

PhD by Prior Publication (Guidance)

Summary

A PhD by Prior Publication allows people who have not followed a traditional academic route towards a PhD to gain recognition for having produced and contributed towards original academic research, and developed their research skills and knowledge to doctoral level. This route is can be used across all the Schools at City.

The requirements for a PhD by Prior Publication are set out in Senate Regulation 24. In order to provide further instruction to prospective candidates and supervisors of current candidates for the award of PhD by Prior Publication, the School of Health Sciences has proposed draft guidance to support the Regulation.

The City Graduate School Committee considered the draft guidance at its meeting on 19th January 2018 and agreed to recommend to Senate that it be approved.

One action required.

Recommended Action

Senate is asked to **approve** the draft guidance

Publication: Open

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Scope

Prospective and current research degree candidates registered for the award of a doctoral degree by prior publication, and academic and administrative staff who have a responsibility for overseeing the annual progress review, and re-registration, of research degree candidates registered in this category.

Senate Regulations:

[Regulation 24 – Doctoral Programmes](#)

[Regulation 23 – Masters Degree by Research](#)

Date approved/re-approved

Date for review

To be reviewed on a periodic basis, with allowance for minor annual updates of roles and responsibilities by City Graduate School Committee, as required.

To be read in conjunction with [Section 9 of the University's Quality Manual](#), in particular the Research Degrees Typology

Guidance for PhD by Prior Publication

- 1. A PhD by prior publication must meet the same standard of academic excellence as a PhD by any other route**
 - 1.1. The following links are to the UK guidelines and descriptors on standards:
 - 1.2. <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Framework-Higher-Education-Qualifications-08.pdf>
 - 1.3. http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Doctoral_Characteristics.pdf
- 2. The candidate will need to demonstrate an original and significant contribution to knowledge. Six areas are paramount:**
 - 2.1. Presentation of a coherent body of independent research
 - 2.2. Critical appraisal of previous work within which the research is clearly integrated
 - 2.3. Design and methodology for investigation(s)
 - 2.4. Conduct/execution of research
 - 2.5. Analysis of data: evidence or outcomes
 - 2.6. Theoretical interpretations and critical discussion
- 3. A candidate for the degree of PhD by prior publication must be approved by the Research Degrees Committee of the appropriate School.**
- 4. Candidates should be accepted for registration on the basis of all of the below:**
 - 4.1. possession of a degree (BSc/BA or MSc/MA) from an approved university or an equivalent qualification approved by the Research Degrees Committee, according to the university's standard admission criteria.
 - 4.2. the submission of evidence of a body of published work (ie. work in the public domain) which is likely to be of suitable type and quality to lead to the award of this standard of degree. This may potentially include reports of a high quality and strategic importance rather than being solely limited to peer-reviewed journal articles. Appropriate formats should be considered in relation to the candidate's discipline. Supervisors and senior tutors may use REF 3 and 4* quality criteria as a guideline but consideration should not be rigidly confined to this.
 - 4.3. Candidates within the discipline of performing arts may, in part fulfilment of the requirements of the degree, submit a portfolio of original creative work such as musical composition, choreography and/or audio/audio-visual recordings of performances. The structure of the portfolio shall be approved by the appropriate Research Degrees Committee before the candidate first registers for the degree; it should therefore comprise a clear and significant contribution to knowledge.
 - 4.4. the availability of suitable expertise in the School to supervise and (if appropriate) examine the candidate.
- 5. Before being admitted to the degree of PhD by Publication, the candidate must:**
 - 5.1. Submit a proposal including:
 - 5.1.1. the proposed list of publications for submission
 - 5.1.2. an explanation of how they form a coherent body of significant findings
 - 5.1.3. an outline of the critical analysis piece to be submitted for examination

- 5.1.4. an account of the candidate's contribution to any jointly authored work submitted
 - 5.2. satisfy the Research Degrees Committee that the proposed body of work for submission is likely to be considered by examiners as sufficient quality to be comparable with the award of the degree of PhD by other routes
 - 5.3. Provide details of referees who can comment on the quality of the candidate's research and their contribution to any joint research activities to be submitted.
 - 5.4. The number of articles to be submitted shall not be fixed but will normally consist of at least six substantial publications of suitable quality
 - 5.5. For consideration of suitable quality, the committee may use overall equivalence to REF 3 or 4* standards as a guideline, taking into account that different types of publication or output may be considered.
- 6. During the period of registration a candidate shall:**
- 6.1. prepare the final list of the publications on which the assessment for the degree is to be based;
 - 6.2. prepare a critical analysis of the work submitted (normally no more than 20,000 words). This should place the work in its overall context, demonstrate the coherence and contemporary relevance of the work, describe the implications of the work for future research and critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the work and its overall contribution to knowledge.
 - 6.3. make a presentation relating to their work to their department. This presentation will not be assessed but will be mandatory.
- 7. General submission requirements**
- 7.1. work for which a degree or other qualification has been awarded may not be submitted, except for supporting evidence within an appendix.
 - 7.2. within the submission there will be a clear statement from the applicant stating their contribution to each co-authored publication, in particular relating to the design, conduct, analysis and publication; this should be signed off by all the authors involved (unless unavailable). At least one co-author per published work must sign the statement.
 - 7.3. Submissions should be in English. Where work published in a language other than in English is included in the submission a copy in English must be provided.