willing and understands the nature of the Professional Doctorate before formal Notice of Submission (done by Postdoctoral Academy).
 - Check when external can do Viva
- Programme Directors will act as Chairpersons in Viva



The External Examiner

Criteria for Examiners

UoM:

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

MMU:

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/academic/casge/examiners/>

An 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 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

The External Examiner-continued

- iv. hold a postgraduate research degree at level he/she is examining
(or have equivalent professional experience)

- v. hold/have held an appointment within 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, but this should be discussed with the Academic Director)

Submission and Binding?

- Guidelines are on MAHSE website
 - University of Manchester