



Regulation 21: Student Academic Appeals (Research Programmes)

Introduction

1. In this regulation “you” and “your” means a student registered for a research degree programme taught by City, University of London. “We”, “us” and “our” means the University or any of its staff, depending on context.
2. If you are studying for a postgraduate research degree at another institution, which leads to a City, University of London degree, you should refer to Senate Regulation 21b.
3. The regulation sets out what you can do if you are unhappy with a decision made concerning your registration status, or the outcome of an examination.
4. We use criteria, set out below, in considering appeals. A successful appeal must meet (at least) one of the criteria. If you are unhappy with the decision or academic judgement of your Senior Tutor for Research or the examiners, this is not on its own a valid ground for appeal.
5. The [Academic Appeals Policy](#) sets out more detail of
 - a. how we will manage the various stages of the process; and
 - b. how you can access support.
6. This regulation sets out the key steps and forms part of our terms and conditions.
7. Where this regulation refers to meetings, they may be held face to face or virtually.

Overview

8. Our appeals process has two internal stages:
 - a. Consideration with your School (School-level appeal)
 - b. An independent review of the School-level appeal (University-level review)
9. If you are unhappy with the outcomes of the University-level review, you can make a final appeal to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA)

School-level appeal

10. You may appeal against any of the following:
 - a. A decision that relates to your registration status, including:
 - i. withdrawal or suspension of your registration;
 - ii. transfer from MPhil to PhD;

- iii. extension of your registration period beyond the maximum period of candidature;
 - iv. transfer to writing-up status.
- b. The outcome of an examination, including:
- i. that you should not be awarded a research degree or be permitted to resubmit for the award of either a Doctorate or a Masters degree;
 - ii. that you be awarded a degree other than the degree for which you are registered.
11. Your appeal must be made on one or both of the following reasons:
- a. that there was a material error, including a material procedural irregularity, and administrative error and/or prejudice, bias or inadequate assessment in:
 - i. The conduct of the monitoring and assessment of your progress; OR
 - ii. The conduct of the examination.
 - b. that there were previously undisclosed circumstances affecting your academic progress during your period of study or during the examination which:
 - i. your School was not made aware for a demonstrable, valid and overriding reason outside of your control AND
 - ii. had an adverse effect on your performance during the period of study or the examination.
12. You must submit an appeal on the appropriate form, with appropriate evidence, to your School within 28 calendar days of receiving written confirmation of the decision made concerning your registration status or the outcome of an examination.
13. We will acknowledge receipt of your appeal, which will be given initial consideration by at least two members of staff within the School.
14. The possible outcomes of initial scrutiny are:
- a. Your appeal is upheld (accepted; in full or part) with a recommendation for immediate corrective action by the Senior Tutor for Research ('material error' only);
 - b. Your appeal is referred for consideration by a School Appeal Panel either because the case for non-disclosure of circumstances has been accepted and/or because a hearing with the option for you to attend is warranted;
 - c. Your appeal is returned with the opportunity for you to resubmit the appeal within 14 calendar days from the date the decision to resubmit is made;
 - d. Your appeal is rejected because the form is incomplete, incorrect, not accompanied by supporting evidence, or did not demonstrate grounds for appeal.
15. We will tell you in writing the outcome of the initial consideration within 28 calendar days from the date we receive your appeal.
16. If your appeal has been rejected, under paragraph 14(d) above, you may be able to request a review of that decision please see paragraph 20 below If we refer

your appeal to a School Appeal Panel under paragraph 14(b) above you will be invited to participate in the panel meeting.

This will be normally be convened within 28 calendar days of the outcome of the initial consideration. You can see more information about the Panel in the Academic Appeal Guidance.

17. The School Appeal Panel will consider if the appeal is against a decision concerning registration status for which the possible outcomes are that:
 - a. your appeal is upheld (accepted; in full or part) with a recommendation to the Board of Studies that its decision be amended to:
 - i. Re-registration; OR
 - ii. Transfer from MPhil to PhD; OR
 - iii. Extension of candidature; OR
 - iv. Suspension of registration; OR
 - v. Transfer to writing-up status.
 - b. your appeal is upheld (accepted; in full or part) with a recommendation to the Chair of the Board of Studies that you be asked to provide additional work within a maximum specified period of time from the date of the meeting of the Panel, for further assessment of academic progress or work to date.
 - c. your appeal is rejected as the grounds for appeal have not been demonstrated.
18. If the appeal is against the outcome of an examination the possible outcomes are that:
 - a. your appeal is upheld (in full or part) with a recommendation to the Chair of Board of Studies that the original examiners reconsider their recommendations for reasons stated by the Panel (note: the panel will not question the academic judgement of the original examiners).
 - b. your appeal is upheld (in full or part) with a recommendation to the Chair of the Board of Studies that you be permitted to revise your thesis and resubmit it for re-examination to the original examiners or to new examiners as the Panel sees fit within a specified time (note: The Panel should state whether or not a further period of supervised study is required and ask the School to ensure that satisfactory supervisory arrangements are in place during the period until resubmission).
 - c. your appeal is upheld (in full or part) with a recommendation to the Chair of the Board of Studies that new examiners be appointed. The recommendation of the new examiners shall supersede the recommendation of the original submission (note: The Panel should ensure that those examiners shall be no fewer in number than the original examiners and shall comprise not fewer than two examiners, one of whom at least should be external. The reports and recommendation of the original examiners shall not be communicated to the new examiners. The new examiners will be made aware that they are conducting a re-examination on appeal and that they are required to hold a viva).

- d. your appeal is rejected as the grounds for appeal have not been demonstrated.

19. We will write, normally within 14 calendar days to you to inform you of the decision of the School Appeal Panel, including the reasons for the decision.

University-level review

20. You may ask for a review of the School decision on one or both of the following grounds:

- a. that there was a material error in the proceedings associated with the School decision which affected that decision; AND/OR
- b. that new information had become available which was material to the original appeal and which could not have been made known to the School for a demonstrated, valid and over-riding reason.

21. A University-level review is not a re-hearing of your original appeal. Your being unhappy with the outcome of the appeal will not be a sufficient reason to uphold a request for review

22. You must submit a request for a review in writing, together with your supporting evidence, within 21 calendar days of our notification to you of the School decision.

23. We will acknowledge receipt of your appeal, which will be given initial consideration by at least two members of staff outside of the School.

24. The possible outcomes of the University-level review are:

- a. That the case for a review is upheld (in full or part) with a recommendation for immediate corrective action by the Officer responsible for the School decision or his/ her nominee ('material error' cases only);
- b. That the case for a review is upheld (in full or part) and referred back to the appropriate body in the school for consideration. Following this consideration, you may then only request a review of the decision on the ground of a material error ('material error' cases only) (note: the appropriate body would normally be the Chair of the Assessment Board or the School Appeal Panel, depending on the stage at which the School decision was made).
- c. That your request is returned with an opportunity for you to resubmit the request for review within 14 calendar days.
- d. That your request is rejected because the form was incomplete, incorrect, not accompanied by supporting evidence, or did not demonstrate grounds for appeal, or did not demonstrate the grounds for review.

25. We will write to you, with reasons for the decision, normally within 28 calendar days of receipt of the University-level review.

Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA)

26. When City's internal procedures have been concluded, you will be issued with a Completion of Procedures (CoP) letter.
27. Following this, if you are still dissatisfied with the final decision on your case, you may be able to apply to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) for Higher Education. Information and eligibility rules are available at:
www.oiahe.org.uk

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