

The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Research &
Innovation
Services.

Code Of Practice For Research Degree Programmes 2009–10.

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Foreword

The graduate experience

I would like to extend a warm welcome to those who have just joined the University and to welcome back those who graduated here and those who are already participating in a graduate programme.

The work of postgraduate research students is central to the role of the University. We hope that your time at the University will be fruitful and enjoyable; we hope that you will encounter the thrill of doing original research, and that the skills and experience you develop here will serve you well throughout your career. This booklet sets out some guidelines for your graduate experience and what to do if it appears expectations are not being realised.

The primary academic relationship you will have will be with your supervisor, and it is important that you develop and maintain this. You will find a wide range of facilities to support the academic, social and welfare aspects of your stay at the University. The following guidelines are designed to outline the operational procedures that will help to make your graduate experience run smoothly.

As part of its graduate programme, the University requires all prospective full-time PhD students to undertake a Research Training Programme (RTP). In total, several hundred units are offered so there should be no difficulty in choosing the few necessary to provide training in the three skills objectives covered by the RTP. The programme is designed to enable you to tackle your research project with confidence – from inception to final write-up – and to enhance research and personal skills of long-term value.

Research students have their own particular needs, and the University seeks to meet these by providing a supportive academic and pastoral environment. It is the responsibility of each individual student to raise any problems at the earliest opportunity with the appropriate person within the University. I hope that this booklet will be a useful source of advice and guidance throughout your time as a research student at Sheffield.

Good luck with your research and enjoy your graduate experience with us!

RICHARD A. L. JONES

Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation



Introduction

The Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes contains a wide range of information required by both students and their academic departments from the point of registration on to a higher degree by research, to the point of award.

Some of the immediate actions when joining the University as a research student include:

- Undertaking a Training Needs Analysis to inform the choice of Research Training Programme (RTP) units
- Attending Plagiarism and Copyright sessions – to help research to be undertaken using appropriate methods for the electronic publication of the thesis (eTheses)
- Discussing the expectations of all parties (i.e. the student, supervisory team, academic department) and agreeing the initial frequency of supervisory progress meetings
- Becoming familiar with the guidance on working hours, holidays and hours of employment
- Consider whether your research requires ethical approval

Information on all the above is provided in this booklet.

The Code of Practice, however, contains much more information than this, providing you with details on how to submit a thesis, how the oral examination is arranged, how to make changes to student status due to personal or other circumstances, what fees are due and when, etc.

This booklet is reviewed and updated annually. It is available from:

- North Campus Graduate Research Centre reception' in hardcopy – either as the complete booklet or in the form of information sheets covering a particular section
- to download from: www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/students/forms.html

Motivation and advice

A research degree provides a wonderful opportunity to pursue detailed, innovative study in an area of particular interest or concern. The thrill of undertaking original research, reaching new conclusions and developing ideas can last a lifetime. In many cases, similar opportunities will never recur. Research can also be repetitive and frustrating. It is important that students recognise the commitments and responsibilities they are entering into. "I wanted to spend another three years at university" is not sufficient reason in itself for entering a research degree programme.

In particular, grants for most research students are low compared with salaries available in paid employment. Disillusionment and hardship are familiar problems which face research students. The University therefore seeks to ensure that prospective students receive full guidance, information and advice from their departments or from central services before they commence their research, especially regarding the nature of research, life as a research student and their financial position. This is particularly important for students meeting some or all of the cost of their study from their own resources and/or with dependants to support.

Research & Innovation Services

Research & Innovation Services is a professional service department supporting academic staff research, research students and knowledge transfer. It forms part of Academic Services.

The Research Degree Support Team is responsible for providing advice and guidance to research students, academic and administrative staff on matters relating to a student's progression through their research degree.

The Doctoral Development Team is responsible for developing new and enhancing existing programmes; for skills training provision including the RTP; and for North Campus Graduate Research Centre.

Areas of work relating to research students include the following:

- Approval of candidature/application to read;
- Changes to student status, e.g. change of Degree, Department, Faculty, scope of research or supervisor; upgrading candidature; suspension of candidature; changes in registration status; applications for extensions to time limits; withdrawals; requests for leave of absence, etc;
- Arrangements for monitoring academic progress;
- Approval of proposed examiners and their official appointment; processing of examiners' expenses;
- Thesis submission and resubmission;
- Approval and award of degrees;
- North Campus Graduate Research Centre;
- Liaison with the Union of Students;
- Newsletters (PGR Link and Research Supervision Matters) and other publications for research students;
- Research Skills Training (inc. RTP, seminar series);
- Studentships and funding.

Research & Innovation Services is based at New Spring House, 231 Glossop Road

All research student enquiries, other than thesis submission, should be directed to the North Campus Graduate Research Centre, 64 Garden Street.

Graduate Research Centre



North Campus Graduate Research Centre, Garden Street

This facility is for exclusive use by postgraduate research students from across the University and provides a place to study, write up or read in a pleasant, calm environment.

The North Campus Graduate Research Centre currently provides three main functions:

1. Dedicated Workspaces

The Centre accommodates 80 dedicated workspaces for research students who do not have alternative facilities in their academic department. Each student is offered their own desk, networked pc and additional lockable storage, in one of four colour-themed rooms. The workspace is available to the student on an exclusive basis for as long as required. This can be during intense periods of work, such as writing up and literature reviews, or for the duration of their time at the University.

Additional Features....

Bookable seminar room for students' use (capacity 50); private workspace for interviews complete with digital recording equipment; printing and photocopying services; 2 kitchens; shower; social space to meet other students; stationery shop and vending machines.

The Centre is open to students with dedicated workspaces 7 days a week between the hours of 8.00am and midnight, with a staffed reception during office hours.



2. Drop-in Centre

Additionally, all graduate research students are welcome to use the drop-in centre Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm. This area has a staffed reception, networked PCs and wireless reception, printing and photo-copying facilities, stationery shop and vending machines.

3. Seminars and Workshops

Careers, Personal and Professional Development, and research skills seminars and workshops are regularly held at the Centre. Research students are welcome to book these sessions through the Learning Management System:

www.shef.ac.uk/hr/development/lms

Want to find out more, or book a space? Come and see us at the Centre and we'll show you around. Applications can be obtained directly from the Centre, or online from:

www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/development/development_team/research_centre.html

New one-stop-service for research student enquiries

From September 2009 all research student enquiries (other than thesis submission) will be handled at North Campus Graduate Research Centre, rather than New Spring House. Staff from the Research Degree Support Team will be present at the Centre, Monday to Friday, 9.00am – 5.00pm.

As well as enquiries in person, all forms and other correspondence should be addressed to North Campus Graduate Research Centre, 64 Garden Street.

Thesis submission – the thesis submission and collection service will remain at New Spring House, 231 Glossop Road.



Postgraduate Research Student Care Policy

The University's Postgraduate Research Students are customers of Research & Innovation Services

We aim to meet their needs with efficiency, effectiveness, fairness and courtesy.

We aim to meet our customers' needs by:

- Providing a wide range of advice and support services to past, present and future research students.
- Listening to the changing needs of research students and adapting our service accordingly wherever possible.
- Maintaining and developing effective links with all areas of the University, the Union of Students, and external organisations and, where appropriate, referring our customers to the relevant area.

We aim to offer a quality service by:

- Providing accurate and appropriate advice and support to our customers.
- Welcoming customer feedback on our service and suggestions for improvement and development.
- Establishing high standards and regularly monitoring our performance.
- Valuing the expertise of colleagues and enabling them to develop their experience and skills.

We aim to be fair and courteous by:

- Treating all our customers justly and with respect and sensitivity, irrespective of race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, disability, political or religious belief, or socio-economic class.
- Holding information securely and not releasing it to unauthorised persons.

In return:

- We expect our customers to treat us with courtesy and respect.



Types of Research Degrees

Types of degree

Most research degrees of the University may be pursued on either a full-time or part-time basis (exceptions include the PhD with Integrated Studies, the EngD and the DEdCPsy). The majority of students are registered either as full-time or part-time student candidates; members of University staff reading for research degrees are registered as staff candidates.

Special categories of candidature exist for hospital staff, for the holders of certain named University research fellowships, and for the members of staff of affiliated institutions. Further information and guidance is available from Research & Innovation Services.

It should be noted that registered study for any other degree or qualification of any university should not normally be undertaken during a programme of study or research without special permission of the Senate. The research degrees of the University are as follows:

All Faculties:

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) with Integrated Studies

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

The degree of PhD is normally obtained after three years' study; the degree of MPhil after two years' study. Both require the presentation of a thesis and an oral examination. A candidate for the degree of PhD is required to satisfy the examiners that his or her thesis 'is original work which forms an addition to knowledge; shows evidence of systematic study and of the ability to relate the results of such study to the general body of knowledge in the subject; and is worthy of publication either in full or in an abridged form'. The form of the thesis should also be such that it is demonstrably a coherent body of work, i.e. includes a summary, an introduction, a description of the aims of the research, an analytical discussion of the main results and conclusions, and sets the total work in context.

Examiners are advised that their judgment of the thesis should be based on what may reasonably be expected of a diligent and capable student after completion of the prescribed period of research.

Although there is no equivalent definition of a successful MPhil thesis, it is generally accepted that it should contain a record of the research carried out and display a good general knowledge of the area of study, together with a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of some part or aspect of it.

The University also offers a four-year PhD with Integrated Studies. This programme differs from the traditional three-year PhD in that it combines a specific research project with an integrated programme of coursework. Students who successfully complete all of the programme requirements will be awarded a Masters degree as well as a PhD in the relevant subject area.

Faculty of Arts & Humanities:

Master of Music (MMus) by Research

The degree of MMus is a Master's degree for which candidates are required to present two of the following: a thesis on a subject of research; a portfolio of original compositions; a prepared instrumental or vocal recital. An oral examination may also be required, at the discretion of the examiners.

Faculty of Engineering:

Engineering Doctorate (EngD)

The degree of EngD is a four-year postgraduate research degree that incorporates a research project and a taught programme involving management, technical and personal development modules. The research project component of the EngD is linked to the needs of a sponsoring company. Candidates are required to present a thesis and pass an oral examination.

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health:

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

Doctor of Dental Science (DDSc)

Doctor of Medical Science (DMedSci)

MD and DDSc degree programmes are both at doctoral level and candidates are required to produce a thesis and pass an oral examination. The criteria for the award of these degrees are the same as the PhD.

The degree of DMedSci is a research degree that includes a programme of coursework. Candidates are required to successfully complete the prescribed coursework, present a thesis and pass an oral examination.

Faculty of Social Sciences:

Doctoral Programme in Education (EdD)

Doctor of Educational and Child Psychology (DEdCPsy)

Master of Laws (LLM) by Research

The degree of EdD offers an alternative route to a doctoral qualification and aims to provide a broad and flexible research-based preparation for a range of professional and managerial careers. Part I of the programme requires candidates to take taught modules in research skills and training, together with 'elective' modules providing specialisation in a particular area of interest and/or further development of particular research skills, methods or issues. Part II involves a major research project leading to the submission of a thesis or equivalent portfolio of 50,000 words. An oral examination is also required.

The degree of DEdCPsy is a three-year research degree which combines coursework, a supervised practice placement and submission of a thesis. Assessment is based on submission of a number of different pieces of work, including a final thesis and a paper for proposed publication. Candidates are also required to pass an oral examination.

The degree of LLM is a research degree, admission to which is restricted to recognised graduates in Law. LLM research normally falls into the broad category of legal analysis as opposed to socio-legal or criminological studies, for which MPhil candidature is more appropriate. Candidates are required to present a thesis; an oral examination may also be required, at the discretion of the examiners.

Study away from Sheffield

Home Students

Certain types of research necessarily involve periods of study away from Sheffield; for example, to collect data or samples or carry out other fieldwork, or to visit libraries or archives. Similarly, students in receipt of CASE awards or other industrially-linked or sponsored studentships will normally be required to work for an agreed period at the premises of the collaborating company or outside body. The duration and timing of these periods should, as far as possible, be established at the outset, so that an appropriate timetable for the research and writing of the thesis can be drawn up.

It is possible for a full-time student to spend a more extended period away from Sheffield, and in some cases permission may be given for the entire period of research to be undertaken elsewhere, subject to certain criteria concerning the suitability of the location and its facilities, and the continuity of supervision being met. Such arrangements require the approval of the relevant Faculty. Similar arrangements may also be possible for part-time students, typically when the research topic is related to the student's employment and the research is undertaken at the place of employment.

Overseas/European Union students

There are two formal schemes allowing for research away from the University for Overseas/EU candidates:

1 Joint Location Scheme (full-time)

This scheme is designed to enable students to divide their period of research between Sheffield and another approved location. A minimum of one year must normally be spent in Sheffield (either as a block of time or distributed across the whole period of research). The normal period before submission of the thesis is three years.

The scheme is open to overseas and EU students. In order to be admitted under this scheme, candidates must:

- meet the University's normal entry requirements for higher degrees by research;
- plan to pursue a scheme of research which inherently requires some of the work to be undertaken in a location away from Sheffield;
- demonstrate adequate supervisory arrangements for the scheme of research acceptable to the relevant Faculty;
- prove access, where appropriate, to the necessary library and other facilities;
- comply with the terms and conditions of the guidelines on Joint Location study.

Approval of a Joint Location candidature should be sought prior to admission through the relevant Faculty.

2 Remote Location Scheme (part-time)

This scheme is designed to allow part-time students to pursue research at an approved remote location site, with special arrangements in place to ensure the appropriateness and adequacy of research supervision. The normal period before submission of the thesis is six years. In order to be admitted to this scheme, candidates must:

- meet the University's normal entry requirements for higher degrees by research
- prove access to suitable remote location research facilities
- demonstrate appropriateness and adequacy of the proposed supervisory arrangements
- comply with the terms and conditions on Remote Location study.

Approval of a Remote Location candidature should be sought prior to admission through the relevant Faculty.

Joint research degrees

The University has regulatory provision to offer jointly awarded research degrees with another university. These programmes can take a considerable amount of time to negotiate and to get the formal agreements in place; therefore, it is essential that the process is begun well in advance of the degree commencing. Faculty approval is required for any such programme.

A pro forma is available for departments to complete to request a joint research degree programme to be set up.

www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/development/development_team/doctoral_development.html

Centres for Doctoral Training

The University has a number of Centres for Doctoral Training which are funded by research councils. Students on the programmes run by these Centres have their own handbook, which complements this Code of Practice and explains the structure of their degree in detail. The programmes are four years in length and, in some cases, involve time spent at partner institutions and/or in industry. Further information on the Centres can be found at:

www.shef.ac.uk/cdt/

Registration and Fees

Registration of new research students

Registration is the process by which the University confirms that it holds correct information about its students, their programmes of study and the arrangements for the payment of their tuition fees.

All full-time research students are required to register in person on commencing their studies.

Part-time research students and University staff candidates are required to register at the commencement of their research, but are not required to register in person.

Students entering the University at the beginning of the Autumn Semester are expected to register at the start of the Semester, according to the published timetable. Students whose research commences during the course of the session should register on arrival at Registry Services, Level Six, University House.

Before registering, all students must provide satisfactory evidence of their ability to pay tuition fees and other dues. New research students are also required to provide evidence of their qualifications and should bring their original certificates, or certified copies of them, to registration.

Students requiring formal confirmation letters relating to registration status and immigration matters must apply to the Student Services Department, who are the only personnel authorised to issue such letters on behalf of the University.

Registration of continuing research students

All full-time and part-time research students are required to register annually until the required period of registration for full fee paying purposes is completed. The re-registration of all research students is online, approximately two months prior to the registration start date.

Permission to re-register will be withheld in cases where students have monies outstanding to the University in respect of, for example, tuition fees or accommodation charges.

Payment of tuition fees

Tuition fees for sponsored students are paid direct to the University by the sponsoring body. The holders of University scholarships which cover tuition fees are regarded as sponsored students for this purpose.

Students who intend to pay their fees from their own funds, funds over which they have control or through a bank loan, are regarded as self-financed. Self-financed students may choose either to pay their fees in full at registration (a prompt payment discount is offered to full-time self-financed students) or by instalment. Full details of the University's fee rates and payment plans are available via the SSiD web pages www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/fees.

University staff candidates do not pay annual tuition fees; instead they are required to pay a fee on submission of their thesis.

Application to Read

The University's regulations for higher degrees by research state that research students' qualifications and proposed scheme of study or research are subject to Faculty approval. This formal approval, often referred to as the 'application to read' or approval of candidature, normally takes place within the first three months of registration. Once the 'application to read' has been submitted to the Faculty (with documentary evidence as required), the student receives a certified copy of the form, together with an information sheet which:

- confirms that he/she is eligible and qualified to be a candidate for a higher degree by research;
- confirms that he/she is registered for the specified research degree programme (e.g. PhD, MPhil, LLM, EdD, etc.);
- confirms the appointment of the supervisor(s);
- records the scope of research;
- records the date of commencement, the required period of registration for full fee paying purposes and the time limit for submission of the thesis;
- specifies the regulations and conditions under which the candidature is approved.

The student should consult their supervisor to ascertain whether their research will require consideration by the University Ethics Committee or, in the case of research involving animals, a Home Office licence. Approval should be sought from the appropriate bodies. Research in the affected areas should not be undertaken until this is granted.

Students whose research involves any invasive procedures or handling of any unfixed human tissue should have completed the required course of vaccinations prior to the commencement of the research.

Period of registration

The following table details the minimum, normal and maximum periods of registration for the University's research degree programmes, where the period of registration is regarded as that within which the entire project should be completed and a thesis submitted.

- **minimum period of registration** is the shortest allowable time between initial registration and submission of the thesis for the specified research degree programme, as defined in the University Regulations
- **normal period of registration** is the typical or optimum time between initial registration and submission of the thesis for a specified research degree programme – that is, all research students should be aiming to submit their thesis within this timescale
- **maximum period of registration** is the time limit, as defined in the University's Regulations, for submission of the thesis for the specified research degree programme.

The required period of registration for full fee paying purposes, which is recorded in each research student's letter approving their application to read, is the number of years for which full tuition fees are payable to the University. This is based on the normal period of registration for the specified research degree programme. With respect to the minimum period of registration, consideration of any reduction in fees will only take place after the actual submission of the thesis to Research & Innovation Services.

Additional fees are payable by candidates who take longer than the normal period of registration to submit their theses.

Periods of registration and time limits for research degree programmes

| DEGREE | CANDIDATURE | MINIMUM | NORMAL | MAXIMUM (TIME LIMIT) |
|--|------------------|----------|---------|----------------------|
| Please note: these time limits include the writing of the thesis to the point of submission | | | | |
| PhD | Full-time | 2 years | 3 years | 4 years |
| PhD with Integrated Studies | Full-time | 4 years | 4 years | 5 years |
| PhD | Part-time | 4 years | 6 years | 8 years |
| PhD | University Staff | 2 years | 2 years | 8 years |
| MPhil | Full-time | 1 year | 2 years | 3 years |
| MPhil | Part-time | 2 years | 4 years | 6 years |
| MPhil | University Staff | 1 year | 1 year | 6 years |
| EdD | Part-time | 4 years | 6 years | 8 years |
| LLM | Full-time | 1 year | 1 year | 4 years |
| LLM | Part-time | 2 years | 2 years | 6 years |
| DMedSci | Full-time | 3 years | 3 years | 4 years |
| DMedSci | Part-time | 4 years | 6 years | 8 years |
| DMedSci | University Staff | 4 years | 4 years | 8 years |
| MD/DDSc | Full-time | 2 years | 2 years | 3 years |
| MD/DDSc | Part-time | 4 years | 4 years | 6 years |
| MD/DDSc | University Staff | 2 years | 2 years | 6 years |
| MMus | Full-time | 9 months | 1 year | 3 years |
| MMus | Part-time | 2 years | 2 years | 6 years |
| EngD | Full-time | 3 years | 4 years | 5 years |
| DEdCPsy | Full-time | 3 years | 3 years | 4 years |

Transfer of registration from MPhil to PhD or MD/DDSc/EngD: 'upgrading'

Students who already hold a qualification deemed to be equivalent to a UK Master's degree may be permitted to register directly for the degree of PhD, MD or DDSc, but the majority of students are admitted to read initially for the degree of MPhil with the expectation that, subject to satisfactory progress, they will later be upgraded to PhD/MD/DDSc/EngD. Many Faculties insist on initial registration as MPhil leading to PhD/MD/DDSc/EngD in all cases.

Procedures for Joint Location and Remote Location study will vary, and students and staff should consult the guidance available on the following web site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/away

Both the timing of and procedures for upgrading vary from Faculty to Faculty and from department to department. The decision to recommend upgrading is, however, often taken towards the end of the first year, following the submission of a significant piece of written work and/or a presentation at a departmental research seminar. In addition, the University requires that full-time students must have successfully achieved the requisite number of credits from the Research Training Programme before upgrading can be confirmed. Students are permitted a maximum of two attempts to upgrade (unless there are extenuating circumstances to be taken into account). Students who are unsuccessful after both attempts should be directed to submit for MPhil only.

Following Faculty approval of a department's recommendation that upgrading should take place, the student will receive formal notification from the Faculty in the form of a certified copy of the upgrade form (with the signature of the appropriate Faculty Officer and the official stamp of the University), together with an information sheet which provides details of his/her revised registration period and time limit.

Fees structure

Postgraduate research students are required to pay full tuition fees for the duration of their normal period of registration (please refer to the table on page 11 for information on periods of registration for each research degree). Tuition fees are collected at the beginning of each year. If a student goes beyond their normal period of registration and requires a further year of registration, a continuation fee is charged instead of a tuition fee. If a student submits after passing the minimum period of registration, but before completing the normal period of registration (see table on page 11), e.g. during the 3rd year of a full-time PhD, a reduction/refund of tuition fees will be calculated on a pro-rata (monthly) basis. Such reductions/refunds are applied based on submission of the thesis alone.

The continuation fee is charged on a pro-rata basis starting from the end of the normal tuition fee paying period of registration until the submission of the thesis or the end of the registration period, whichever is earlier. In order to encourage students to submit their theses in good time, the continuation fee is waived within the first three months of the end of the tuition fee paying period if students submit within this period. Continuation fees are collected either at the end of the additional year of registration, or at the point at which a student submits their thesis – whichever occurs first.

For example, if a student on a standard PhD with a normal period of registration of 3 years submits at the end of the fourth year, s/he will be required to pay the full continuation fee. However, if the student submits before that date, the continuation fee will be charged on a pro-rata basis. If the student submits within the first three calendar months of their fourth year, there will be no continuation fee to pay. However, as soon as the student enters month four of their fourth year, s/he will be required to pay the relevant continuation fee for four months. This scale then increases each month so that if, for example, a student submits six months into the fourth year, s/he would pay half the annual continuation fee.

The table below illustrates when continuation fees commence for the most common types of research degree.

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Full-time PhD candidates (3-year PhD) | Year 4 |
| Part-time PhD candidates | Year 7 |
| Full-time PhD with Integrated Studies candidates | Year 5 |
| Full-time MD/DDSc candidates | Year 3 |
| Full-time DMedSci candidates | Year 4 |
| Full-time MPhil candidates | Year 3 |
| Part-time MPhil candidates | Year 5 |
| Full-time MMus candidates | Years 2 and 3 |
| Full-time LLM candidates | Years 2, 3 and 4 |

There are no routine grounds for fee waivers in respect of continuation fees, but the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Innovation will consider cases put forward by students who feel there are exceptional reasons why they should not have to pay additional fees. All cases should be channelled via the department to Research & Innovation Services for consideration by the appropriate Faculty Officer in the first instance.

Students who have completed their required period of registration for full fee-paying purposes are entitled to apply to the Student Services Information Desk for an extension of their UCard (subject to status).

Fees in 2009–10

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Continuation/Extension | £324* (*for students whose registration commenced prior to the 2007–08 academic year) |
| Resubmission without oral | £217 |
| Resubmission with oral | £294 |
| Staff Candidate submission | £367 |

(Please note that these fees are increased annually)

All fees can be paid at the Income Office, Level 6, University House by cash, personal cheque, bankers draft, credit or debit card. Payments to be made by credit/debit card can be made on-line at www.sheffield.ac.uk/payments/

Continuation Fees structure for all students who registered for the first time after 2007–08

A revised method of calculating continuation fees was introduced by the University at the start of the 2007–08 academic year, in order to encourage timely submission. The following rates therefore only apply to those students who registered for the first time after 2007-08. Under this system, once students enter the continuation fee paying period they are required to pay a deposit of the full first year's continuation fee. If the student then submits before the end of the first continuation fee year, they receive a refund, the size of which is determined on a sliding scale according to when they submitted. For example, a student who submits in the sixth month after the end of their full fee paying period will be refunded half the continuation fee. It should be noted that the level of the continuation fee rises sharply following the end of the fourth year and that both students and their departments are liable for payment of 50% each of the continuation fee which is set at one-third of the standard home postgraduate rate. The following table sets out the continuation fees payable by research students between the normal and maximum periods of registration (e.g. during Year 4 for 3-year PhD).

| MONTHLY THESIS IS SUBMITTED | DEPOSIT | REFUND | TOTAL FEES PAYABLE |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 0 | - | 0 |
| 2 | 0 | - | 0 |
| 3 | 0 | - | 0 |
| 4 | £324 | £216 | £108 |
| 5 | £324 | £189 | £135 |
| 6 | £324 | £162 | £162 |
| 7 | £324 | £135 | £189 |
| 8 | £324 | £108 | £216 |
| 9 | £324 | £81 | £243 |
| 10 | £324 | £54 | £270 |
| 11 | £324 | £27 | £297 |
| 12 | £324 | 0 | £324 |
| 13 | £324 | 0 | £1,130* |
| 14 | | | £1,220* |
| 15 | | | £1,310* |
| 16 | | | £1,400* |
| 17 onwards | | | Increase £90 each subsequent month* |

* These fees are split equally between the student and the department.

Based on a Continuation Fee of £1,130 in 2009–10. (Please note that these fees are increased annually)

Note: the fees applied from month 13 will be strictly enforced from the first day over the 12 month period

The length of the full-funding period depends on the degree and the funder, so each student needs to check at what date their continuation fees start.

It is important that students finish their degrees on time. Delays cost the student lost income from not using their degree to gain employment and the University's funders can, and do, penalise the University for an unacceptable number of students not submitting within four years.

There are no routine grounds for fee waivers in respect of continuation fees, but the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Innovation will consider cases put forward by students who feel there are exceptional reasons why they should not have to pay additional fees. All cases should be channelled via the department to Research & Innovation Services.

Students who have completed their required period of registration for full fee-paying purposes are entitled to apply for a UCard extension (subject to status).

Changes to students' status, personal circumstances and time limits

Change of Candidature

Changing circumstances may mean that it is no longer appropriate for a student to remain registered according to his/her original candidature. Common changes are from full-time to part-time student candidate, and vice versa, and from student candidate to staff candidate. Any such change requires the student to complete an application form for a 'Change of Candidature (PGR)'. Once the change is approved by Faculty, the student will receive a certified copy with an information sheet.

Non-EU/EEA students wishing to change the topic of their research should be aware that they may need to apply to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for an ATAS certificate, depending on their new subject discipline.

The areas requiring ATAS clearance generally fall within the science, engineering and technology disciplines. For further details on ATAS, please contact Student Support and Guidance: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk, or refer to the Student Services Information Desk pages for International Students:

www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/international/sheet4.html

Students whose change of research topic requires them to apply for ATAS clearance will need to ask their supervisor to provide them with an official letter with details of their new area of research. A template letter is available for this purpose from the SSiD website.

Part-time study

Students who are considering changing from full-time to part-time study should carefully consider a number of factors when reaching their decision.

- to combine study with other commitments requires significant time, energy and resources; it is important that part-time students are aware of the additional load which they are taking on.
- the time taken to complete a part-time degree may be considerable, possibly six to eight years for a PhD, and requires both patience and determination on the part of students.
- it is necessary for part-time students to plan their study time very carefully, to ensure that facilities are available at convenient times and in accessible locations. Given the nature of part-time study, it is especially important to maintain regular contact with your supervisor. This is particularly important for students undertaking research away from the University at a Remote Location site.
- it should be noted that those in the UK on a student visa are not permitted (under UK immigration rules) to study part-time.

Leave of absence

In some cases, a period of leave of absence may be required, perhaps on personal, financial or medical grounds. Faculty approval is required and a form is available from Research & Innovation Services or on-line at www.sheffield.ac.uk/researchoffice/staff_students_visitors/students.html

Non-EEA students must also seek guidance from an immigration advisor in Student Services before the application can be processed.

A student seeking leave of absence on medical grounds must submit a medical certificate with the application. On return to the University, a medical note confirming that the student is able to resume his/her studies should also be submitted to Research & Innovation Services. Research Council-funded students requesting Leaves of Absence on the grounds of maternity/paternity leave are advised to consult their individual Research Councils for advice on the length of leave permitted.

It is not University policy to approve continued lengthy periods of leave of absence. One year is the normal maximum, but two years may be approved in exceptional circumstances.

In exceptional circumstances, there may be occasions where a student is unable to undertake effective research or pursue their research with adequate commitment, but where a period of leave of absence is still deemed appropriate. For example, a student may not be well enough to attend regularly or undertake full-time studies, but may not want to completely distance themselves from their research for a prolonged period. Under such circumstances, a 'pro-rata' leave of absence may be considered in exceptional cases. In practice, a student would be granted leave of absence to cover only the amount of time lost due to these exceptional circumstances, and not a leave of absence for the entire period in which these circumstances are a factor. For reasons outlined below, it may not be possible to permit 'pro-rata' leave of absence for overseas students in such circumstances.

Overseas students should note that the University is required to report all overseas students who are on extended periods of Leave of Absence to the Home Office who will expect them to return to their home country for the duration of the Leave of Absence.

Students in the UK subject to immigration regulations must be fully registered and attending in order to meet the conditions of the student visa. Leave of Absence (both current and retrospective) cannot be approved unless the student has a medical certificate to cover the whole period requested or unless the student left, or intends to leave, the UK during this time.

For further information or guidance relating to immigration issues, please contact Student Support and Guidance: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk

Time limits

Students are required to register and pay tuition fees annually until the required period of registration for full fee paying purposes is completed. It is important to ensure that projects are undertaken which can be fully completed in the registration period. This includes necessary training, preparatory work, actual research and preparation of a thesis.

The problems encountered by students who attempt to write up their theses while coping with the demands of full-time employment are well known, and it should also be noted that the UK research councils exert considerable pressure on universities whose students fail to submit within four years (in some cases where the submission rate is particularly poor, studentships have been withheld). Students are therefore expected to submit their theses before completion of the registration period, or as soon as possible thereafter.

On occasions, a further period of registration may be required if the student is still making significant use of University facilities. Full fees will be charged in such circumstances.

Extension of time limits

Students are strongly encouraged to submit their theses within the normal period of registration. However, students may request extensions to their time limit. Requests for extensions should normally be limited to a maximum of 6 months at a time. However, University Regulations do permit the granting of an extension for up to 12 months at a time, in exceptional circumstances. This may include instances where a student would incur further financial penalties if only 6 months' extension were granted at a time (e.g. due to the costs of having to apply for more than one visa extension during a year). In very exceptional circumstances, extensions may be granted for a further period by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research & Innovation is the Senate's delegated representative for this purpose.

Unless an extension is granted, a student's candidature will automatically lapse if the thesis is not submitted before the time limit is reached. This could result in loss of access to computing and library facilities. A student wishing to apply for an extension should consult his/her supervisor at an early stage and will normally be required to complete a form (available from Research & Innovation Services) indicating the reasons for failure to submit within the time limit. Requests should be supported by copies of departmental progress reports and action plans for the completion of the thesis. A supporting statement from the supervisor or Head of Department will also be required. Once the form is approved by Faculty, the student will receive a certified copy and an information sheet.

Please note that it is particularly important that all parts of the form are completed and that a substantial case is presented, together with detailed supporting information and a revised timetable. Partial or brief applications will not be considered by the Faculty Officer, which will result in delays and may mean that a student's time limit expires.

In considering requests for extensions of the time limit, Faculties will wish to ascertain that submission of the thesis can reasonably be expected within the period of the extension requested. A continuation fee will be levied. The level of this fee is reviewed annually and details of the current fee can be obtained from Research & Innovation Services. There will be no fee waivers in respect of any fees due as a result of the granting of an extension.

Those in the UK studying on a student visa will also have to consider extending their Leave to Remain. For further information or guidance on immigration issues, please contact Student Support and Guidance: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk, or refer to the Student Services Information Desk pages for extending Leave to Remain at: www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/international/sheet4.html

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

Non-EU/EEA students wishing to extend Leave to Remain as a student in the UK for some Taught Masters programmes and some research degrees (MPhil, PhD, etc) will require ATAS clearance BEFORE applying for an extension.

ATAS may also apply to students who wish to change the area of their research to one of the subject areas affected.

The areas affected are generally within the science, engineering and technology disciplines and will be identified by JACs codes. For further details on ATAS and to find out if ATAS clearance will be required, please contact Student Support and Guidance: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk, or refer to the Student Services Information Desk pages for international students at: www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/international/sheet4.html

Students who require ATAS clearance will need to ask their supervisor to provide an official letter with details of their area of research. A template letter is available for this purpose from the SSiD website at: www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/forms/atas.html

Withdrawal from the University

If you are considering withdrawing from your studies, please discuss this matter first with your supervisor/departmental Postgraduate Tutor/Head of Department. If, following careful consideration and discussion, you still wish to withdraw, please complete the 'Change of Candidature (PGR)' form and submit it to the Faculty Representative at Research & Innovation Services, ensuring that the effective date of the withdrawal and brief reasons for the decision are included. Please note that any outstanding debt to the University will become payable on withdrawal.

Overseas students who are studying on a student visa and who withdraw from their research degree should note that the University will be required to report them to the Home Office and that their student visa status will no longer be valid if they are not studying full-time.

Notification of changes to personal details

It is essential that Research & Innovation Services is kept informed of any changes to students' personal circumstances. For example, changes to any contact details, particularly addresses or changes to names (to ensure that awards are made in the correct name). This is the responsibility of each student. Details on how to change an address on-line are available at: www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/record/pin.html

Notification of a change in name can be made to Research & Innovation Services or SSiD upon presentation of original documentation proving the name change.

Research Training

Research Training Programme

The following information will inform you whether the RTP is applicable to you, and, if it is, what you need to do next.

Below is a checklist of everything you need to do to register on to the RTP in the first year of your research degree programme. Please work through the steps with your supervisor (or other appointed person in your department) to ensure you make the right unit choices for your personal skill level and the research you are about to embark on.

- STEP 1** Do you need to register for the RTP? Check whether the RTP is compulsory to your research degree programme and how many credits you are required to complete.
- STEP 2** Attend the Information Session for New Research Students in Firth Hall on Tuesday 29 September 2009 at 9.30am.
- STEP 3** Meet with your supervisor as soon as possible, but certainly before the Registration Event for your particular Faculty to:
- Undertake a Training Needs Analysis to determine your requirements of the RTP in your first year.
 - Make sure you are aware of any specific requirements of your sponsor/department.
 - Discuss whether you are able to make a claim for partial exemption from the RTP.
 - Make your unit choices. It will be necessary to check the timetable information provided on the central teaching timetable website or, if necessary, contact the unit provider.
 - Complete your RTP Registration Form and obtain the departmental signatures required.
- STEP 4** Check the Registration Event timetable to see when you are required to register for the RTP.
- STEP 5** Attend the Registration Event. If you intend to claim an exemption, please make sure you take supporting documentary evidence for consideration with you.
- STEP 6** Start attending classes even if you have not received confirmation of your unit choices from Research & Innovation Services.

The RTP units which you can choose from and all further information is detailed on the RTP website at: www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/development/development_team/rtp/index.html

Do you need to register for the RTP?

The RTP is compulsory for some research students, and available to all. Please check below to see how it applies to you.

Full-time PhD Students

All full-time students whose target degree is PhD are required to complete 45 credits of the RTP. Those 45 credits can include any exemptions for which you may request/make a case for.

If you are registered initially for an MPhil leading to a PhD (this is the registration status of most full time research students) then you will have to be upgraded by your department approximately 12–18 months into your degree programme. A minimum of 20 RTP credits must have been completed by the time of your upgrade.

If you register directly onto a PhD then you will be expected to have completed a minimum of 20 credits by the end of your second complete semester.

Full-time MD or DDSc Students

All full-time students whose target degree is MD or DDSc are required to complete 30 credits of the RTP. Those 30 credits can include any exemptions for which you may request/make a case for.

If you are registered initially for an MPhil leading to MD or DDSc then you will have to be upgraded by your department approximately 12–18 months into your degree programme. A minimum of 20 RTP credits must have been completed by the time of your upgrade.

If you register directly onto an MD or DDSc then you will be expected to have completed a minimum of 20 credits by the end of your second complete semester.

Full-time PhD with Integrated Studies Students

All full-time students registered for this degree will take a minimum of 45 credits of the RTP. The RTP units taken will be as specified in the individual degree programme, as prescribed by the Programme Leader.

Full-time MPhil Students

Full-time MPhil students are not required to take the RTP. However, the University would encourage this and, should you and your supervisor agree, then up to 20 credits can be completed throughout the period of registration.

Part-time PhD, MD, DDSc, and MPhil Students

Part-time research students are not required to take the RTP. However, the University would encourage you to do so. Should you and your supervisor agree on this, then you can complete up to the following number of units throughout the period of registration:

PhD Students – 45 credits

MD and DDSc Students – 30 credits

MPhil Students – 20 credits

Why does the University have a Research Training Programme?

All research students need a variety of subject-specific and generic research skills in order to successfully complete a research degree. The RTP at Sheffield actually goes one step further than that and will help you prepare for your future career, whether that be in or outside of academia.

Many people believe that the completion of a research degree is training in itself, and this is, of course, true. However, the RTP allows you to identify, practise, and develop the methods and techniques essential to your research process and therefore gain more from the overall experience.

Once you are near completion of your research project and your thoughts turn to your future career, you will become aware that future employers expect students to be able to demonstrate a range of transferable skills which extend beyond the actual research. The generic skills training available to you through the RTP will prepare you for this by enhancing your skills in critical thinking, oral and written communications, networking and team working and so on.

The RTP is designed to be flexible so that each student can tailor their choices to their specific degree programme and career aims. It has evolved dramatically since its inception in response to feedback from students and staff across the University. This has also ensured that it has kept pace with the UK's skills training agenda, as set by organisations such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) and UK Research Councils.

How units are structured and the objectives of the RTP

All units are detailed on the RTP website – www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/development/development_team/rtp/index.html. The majority of RTP units are taught units which are designed and delivered by academic departments and have a set assessment criteria and fixed credit award, e.g. 5, 10 or 15 credits.

There are then a number of units which are delivered by non-academic departments such as the Library, the English Language Teaching Centre, etc. Again, these units tend to have a set assessment criteria and a credit award, e.g. 5, 10 or 15 credits.

However, to further enhance the flexibility of the RTP and to allow you to gain credits for activities you will undertake as part of your ongoing development there are three “umbrella” units.

These units are detailed on the RTP website for you but you may choose to take, for example, 5 credits on unit code GSC6300 and make those credits up from

- Presenting a poster at a conference (1 credit)
- Writing a journal paper (2 credits)
- Attending a seminar on media skills (0.5 credit)
- Undertaking of regular undergraduate tutorial duties (1 credit)
- Drawing up and maintaining of an updated CV (0.5 credit)

A second unit worth 10 credits is also available.

Unit code GSC6320 is a unit worth a total of 5 credits and these credits are gained from attending a number of short skills seminars at the Graduate Research Centre which cover

- Research Skills (e.g. Managing Projects Successfully, Writing your Thesis)
- Personal Development Skills (e.g. Getting more out of Supervision, Being Creative and Original)
- Careers Skills (e.g. CV Workshop, Preparing for Interview)

Skills and Training Breakdown of Objectives of the RTP

To ensure you receive the broadest benefit from the RTP, units are broken down into three main categories:

- A development of generic skills, contributing to the understanding of research methods and techniques, and the context in which the research takes place.
- B development of generic skills contributing to your personal and professional development.
- C broadening or deepening of subject knowledge.

Overall, by the end of your RTP, you must take a minimum of 5 credits from each of the three areas above (less any approved exemptions).

The UK Research Councils publish a Joint Skills Statement on skills training requirements for research students. This Statement can be useful when assessing your RTP unit choices.

Partial exemption from the RTP

If you are a full-time PhD, MD or DDC student (and therefore are required to take the RTP) you may be eligible for a partial exemption from the full number of credits you are required to complete. For example if you have taken a research track taught Master's degree which you and your supervisor believe has provided you with some of the skills you will require, then a case for partial exemption can be made on your RTP Registration Form.

It must be stressed that your department must support any case made for exemption, and that any such request can only be approved by the relevant Faculty Officer.

Specific requirements of Sponsors/ Departments

Some sponsors (e.g. EPSRC) require their students to undertake specific research training units or to have access to a formalised research training programme which goes beyond the University's requirements (e.g. ESRC).

EPSRC funded students are expected to attend the UK Grad Programme (unit code GSC6120), or alternatively the White Rose Interpersonal Skills School (unit code GSC6110). In fact, all research council funded students are encouraged to attend one of these courses.

Students in the Faculty of Social Sciences, and those in the School of Health and Related Research (SchARR) whose research topic falls within the social sciences, should check with their supervisor about any additional training they are required to take (over and above the University's requirements). Such additional training will be organised by the department but may be registered on the RTP Registration Form (if it is an accredited unit) at section 2B.

Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS)

Non-EU/EEA students wishing to undertake RTP modules that fall within the science, engineering and technology disciplines should be aware that they may need to apply to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for an ATAS certificate, depending on their subject discipline. If ATAS applies to you and you do not already have this clearance it is VERY IMPORTANT that you apply for this clearance before you register for the RTP. However, if you have already gained ATAS clearance at admissions stage you will already be covered and need not re-apply.

For further details on ATAS, please contact Student Support and Guidance: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk, or refer to the Student Services Information Desk pages for International Students.

www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/international/sheet4.html

Attendance at the information session for New Research Students

If you are in Sheffield on the 29 September 2009 you are required to attend the Information Session for New Research Students where you will be given additional information on the RTP and have a chance to speak to Research & Innovation Services staff should you have any queries.

DATE: Tuesday 29 September 2009

TIME: 9.30am

VENUE: Convocation Hall, Octagon Centre

Training needs analysis

The RTP should be tailored to each individual student and their research topic.

As you register annually for the RTP, a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) should be also undertaken each year

You and your supervisor (or other appropriate person in your department) should assess your individual skill level against your goals for the 1st year of your research. The RTP choices should be tailored to fill any current or foreseen skills gaps.

In future years, as your training requirements change, it is hoped you will begin to integrate careers workshops into your RTP. Research shows that students with a clear career plan are more likely to submit their thesis on time.

A TNA form can be obtained from your department or can be downloaded from:

www.shef.ac.uk/pgresearch/rtp/registration/step2.html

How to register for the RTP

You will register for your RTP choices annually. At the beginning of year one you will attend a registration event. In subsequent years registration is handled by post.

The University encourages its research students to split their RTP units over the duration of the research degree programme to allow the training to be tailored to the specific stage and requirements of the student and research project.

Students registering with the University at the beginning of Semester One

The date and times below are for you to register on to the RTP (this is not your registration to become a student of the University).

DATE: 2 October 2009

VENUE: Firth Hall

Please look at the table below, find your Faculty, and then check what time you are required to attend.

You need to bring to the event your completed RTP registration form. If you are requesting any exemptions please ensure you have any documentary evidence to support the case with you.

| Faculty | Surnames | Attendance Times |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Arts & Humanities | Surnames A–Z | 09.30–10.30 |
| Science | Surnames A–L Surnames M–Z | 10.30–11.15 11.15–12.00 |
| Medicine, Dentistry & Health | Surnames A–Z | 12.00–12.45 |
| Engineering | Surnames A–L Surnames M–Z | 13.30–14.15 14.15–15.00 |
| Social Sciences | Surnames A–L Surnames M–Z | 15.00–15.45 15.45–16.30 |

At this registration event the relevant Faculty Officer will consider your registration form.

When your registration form has been approved, your unit choices will be formally recorded on your student record. You will receive official confirmation of your choices either at the registration event or within one week of approval. Please keep a copy of your registration form for your own records.

If you miss the registration event

If you miss the registration event for any reason, including starting your research at a different time of the year, then you should follow the same steps to make your unit choices, but then submit your completed registration form directly to North Campus Graduate Research Centre, 64 Garden Street.

Please pay particular attention to the start date for units you wish to take to ensure they are timely for you. This may mean you have to delay the start of the RTP until the beginning of a future semester.

Unit choice and general enquiries

Please either make your enquiry in person at the North Campus Graduate Research Centre (64 Garden Street – Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm, or by email to RTPenquiries@shef.ac.uk

UK Research Councils Joint Skills Statement

Joint Statement of Skills Training Requirements of Research Postgraduates (2001)

Introduction

Joint Statement of Skills Training Requirements of Research Postgraduates (2001)

The Research Councils play an important role in setting standards and identifying best practice in research training. This document sets out a joint statement of the skills that doctoral research students funded by the Research Councils would be expected to develop during their research training.

These skills may be present on commencement, explicitly taught, or developed during the course of the research. It is expected that different mechanisms will be used to support learning as appropriate, including self-direction, supervisor support and mentoring, departmental support, workshops, conferences, elective training courses, formally assessed courses and informal opportunities.

The Research Councils would also want to re-emphasise their belief that training in research skills and techniques is the key element in the development of a research student, and that PhD students are expected to make a substantial, original contribution to knowledge in their area, normally leading to published work. The development of wider employment-related skills should not detract from that core objective.

The purpose of this statement is to give a common view of the skills and experience of a typical research student thereby providing universities with a clear and consistent message aimed at helping them to ensure that all research training was of the highest standard, across all disciplines. It is not the intention of this document to provide assessment criteria for research training.

It is expected that each Council will have additional requirements specific to their field of interest and will continue to have their own measures for the evaluation of research training within institutions.

A) Research Skills and Techniques – to be able to demonstrate:

- the ability to recognise and validate problems
- original, independent and critical thinking, and the ability to develop theoretical concepts
- a knowledge of recent advances within one's field and in related areas
- an understanding of relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within one's research field
- the ability to critically analyse and evaluate one's findings and those of others
- an ability to summarise, document, report and reflect on progress

B) Research Environment – to be able to:

- show a broad understanding of the context, at the national and international level, in which research takes place
- demonstrate awareness of issues relating to the rights of other researchers, of research subjects, and of others who may be affected by the research, e.g. confidentiality, ethical issues, attribution, copyright, malpractice, ownership of data and the requirements of the Data Protection Act
- demonstrate appreciation of standards of good research practice in their institution and/or discipline
- understand relevant health and safety issues and demonstrate responsible working practices
- understand the processes for funding and evaluation of research
- justify the principles and experimental techniques used in one's own research
- understand the process of academic or commercial exploitation of research results

C) Research Management – to be able to:

- apply effective project management through the setting of research goals, intermediate milestones and prioritisation of activities
- design and execute systems for the acquisition and collation of information through the effective use of appropriate resources and equipment
- identify and access appropriate bibliographical resources, archives, and other sources of relevant information
- use information technology appropriately for database management, recording and presenting information

D) Personal Effectiveness – to be able to:

- demonstrate a willingness and ability to learn and acquire knowledge
- be creative, innovative and original in one's approach to research
- demonstrate flexibility and open-mindedness
- demonstrate self-awareness and the ability to identify own training needs
- demonstrate self-discipline, motivation, and thoroughness
- recognise boundaries and draw upon/use sources of support as appropriate
- show initiative, work independently and be self-reliant

E) Communication Skills - to be able to:

- write clearly and in a style appropriate to purpose, e.g. progress reports, published documents, thesis
- construct coherent arguments and articulate ideas clearly to a range of audiences, formally and informally through a variety of techniques
- constructively defend research outcomes at seminars and viva examination
- contribute to promoting the public understanding of one's research field
- effectively support the learning of others when involved in teaching, mentoring or demonstrating activities

F) Networking and Team working – to be able to:

- develop and maintain co-operative networks and working relationships with supervisors, colleagues and peers, within the institution and the wider research community
- understand one's behaviours and impact on others when working in and contributing to the success of formal and informal teams
- listen, give and receive feedback and respond perceptively to others

G) Career Management – to be able to:

- appreciate the need for and show commitment to continued professional development
- take ownership for and manage one's career progression, set realistic and achievable career goals, and identify and develop ways to improve employability
- demonstrate an insight into the transferable nature of research skills to other work environments and the range of career opportunities within and outside academia
- present one's skills, personal attributes and experiences through effective CVs, applications and interviews

Training Needs Analysis (TNA)

An academic department may have their own version of this form, however, even if this is the case, students may find this useful to make their own notes on in preparation for meeting their supervisor to discuss Research Training Programme (RTP) choices.

This form is also available on-line, therefore, if a student/ department would like to change any of the boxes to be more appropriate to the student's current skills and their area of research, it can be adapted accordingly. The form is available at: www.shef.ac.uk/pgresearch/rtp/registration/step2.html

Research students register for the RTP annually and therefore should undertake a TNA each year to assess how their skill levels and skills requirements have changed.

Bibliographic and Literature Review Skills (e.g. searching, recording and reviewing literature)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |

Presentation Skills (e.g. writing and oral skills)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |

IT Skills (e.g. word processing, email, spreadsheet, database, specialist software, etc)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |



Personal Skills (e.g. time management, project management, team working, etc)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |

Research Design (e.g. sampling, formulating questions, philosophical rationale, etc)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |

Ethical and Legal Issues

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |

Data Collection and Analysis

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |

Other relevant skills/experience

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Previous experience/training: | |
| Anticipated needs/training: | |
| How will the training be achieved?: | |

Personal and Professional Development Planning

The University's Personal and Professional Development Planning (PPDP) package provides students with the means to keep track of their professional development and reflect on the skills that they acquire, both as a result of carrying out their research programme, and through other experiences, such as paid employment and extra-curricular activities.

Research students can access and create their own portfolio of PPDP documents through the University's online learning environment (MOLE). The documents provided enable students to keep a systematic record of such things as: academic achievements; paid work experience; training courses undertaken and lessons learned from significant life experiences.

Engagement with the PPDP process is entirely voluntary, but students are strongly encouraged to make use of the package as a means of recording their progress and identifying their training needs in preparation for supervision meetings. Evidence from the University and elsewhere also shows that engagement with PPDP is an invaluable way of gathering the evidence required for job applications and a useful preparation for involvement with CPD activities in future employment.

Enquiries and feedback about the contents of the PPDP package should be sent to Kevin Mahoney in the Careers Service (k.mahoney@shef.ac.uk). For technical queries (e.g. about difficulties in accessing the documents), please contact Paul Wigfield in Learning and Teaching Services (p.wigfield@shef.ac.uk).

Careers workshops/seminars scheduled for session 2009/10

(at North Campus Graduate Research Centre, 64 Garden St)

| Workshop | Date | Time |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Developing Skills for Employment | Wednesday 14th October | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Careers in Academia | Tuesday 10th November | 10.00am – 12.00pm |
| Careers Outside Academia | Thursday 10th December | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Applications Workshop | Wednesday 27th January | 10.00am – 12.00pm |
| CV Workshop | Monday 15th February | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Developing Skills for employment | Thursday 25th February | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Interviews Workshop | Wednesday 17th March | 10.00am - 12.00pm |
| Careers in Academia | Tuesday 23rd March | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Networking for Career Success | Thursday 15th April | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Careers Outside Academia | Thursday 22nd April | 10.00am – 12.00pm |
| CV Workshop | Wednesday 12th May | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Interviews Workshop | Wednesday 16th June | 10.00am – 12.00pm |
| Applications Workshop | Thursday 24th June | 2.00pm – 4.00pm |
| Understanding Yourself Better MBTI | Wednesday 7th July | 1.30pm – 4.30pm |

Supervision – detailing responsibilities of the student, the supervisor and the department

Ethical Approval

If a student plans to do research involving human participants, whether directly or indirectly – e.g. interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, observations, accessing personal data about individuals, any human biological materials – then the research must be independently ethically reviewed and approved BEFORE the student begins data gathering. The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that this takes place. Failure to gain ethics approval may result in the student's dissertation or thesis being failed or deemed ineligible for submission. Depending on the nature of the research, the 'University's ethics review procedure', the 'NHS procedure', or an 'Alternative procedure' will apply. Guidance on these procedures, and when each applies, is available from the University's central research ethics website: www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/gov_ethics_grp/ethics/system.html

This site also provides a link to the University's Research Ethics Policy and to broader guidance on ethical issues.

Supervision

Whilst all research students will have one main supervisor, he/she will be part of a supervisory team. In many departments a second named supervisor will also be appointed. This is particularly important when the research is of an interdisciplinary nature. However, it also ensures that support is available at times when the main supervisor is absent from the University. Other members of the 'team' should include the Postgraduate Tutor (or equivalent), Head of Department, and possibly the relevant member of support staff. Honorary members of the University's staff can act as part of the supervisory team.

For MD and DSc candidates based away from the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, an additional supervisor shall also be appointed.

Members of academic staff new to the University will have had their research supervisory calibre assessed as part of the recruitment and selection process. New academic staff without supervisory experience are appointed a mentor to act as part of their supervisory 'team' as a source of advice and guidance.

The Head of Department will be responsible for assigning academic staff workload, including deciding the maximum number of research students that any one member of academic staff can supervise. However, it is generally advised that members of academic staff should supervise no more than six FTE students at any one time.

All supervisors are selected for their expertise and involvement in the appropriate field of study. This does not mean, of course, that supervisors already know all there is to know about the subjects they supervise, and the best supervisor-student relationships are those in which there is a two-way interaction of research and learning, and in which the student explores and gains insights into aspects of the subject which are stimulating to the supervisor as well. The relationship between student and supervisor is not a static one and most students find that as they become more familiar with their field of research they become less directly dependent on their supervisor.

Supervisory Meetings

Meetings between research student and supervisor(s) to review progress should normally take place at least every four to six weeks and there should always be a formal record of these review meetings. Students away from the University, e.g. on fieldwork, should agree special arrangements with their supervisory team.

The 'formal record' of a supervisory review meeting should detail progress made on the project and set out objectives to be achieved before the next meeting.

Students should be encouraged to take the lead in producing these records, which can be in written or electronic format. Should a department not have its own Supervisory Record pro forma, two on-line forms suitable for this purpose are available from www.sheffield.ac.uk/researchoffice/students/forms.html

Absence of a Supervisor

Should a supervisor be absent from the University for more than the length of time between supervisory meetings, then the department should make alternative arrangements for the student. These may be temporary or permanent, depending on the specific circumstances.

Responsibilities of the student

Induction

- The student should ensure that he/she has read, understood and complies with the University's Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes.
- In the early stages of the research the student should discuss with the supervisor the type of guidance believed to be most helpful and the training which may be required, in order to clarify both the needs and aims of the research. He/she should work with the supervisor to identify and select strategies to meet these needs and aims. This may be in the form of a Training Needs Analysis.

- The student should work with the supervisor to establish an effective supervisory relationship, tackling the research with a positive commitment, and taking full advantage of the resources and facilities offered by the academic environment.
- The student should have an agreement with the supervisor on the record keeping of supervisory meetings. Both the student and supervisor should keep copies of the written or electronic record.
- The student should discuss any financial arrangements in connection with their work with their supervisor and ensure that these are carried out in accordance with the University's Financial Directives.
- The student should check his/her University email account on a regular basis, so as not to miss important messages.

Note: An Induction Passport is issued to all new research students on arrival at the University. It provides helpful advice and information about University events and procedures.

Supervision

- The student should agree with the supervisor to have regular meetings, ideally at least every four to six weeks, and to attend supervisory sessions in accordance with the agreed schedule.
- The student should work with the supervisor to establish and maintain a satisfactory timetable for the research. The student should aim, by the end of the first year (or second year for part-time students) to have defined the area of research, become acquainted with the background knowledge required and the relevant literature, and have established a provisional timetable for conducting the research and writing the thesis. Full-time students should also have made satisfactory progress in the Research Training Programme.
- The student should submit written work to the supervisor regularly and in good time, in accordance with the agreed timetable. This work should be word-processed, not handwritten.
- The student should take note of guidance and feedback offered by the supervisor.
- The student should discuss any problems, such as those of access to data, information, facilities, equipment or supervisory relationship with the supervisor at the time, since the early identification and resolution of problems can prevent difficulties later on. If the student feels unable to raise the problem with the supervisor, then the Head of Department or departmental Postgraduate Tutor should be consulted. If, for any reason, this is not felt to be possible, the student should contact Research & Innovation Services for advice. Further advice and support is also available from the Advice Centre in the Union of Students and from the University's Counselling Service.
- The student should agree in advance with the supervisor any period(s) of absence from the University.

The importance of prompt identification and resolution of any problems cannot be over-emphasised, and it is the responsibility of the student in the first instance to ensure that any problems are raised at the appropriate level at the earliest opportunity.

Academic progress

- The student should keep written records of his/her work, which may form the basis of progress reports required by the supervisor, department, Faculty or funding body.
- The student should raise with the supervisor any concerns which he/she may have concerning the progress being made and request additional support, if necessary.

The final stages

- The student should take advice from the supervisor on the procedures for the submission and examination of their thesis.
- Prior to submission the student should provide the supervisor with the opportunity to see a draft of the complete thesis. The decision to submit rests with the student, and whilst the student should take due account of his/her supervisor's opinion, it must be stressed that, at this stage, it is advisory only.

Ten top tips for new research students

1. Discuss your expectations with your supervisor and discuss their expectations of you. Being a research student will be a very different experience to being a taught student, or working, and all supervisors work in different way.
2. Undertake a Training Needs Analysis with your supervisor to ensure you choose the appropriate Research Training Programme (RTP) modules to help you achieve your goals for the next 12 months. Have a positive attitude to this training and it can be worth its weight in gold.
3. Agree with your supervisor the frequency of your formal supervisory progress meetings. Not the everyday chats, but the meetings at which you will discuss your progress, the problems you have faced, and set the objectives to have reached before the next meeting.
4. Agree with your supervisor who will complete the record of your formal supervisory progress meetings, you or them. It is recommended that you do it and provide your supervisor with a copy. This will ensure no misunderstandings have occurred.
5. Agree during your induction a target date for you to go through your MPhil to PhD upgrade (if appropriate) and a target date for the submission of your thesis. If you ever feel like your deadlines are slipping, speak to your supervisor immediately. Timely submission of your thesis is very important.
6. Expect the unexpected. It is very rare that research runs smoothly and produces the exact results expected. Have a flexible approach.
7. Ask questions and ask for support when you need it. Never feel like you are on your own.
8. Keep your publications to hand, especially the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes. This will provide you with vital information as you progress.

9. Help us to keep spreading good practice and making improvements wherever possible. Tell us about your experiences, complete questionnaires and take part in focus groups.
10. Enjoy the ride... it's a little like a roller coaster with highs and lows, but the achievement at the end is well worth the hard work.

Responsibilities of the supervisor

Induction

- At the outset of the research, the supervisor should explore in detail the student's academic background in order to identify any areas in which further training, including language training, is required. In particular, the supervisor should advise the student in the choice of Research Training Programme units to be studied. Supervisors should be aware of the particular difficulties which may face international students who may in the early stages require more frequent contact and advice.
- The supervisor should ensure that they have a thorough understanding of the RTP and its benefits, in order to ensure students make the most appropriate choice of units.
- The supervisor should ensure that the student has a clear understanding, in general terms, of the main aspects of postgraduate research: the concept of originality; the different kinds of research; the form and structure of the thesis (including the appropriate forms of referencing); the necessary standards to be achieved; the importance of planning and time management; the procedures for monitoring and reporting progress.
- The supervisor should ensure that the student is aware of the University's Good Research Practice (GRP) Standards. In addition, the supervisor should ensure that the student has a clear understanding in general terms of 'research ethics', where this is relevant (i.e. if they are undertaking research that involves contact with human participants and/or with human data and/or human tissue) and a clear understanding of 'research governance', where this is relevant. The GRP Standards and guidance on research ethics and governance are available at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/researchoffice/gov_ethics_grp.html
- The supervisor should work with the student to establish an effective supervisory relationship, thereby supporting the student. This should include an agreement on the frequency of progress meetings and the arrangements for keeping records (e.g. written or electronic).
- The supervisor should set a target upgrade date and submission date at induction to ensure that all parties acknowledge the length of time available for each stage of the project.

Note: Research & Innovation Services provides an Induction Checklist to Supervisors of new research students at the start of each academic year. This checklist provides advice on procedures to be followed when dealing with new research students and complements the Induction Passport issued to the students.

Supervision

- The supervisor will give guidance on the nature of the research and the standard expected; the selection of a research programme and the topic to be covered; the planning and timing of the successive stages of the research programme; literature and sources; research methods and instrumental techniques; attendance at appropriate courses; avoidance of plagiarism and respect for copyright. The supervisor should ensure that the research project can be completed fully, including preparation of a thesis within the time available, and advise the student accordingly.
- The supervisor must ensure that a clear agreement is made with the student on the frequency and nature of the supervisory contact required at any particular stage of the project. Supervisory sessions should be uninterrupted as far as possible by telephone calls, personal callers and departmental business. The frequency of such sessions should ideally be every four to six weeks as a minimum depending on the nature of the research (e.g. whether laboratory work is involved), the particular research project, and may also depend on whether the student is registered on a full-time or part-time basis. The length of sessions will also vary, from student to student, across time and between disciplines.
- Written or electronic records of supervisory sessions should be kept by both the student and supervisor.
- Both the supervisor and student should keep a file of all correspondence, including emails (this is especially relevant to students registered on the Remote Location programme).
- The student and supervisor must have an agreed procedure for dealing with urgent problems (e.g. by telephone, e-mail and/or the arrangement of additional meetings at short notice).
- The supervisor should, in discussion with the student, establish and maintain a satisfactory timetable for the research, including the necessary completion dates for each stage, so that the thesis may be submitted within the scheduled time. This planning should take into account the requirements of the relevant funding body in relation, for example, to upgrading and submission.
- The supervisor should read promptly all the written work submitted in accordance with the agreed timetable and provide constructive criticism.
- The supervisor should arrange as appropriate (in many departments it is a requirement) for the student to present work to staff or research student seminars and should take an active part in introducing the student to meetings of learned societies and to other researchers in the field. The supervisor should provide advice on writing up the research, or parts of it, for publication.
- The supervisor should advise the student well in advance of any planned periods of absence from the University. If the period of absence is significant (more than the length of time between supervisory meetings), the supervisor should ensure that appropriate arrangements for alternative supervision are made and that the student is informed of them.
- The supervisor should take note of feedback from the student.

Academic progress

- The supervisor should ensure that the student is informed of any inadequacy of standards of work below that generally expected from research students and should suggest remedial action as appropriate.
- The supervisor will be required from time to time by both the University and external funding bodies to provide a detailed written record of the student's progress and should ensure that all departmental and/or Faculty requirements concerning the submission of progress reports are complied with. In particular it is essential that the Annual Progress Report form, supplied by Research & Innovation Services, is completed and returned within the specified timescale. The supervisor should discuss the completion of the Annual Progress Report with the student and it is essential that the student signs the form to acknowledge that s/he has seen and understood the contents of the completed report.

The final stages

- The supervisor should initiate the procedures for the appointment of examiners well in advance of the thesis being submitted.
- The supervisor should read and comment on a draft of the complete thesis.
- The supervisor should ensure that the student understands the procedures for the submission and examination of theses and should assist the student in preparing for the oral examination.
- Supervisors who believe their student will not complete within the allotted time limit should make early provision for applying for an extension.
- Should the student be asked to resubmit, supervisory responsibilities will continue.

Ten top tips for research supervisors

1. Discuss expectations – yours and the student's... *remember this may have been the first time they have worked independently, or they may be returning to study from the workplace which would give them a very different view point.*
2. Set target dates for upgrade and submission, in writing, at induction, so the student has a clear message about what is expected of them. *Timely submission is a formal requirement; the research plan cannot be allowed to slip.*
3. Agree the frequency of formal supervisory meetings (every 4-6 weeks for a full time student) and who will record the meetings. *It is recommended the student records the meeting and provides the supervisor with a copy to ensure no misunderstandings have occurred.*
4. Undertake a Training Needs Analysis annually with the student to ensure they receive the maximum benefits from the RTP to achieve their goals for that year of study.
5. Be positive about the RTP. *Evidence proves that students' feelings towards the RTP directly reflect those portrayed by their supervisors.*
6. At supervisory meetings, discuss progress to date, problems experienced, and agree objectives to be achieved by the next meeting. *Provide constructive criticism and feedback to keep the student on target.*
7. Ensure the research does not "grow" to the extent it is too large to allow submission within the time limit.
8. Ensure Annual Progress Reports are completed on time and returned to Research and Innovation Services. *Consider increasing the departmental progress reporting during year four to closely monitor progress towards submission.*
9. Propose examiners before the student submits, to avoid delay.
10. Offer a mock viva and guidance on the oral examination.

If you have any doubts or worries about your student's progress or ability, speak to the Student Progression Manager in Research and Innovation Services to discuss your options.

Responsibilities of the department

- Each department should have a Postgraduate Tutor (or equivalent) responsible for co-ordinating postgraduate research within the department. The Postgraduate Tutor's role should be formalised to support students and supervisors, as well as developing policy and liaising with Faculty. Many larger departments also have graduate affairs committees, and this is commended as good practice. The department should ensure that all students are aware of the contact details and responsibilities of their Postgraduate Tutor and any other support staff at induction.
- The department should provide new research students with at least one supervisor who is a member of the University's academic staff. He/she will be part of a supervisory team.
- The department should provide new research students with the details of a contact (usually the supervisor) who will meet them on their arrival at the University.
- The department should establish a recommended maximum number of research students per member of staff and should ensure that supervisors receive the training and support necessary to undertake effective supervision. This support might include teaching relief or adjustment of other responsibilities.
- The department should provide supervisors with a simple form to record supervisory progress meetings.
- The department should ensure that training courses for new supervisors are provided, either within the department/ Faculty or by an external source, e.g. via the Staff Development Team.

- The department should provide all new students with written information on: current research areas of staff and research students in the department; available facilities (for example, office space, equipment, computers, telephones, postage, transport) and students' entitlement to make use of them; departmental personnel (including clerical, technical and administrative staff), procedures and services relevant to their study; out of hours access; guidelines on the expected frequency of contact between student and supervisor and length of formal supervisory sessions; departmental procedures for monitoring progress and upgrading; details of postgraduate representatives on departmental committees.
- The department should maintain a file on the student's progress.
- It is a requirement that the department should make arrangements for the provision of alternative supervision if the supervisor is absent (for more than the length of time between supervisory meetings) or leaves the University and should inform Research & Innovation Services of the new arrangements at the earliest opportunity.
- The department must ensure that students have adequate facilities with which to pursue their research effectively. Departments should aim to provide facilities appropriate to the research to be undertaken; these will vary between departments and different types of research. Alternative arrangements should be made when equipment breaks down or when there is a shortage of specialised equipment, in order to minimise the delay to the student.
- The department must ensure that students are aware of the relevant Health and Safety regulations.
- The department should ensure that it has transparent written procedures for the upgrading of students from MPhil to their target degree and that these are provided to students at induction.
- The department must ensure that students undertaking teaching duties receive appropriate induction and support, and that they are given adequate instruction in the use of teaching equipment. Teaching and other duties to be undertaken by students should be specified in writing in advance, including the rate of pay and the number of hours to be undertaken (see the section *Working hours, holidays and employment*).
- The department should provide information on new procedures relating to research degree programmes and opportunities to spread good practice, e.g. via an annual seminar or forum for all supervisors, experienced and new, as part of their Continuing Professional Development programme for research supervisors.
- The Head of Department or Postgraduate Tutor should discuss complaints about the quality of supervision with the supervisor, and where appropriate recommend training, or appoint an additional or replacement supervisor.
- Where numbers of research students are low, departments should investigate ways of providing inter-departmental/ Faculty social and networking opportunities for students.
- Departments that do not currently run a mentoring scheme for new students should investigate whether such a scheme would be appropriate for their students.

Conflicts of interest in postgraduate supervision

There have been instances where members of academic staff supervise postgraduate students with whom they have personal relationships (e.g. spouse, partner). In these circumstances there are real or perceived conflicts of interest, including decisions on academic progress and transfer of candidature. Human Resources has issued guidelines on "*Personal relationships and conflicts of interest in the workplace*" (see www.shef.ac.uk/hr/policies/az/relationships.html). Whilst these provide a useful regulatory framework, the supervisor-research student relationship is unique because of the length of the programme (up to 8 years), the amount of contact time required and the stringent nature of the assessments required before submission for a higher degree. Therefore, the following guidelines have been developed to be applied specifically to postgraduate student supervision. These guidelines have been approved by the Senate.

1. In all cases where a real or perceived conflict of interest in postgraduate research supervision exists or develops, the academic member of staff involved should declare this at the earliest opportunity to the relevant Head of Department and Postgraduate Tutor. If a conflict of interest is deemed to exist, the member of staff should withdraw from supervising that student and every effort should be made to find alternative supervisors.
2. If the academic member of staff concerned considers that withdrawal from supervision is impossible or undesirable, a written case should be made detailing the relationships involved and the attempts made to find an alternative supervisor. A final decision will be made by the Faculty Officer in consultation with the Head of Department.
3. In line with the University's Code of Practice, a supervisory team should be appointed for each postgraduate research student. The lead supervisor and co-supervisor should be identifiably independent. Consequently, wherever possible, partners (personal or business) should not constitute the only members of the supervisory team for a research student.
4. Research student studies should not commence until the identity of the supervisory team has been agreed with the Postgraduate Tutor and Head of Department.

Change of supervisor

If serious conflicts arise between the supervisor and student which cannot be resolved, either the student or the supervisor may refer the matter to the Postgraduate Tutor or the Head of Department. Wherever possible, the student will be assigned to a different supervisor or an additional supervisor may be appointed. The situation should also be referred to the Faculty via the completion of a 'Change of Candidature (PGR)' form for formal approval and recording of any changes in the supervisory arrangements.

If a supervisor resigns part way through a student's research programme, cover should be arranged until an alternative supervisor is found. Research & Innovation Services should be kept informed of any changes to supervisory arrangements at the earliest opportunity. This is essential both for the efficient monitoring of student progression and to ensure the accuracy of university records, which are used to make key data returns.

Academic Progress

Progress of research students

Formal progress reports should normally be prepared for every research student at six monthly intervals. These should be submitted to the Postgraduate Tutor in the relevant department. The report should be prepared by the student but should also include a statement by the supervisor about progress made. This statement should be shown to the student and the student should be free to add further comments, if appropriate. Where difficulties arise, the department must ensure that the situation is referred to the Faculty for further consideration.

Procedures for Joint Location and Remote Location study will vary and students and staff should consult the relevant guidance available at:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/away

Annual Progress Reports

In the summer of each year, Annual Progress Reports for all students must be submitted to Research & Innovation Services for consideration by the Faculty. Completed Annual Progress Reports should be discussed with the student prior to submission. These reports allow supervisors to reflect on a student's progress during the previous year and to plan for the year ahead, and are an important method of providing formal feedback to students that may not otherwise be addressed in supervisory meetings. Students are required to sign the Annual Progress Report to verify that they have seen its contents.

Recommended schedule of student progression

In addition to the submission of formal Annual Progress Reports, the following scheme of progress monitoring reports is commended as good practice (for full-time programmes of three years in length):

Year 1

Six months

- Summary of planned work.

Twelve months

- Description of work undertaken. Outline of problem being addressed and plan of further work to be completed. This report may form part of the 'upgrading' procedure.

Year 2

Six months

- Report on ongoing work. Revised plan for completion.

Twelve months

- Detailed statement of research undertaken and remaining to be done.

Year 3

Six months

- Thesis outline, setting out chapters and structure.

Twelve months

- Appointment of examiners, submission of the thesis, and arrangement of oral examination.

It is recognised that the precise scheme of work and the content of reports may vary between different subjects; for example, in some subject areas students may need to be preparing written material almost from the outset. However, the general practice of six-monthly reports is commended.

When a student fails to make progress

An academic department may request a review of a student's academic progress, on certain grounds, which are specified in the University Regulations. This process is primarily to determine whether or not a student should be permitted to continue their programme of research, and if so on what terms.

Details on the Regulations as to Progress of Students are available at www.shef.ac.uk/govern/calendar/progress.html

Monitoring of research degrees

In compliance with external requirements, Research & Innovation Services, on behalf of the University, annually monitors and reports on the submission rate of Research Council sponsored students.

In addition Research & Innovation Services also monitors a range of student progression data, including:

- Annual Progress Reports on individual research students;
- Submission and Completion rates;
- Resubmission rates; and
- Withdrawal rates.

Such information is shared with academic departments and University management.

Working hours, holidays and employment

Research students are often concerned at the lack of clear guidance concerning working hours and holiday entitlements, since neither is governed by regulation. The differing requirements of disciplines and types of research will to a large extent determine the length of the working day/week appropriate to the individual concerned, and students must, in the main, be guided by their supervisor and department. Students should also be aware that there is an optimum efficiency to be achieved by pacing oneself between work and recreation: some students become so exclusively work-oriented that they take little or no time off, and they and their work consequently suffer.

Some students commencing research degrees are surprised that they are not entitled to the long vacation periods to which they have become accustomed as undergraduates. It should be noted that research students sponsored by the UK research councils may, subject to the agreement of their supervisors, take reasonable holidays, not exceeding eight weeks in the year (including public holidays). Up to a maximum of four weeks holiday may be taken at the end of the period of award. These research council rules may be used as a guide by all full-time research students not subject to the rules of other sponsoring bodies.

The employment of research students by departments

The University encourages the employment of research students in a number of capacities (e.g. as part-time teaching assistants, demonstrators, etc), provided that this can be undertaken without detriment to the research programme in progress. Such teaching helps to develop a broad range of personal and presentational skills which can be of considerable long-term benefit to the student concerned. Research students commonly have recent experience as recipients of teaching and are often well placed to assist in course delivery. Teaching also represents a valuable source of additional income for students. It must be stressed, however, that the scope for such employment varies widely between different departments and students should not assume that teaching opportunities will always be available.

The University accepts the following broad principles relating to the employment of research students as teachers:

- Other things being equal, teaching work in departments should be shared out among research students as fairly as possible. No research students will be expected to teach unless they wish to, unless this is a condition of their bursary or scholarship.
- All research students employed by the University should be assessed for their suitability before appointment.
- Full-time research students will be restricted to maximum of 180 working hours per annum, including preparation time and marking. This figure is based on the rules relating to Research Council studentships.
- Teaching work undertaken by research students should not prevent submission of a thesis within the normal time limit, and teaching commitments will not generally be regarded as cause for a waiving of continuation fees or for an extension to the time limit.
- Students involved in teaching should be given a written specification detailing their duties, including the total number of hours required in preparation, class contact hours and marking, the payment involved and the method of payment. University recommended rates of payment should be used.
- All students involved in teaching should receive guidance and help regarding course content and delivery methods from the member of academic staff concerned and it is good practice for them to attend training courses covering the necessary teaching skills required.
- Students involved in demonstrating will be given prior experience with equipment concerned and guidance regarding expected results and any potential problems.
- Each department should have a member of staff responsible for the co-ordination of teaching undertaken by research students.
- Responsibility for delivery and examination of modules taught by research students remains with the member of academic staff concerned.
- Research students formally employed by the University are covered by the University's professional indemnity insurance policy in the same way as other members of staff.

Details of pay rates and how to determine pay for the University Bank are available from the Department of Human Resources at: www.shef.ac.uk/hr/services/employmentrelationships/payrates.html

Payments will be authorised by departments on the completion of teaching duties or at the end of each semester in which teaching is undertaken, whichever comes first.

The University has introduced two Research Training Programme units, covering laboratory-based demonstrating and classroom-based teaching in higher education and there is also a more extensive two year Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education. These courses are available to research students who are also part-time teachers in the University. Short courses for research students employed as teachers are also offered via the Staff Development Team, on request, from academic departments.

The University has developed a protocol to manage the dual relationship that students may have with the University as both students and also employees or workers. The protocol clarifies procedures that may be invoked should action need to be taken against a student in either capacity.

This is available at: www.shef.ac.uk/hr/services/employmentrelationships/students.html

International Students

Up-to-date information for international students about working in the UK on a visa can be found on the following website www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/international/sheet2.html

Thesis Preparation, Submission and Examination

Use of unfair means in the assessment process (non invigilated exams)

The University expects its graduates to have acquired certain attributes. (See the Sheffield Graduate: www.sheffield.ac.uk/sheffieldgraduate). Many of these relate to good academic practice:

- a critical, analytical and creative thinker;
- an independent learner and researcher;
- information literate and IT literate;
- a flexible team worker;
- an accomplished communicator;
- competent in applying their knowledge and skills;
- professional and adaptable.

Throughout your programme of study at the University you will learn how to develop these skills and attributes. Your assessed work is the main way in which you demonstrate that you have acquired and can apply them. Using unfair means in the assessment process is dishonest and also means that you cannot demonstrate that you have acquired these essential academic skills and attributes.

What constitutes unfair means?

The basic principle underlying the preparation of any piece of academic work is that the work submitted must be your own work. **Plagiarism, submitting bought or commissioned work, double submission (or self plagiarism), collusion and fabrication of results** are not allowed because they violate this principle (see definitions below). Rules about these forms of cheating apply to all assessed and non-assessed work.

1. **Plagiarism (either intentional or unintentional)** is the stealing of ideas or work of another person (including experts and fellow or former students) and is considered dishonest and unprofessional. Plagiarism may take the form of cutting and pasting, taking or closely paraphrasing ideas, passages, sections, sentences, paragraphs, drawings, graphs and other graphical material from books, articles, internet sites or any other source and submitting them for assessment without appropriate acknowledgement.
2. **Submitting bought or commissioned work** (for example from internet sites, essay "banks" or "mills") is an extremely serious form of plagiarism. This may take the form of buying or commissioning either the whole assignment or part of it and implies a clear intention to deceive the examiners. The University also takes an extremely serious view of any student who sells, offers to sell or passes on their own assignments to other students.

3. **Double submission (or self plagiarism)** is resubmitting previously submitted work on one or more occasions (without proper acknowledgement). This may take the form of copying either the whole piece of work or part of it. Normally credit will already have been given for this work.
4. **Collusion** is where two or more people work together to produce a piece of work, all or part of which is then submitted by each of them as their own individual work. This includes passing on work in any format to another student. Collusion does not occur where students involved in group work are encouraged to work together to produce a single piece of work as part of the assessment process.
5. **Fabrication** is submitting work (for example, practical or laboratory work) any part of which is untrue, made up, falsified or fabricated in any way. This is regarded as fraudulent and dishonest.

How can I avoid the use of unfair means?

To avoid using unfair means, any work submitted must be your own and must not include the work of any other person, unless it is properly acknowledged and referenced.

As part of your programme of studies you will learn how to reference sources appropriately in order to avoid plagiarism. This is an essential skill that you will need throughout your University career and beyond. You should follow any guidance on the preparation of assessed work given by the academic department setting the assignment.

You are required to declare that all submitted work is your own work, e.g. by means of a form.

If you have any concerns about appropriate academic practices or if you are experiencing any personal difficulties which are affecting your work, you should consult your personal tutor, supervisor, or a member of staff involved with a particular unit of study.

The following websites provide additional information on referencing appropriately and avoiding unfair means:

The Library provides online information literacy skills tutorials

www.shef.ac.uk/library/services/infoskills.html

The Library also has information on reference management software

www.shef.ac.uk/library/refmant/refmant.html

The English Language Teaching Centre operates a Writing Advisory Service through which students can make individual appointments to discuss a piece of writing. This is available for all students, both native and non-native speakers of English. www.shef.ac.uk/eltc/services/writingadvisory

What happens if I use unfair means?

Any form of unfair means is treated as a serious academic offence and action may be taken under the Discipline Regulations. For a student registered on a professionally accredited programme of study, action may also be taken under the Fitness to Practise Regulations. Where unfair means is found to have been used, the University may impose penalties ranging from awarding a grade of zero for the piece of work through to expulsion from the University in extremely serious cases.

Detection of Unfair Means

The University subscribes to a national plagiarism detection service which helps academic staff identify the original source of material submitted by students. This means that academic staff have access to specialist software that searches a database of reference material gathered from professional publications, student essay websites and other work submitted by students. It is also a resource which can help tutors or supervisors to advise students on ways of improving their referencing techniques. Your work is likely to be submitted to this service.

For further information:

www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/charter/guidance_taught.html

www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/procedures/grid.html#discipline

Use of copyright material

The use of material owned by a third party – another author, photographer, publisher, etc. – is governed by the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 (UK) and the Copyright Regulations 2003 (European Directive). It is considered acceptable to include third party copyright material in a printed thesis without gaining copyright clearance from the holder but submission of the electronic thesis requires prior clearance to be obtained.

If the material concerned is an insubstantial short quotation from a published work that has been acknowledged and referenced accurately it will not be necessary to seek permission from the copyright holder. This is allowed under 'fair dealing' exceptions under the Act for 'non-commercial private research' or 'criticism and review'. Copyright law does not define what is meant by insubstantial use of short extracts or quotations so it may be best to seek permission if in doubt.

In order to seek permission students should contact the copyright holder. If the material is from a published book or journal it is best to contact the publisher of the work in the first instance. Many large publishers have Rights and Permissions departments used to dealing with copyright clearance; email addresses can often be found on publishers' websites. It is important to realise that no response DOES NOT mean permission is granted. Where permission to use the third party copyright material is obtained, students should make sure that clear acknowledgements are provided within the thesis.

If clearance is not obtained to use substantial sections of copyright material that are considered essential by the student to be used in their entirety, there are two options: i) embargo the electronic thesis, though submission to the University in this format is still required, making the printed copy fully available; or ii) edit the electronic thesis – but not the printed copy – so that it complies with third-party copyright requirements, clearly indicating the excisions made.

Further information can be found at:

www.shef.ac.uk/library/services/copytheses.html

All newly-registered research students are required to attend a one-hour compulsory session on copyright clearance; avoidance of unfair means in theses will also be covered. Sessions are delivered in Faculty groups on the following dates:

Faculty of Arts & Humanities: 3 November 2009 – 10.00–11.00
 Faculty of Social Sciences: 4 November 2009 – 10.00–11.00
 Faculty of Science: 5 November 2009 – 10.00–11.00
 Faculty of Engineering: 10 November 2009 – 10.00–11.00
 Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry & Health: 11 November 2009 – 10.00–11.00

Venues will be confirmed closer to the events. Repeat sessions for new PGRs will be offered in February 2010.

Guidelines on the preparation and format of theses for research degrees

Students are advised to familiarise themselves with the following guidelines before commencing work on the preparation of their thesis. They are also advised to consult their supervisor regarding any subject-specific aspects of the thesis, for example the inclusion of photographs or diagrams or the presentation of supplementary information such as CDs or DVDs. Permission to submit non-standard material should be gained by the student's supervisor from Faculty prior to the thesis being submitted to Research & Innovation Services.

Regulations for theses

The University's regulations relating to the submission of theses can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/calendar

Writing the thesis

The University has introduced a system for the electronic submission of theses, which is mandatory for students commencing their research degree from the start of the 2008–09 session. Students commencing before 2008–09 are not required to submit their thesis in electronic format, but are strongly encouraged to do so. For further information on how to submit electronically please refer to the section on 'Submission of electronic theses' below.

Preparation for including in the thesis material owned by another person should not wait until writing-up but start at the beginning of your research. The correct use of third-party copyright material and the avoidance of unfair means are considered very seriously by the University and compulsory training sessions are available (see section 'Use of copyright material').

The main source of advice and information for students beginning to write their thesis is the supervisor. It is important that students discuss the structure of the thesis with their supervisor, together with the schedule for its production, and the role of the supervisor in checking drafts, at an early stage in their research programme. The supervisor will also advise on such matters as undertaking a literature review, referencing and formatting the thesis, and generally on what should or should not be included in the thesis.

A number of University courses are available that might prove helpful to students, e.g. academic writing courses run by the English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC). There are also units in the RTP on thesis production. The North Campus Graduate Research Centre also holds short seminars on related subjects and a video, *Thesis Writing*, is also available to be viewed in the Centre. The Centre also has a range of reference books on a whole range of subjects relating to research degree programmes.

There are a number of excellent books available that offer advice on how to start, write and complete a thesis. These are available on loan from the University Library and to buy.

Many students have found it helpful to meet with people who have recently submitted their thesis and can therefore pass on their experience firsthand. The Department may be able to facilitate this. It is normally also possible to consult recently submitted theses in the University Library or online.

Early familiarity with the software packages a student will use to produce the thesis will prove helpful. The University's Managed XP computing network hosts a whole range of software that may be of help to research students, over and above the Microsoft Office suite.

Please visit the following website:
www.shef.ac.uk/cics/desktop/software.html

Preparing to submit

Whilst the responsibility for the writing, preparation and submission of the thesis rests with the student, it is expected that the supervisor will read and comment on the draft, with a view to enabling the student to produce a thesis which is coherent, well-documented and written in good English. It is the student's, rather than the supervisor's, responsibility to decide when to submit, taking into account the supervisor's opinion which, at this stage, is advisory only.

Occasionally, a student may choose to submit his/her thesis without the knowledge or approval of the supervisor. Whilst students are within their rights to do so, it should be noted that Research & Innovation Services is unable to accept a submission without a supervisor's signature on the Access to Thesis form. The University strongly recommends that all students inform their supervisor when they are intending to submit. Failure to do so will result in delays in the examination process if examiners have not been appointed at the time of submission.

Number of copies required

First Submissions and Resubmissions

Three properly bound copies of the thesis must be submitted to Research & Innovation Services. Two of these copies will be issued to the examiners and the third copy will be retained by Research & Innovation Services as a master copy. Each copy of the thesis should contain a completed and signed Access to Thesis form, which should be bound into the thesis.

A copy of the thesis should also be retained by the student. Following the examination process, should any copies of the thesis be returned by the examiners to Research & Innovation Services, these will be returned to the student.

Students who are unable to have their thesis properly bound prior to their initial submission or resubmission may submit using a temporary binding, provided that it is not loose-leaf.

Following the examination, should the student be required to make any minor amendments to their thesis (please see sections on *After the Oral Examination* and *Minor Amendments* which follow), they may retrieve the master copy from Research & Innovation Services in order to make the final changes. Once the amendments have been approved by the examiners, a copy of the final approved thesis must be submitted to Research & Innovation Services. This copy will be deposited in the University Library following conferment of the degree and must therefore be properly bound using the University Print Service's fastback binding service (see section on *Reproduction and Binding* that follows). This copy must also contain the completed 'Access to Thesis' form and must state 'University Library' on the front cover. Students registered from 2008–09 onwards must also deposit an electronic copy of their final approved thesis on the White Rose eTheses Online server in order to comply with the University's requirement for eTheses. Students should be aware that their degree will not be awarded until they have fulfilled the requirements to submit a copy of the final approved thesis, including, where applicable, an electronic copy.

Summary of thesis

By regulation, the summary/abstract (which should be prepared by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor) should not exceed 300 words in length. Each bound copy of the thesis must contain a summary/abstract within it.

'Access to thesis' form

A copy of the completed Access to Thesis form should be included in each submitted copy of the thesis. The Access to Thesis form contains a completed declaration, signed by the student and the supervisor, concerning access to the thesis once it has been deposited in the University Library and, where applicable, online. Copies of the 'Access to Thesis' form are available from Research & Innovation Services and from the web site at

www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/howto/access.html

Students should note that Research & Innovation Services cannot accept a thesis submitted in person without the Access to Thesis form having been signed by the supervisor (or another senior academic member of the Department if the supervisor is unavailable). If a thesis is submitted by post without the supervisor's signature on the Access to Thesis form, Research & Innovation Services will contact the supervisor to advise them that their signature is required.

Size, paper and pagination

Theses should normally be ISO-A4 in size and no thesis should exceed 14" x 10". Good quality paper should be used. All copies of the thesis should preferably be printed double-sided, including the final awarded copy of the thesis which will be deposited in the Library following conferment of the degree.

Pages should be numbered consecutively throughout the thesis, including appendices. Students are advised to discuss with their supervisor whether or not photographs and/or diagrams which are not embodied in the text should be paginated.

Margins at the binding edge should be not less than 40mm and other margins not less than 20mm. Single spacing throughout the body of the text is acceptable and is essential for indented quotations and footnotes, but consideration must be given to legibility. Double or 1.5 spacing may be more easily readable for 11pt or 12pt text and is more commonly used.

Copies of the Access to Thesis form should be bound into each copy of the thesis submitted, so that the copies received by the examiners indicate whether there are likely to be any future restrictions/ embargoes on the thesis following the award. Only one top copy of the Access to Thesis form is required, the rest can be photocopies.

Referencing

In the first instance, students are advised to consult with their supervisor regarding acceptable methods of referencing within the thesis (i.e. the presentation of footnotes, bibliography, appendices, etc). The University Library provides online Information Skills tutorials, which detail the major referencing systems in use and outline variations across disciplines. The tutorials are freely available to all staff and students and easily accessible via MUSE. Details of how to consult them can be found at: www.shef.ac.uk/library/services/infoskills.html

If you feel you need additional help the Library also holds a number of useful guidebooks that outline and explain styles of referencing, or you can contact your subject Librarian.

The two principal criteria in any system of referencing are those of accuracy and consistency.

Title page

This should show:

- the full title of the thesis;
- the author's name in full;
- the degree for which the thesis is submitted;
- the department in which the work has been carried out;
- the date (month and year) of submission.

Outside cover

The front cover and/or spine must show:

- the name 'The University of Sheffield' and crest;
- the initials and surname of the author;
- the full title of the thesis;
- the degree for which the thesis is submitted;
- the year of submission;
- the volume number (if the thesis comprises more than one volume).

Reproduction and binding

Theses should be word processed and good printing quality is essential. If there is a top copy this should contain the best photographic prints (if any), as this copy will eventually be placed in the University Library.

The University Print Service provides a thesis binding service using a 'fastback' binding system. All theses are bound in black PVC covers, with inner card at front and back. Details (e.g. name of student, title of thesis and date of submission) are gold foiled onto the spine of the document. There is an option to personalise the front cover of the thesis in the same method. It is recommended that 100gsm A4 paper is used (although 80gsm is acceptable). The maximum thickness of a bound volume is 35 mm with covers (or 32 mm without covers). Therefore if the unbound copy of a student's thesis is more than 32 mm thick, the thesis will have to be bound into two volumes. Where two volumes or more are required, normal practice is for the bibliography and/or appendices to form the second volume. In such cases, the thesis will require two title pages, which specify 'Volume 1' and 'Volume 2' respectively; however only one contents page and one Access to Thesis form is required (both should appear in Volume 1). If amendments are required after the oral examination has been held, volumes can be rebound by the University Print Service following the insertion of new pages (RE bind cost applies). The University Print Service also offers a hard-back binding service. The cover can be personalised but the spine cannot.

When ordering thesis binding from the University Print Service, students must order at least one deposit copy, currently designated as thesis type T1 on the order form.

Before submitting work for binding, students are advised to make sure that the material is in good order, as pages are bound strictly in the order in which they are delivered. Items for rebinding should have the new pages inserted by the author. Only A4 size pages are accepted by the University Print Service. Binding work is usually completed within 48 hours of acceptance. However, at times when many graduate students are submitting theses, particularly at Easter and from late July to early November, demand may be such that it may not be possible to complete all work within 48 hours. Students are advised to present their work in good time for binding or alteration. Under certain circumstances the University Print Service provides a same day/24 hour service; however this incurs an extra charge per copy.

Further information can be found at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/cics/uniprint

Checklist for Submission

| | 1st Submission | Resubmission | Minor Amendments |
|---|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Prior to the submission of your thesis, ensure that your Faculty has approved the inclusion of any non-standard materials, e.g. CD or DVD | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Your supervisor should nominate examiners, who are available to examine your thesis within ten weeks, well in advance of your first submission | Yes | | |
| Check the guidelines in the <i>Code of Practice</i> to ensure your thesis is within the recommended word limit for your Faculty. | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| An originality report is obtained from Turnitin and approved in accordance with departmental procedures | Yes | Yes | |
| Third-party copyright clearances obtained and acknowledged | Yes | Yes | |
| Ensure you have an abstract, or summary, not exceeding 300 words. | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Title Page should show: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full title of thesis 2. Author's name in full 3. Degree for which the thesis is submitted, e.g. PhD 4. Academic Department 5. Date (month and year) e.g. September 2009 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Outside Cover should show: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The University name and logo 2. Initial and surname of author, e.g. J Smith 3. Full title of thesis 4. Degree for which the thesis is submitted, e.g. PhD 5. Year of submission, e.g. 2009 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Thesis to be printed on A4 paper | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Margins at the binding edge should be not less than 40mm and other margins not less than 20mm | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Page numbers to be numbered consecutively including appendices | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| If the thesis is more than 32mm thick, it should be bound in two or more volumes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Three copies of the thesis (two for examiners, one for the Library) to be submitted to Research Services. Also one copy of the abstract or summary. | Yes | Yes | |
| One final Library copy of the thesis to be submitted to Research Services. Also one copy of the abstract or summary. | | | Yes |

Word limits

No University regulation exists governing the length of theses, although a number of Faculties and departments have established guidelines. Where these are not available, the student should consult the supervisor as to the length of thesis appropriate to his/her particular topic of research. It should, however, be noted that brevity achieved without sacrifice of clarity is a virtue much appreciated by examiners.

The following Faculties have published guidelines on thesis length:

Arts & Humanities

40,000 words (MPhil) 75,000 words (PhD)

Medicine, Dentistry & Health

40,000 words (MPhil) 75,000 words (PhD, MD)

Science

40,000 words (MPhil) 80,000 words (PhD)

Social Sciences

40,000 words (MPhil) 75,000–100,000 words (PhD)

The above word limits exclude footnotes, bibliography and appendices.

Appointment of examiners

Examiners should normally be appointed well in advance of the thesis being submitted and it is essential, therefore, that the student makes his/her supervisor aware of the expected submission date so that a recommendation for the appointment of examiners can be made to the Faculty. Supervisors are requested to ensure that proposed examiners are available to examine the thesis and complete the paperwork within ten weeks of receiving it to ensure that the student's progress is not delayed.

Students who choose to submit their thesis without first informing their supervisor should note that this may result in delays in the examination process if the examiners have not yet been appointed.

In cases where the proposed examiner holds an appointment other than equivalent to Professor, Reader, or Senior Lecturer or is from a non-university establishment, a supporting statement should be attached when completing the Appointment of Examiners form, outlining the suitability of the nominee. Honorary members of the University's academic staff may act as internal examiners, provided they have necessary experience of the University's examination procedures and provided they will continue to hold their honorary status for the duration of the examination process.

The form for completion by supervisors is available from: www.sheffield.ac.uk/researchoffice/students/forms.html and requires the signature of the Head of Department/ Postgraduate Tutor. The form is then forwarded, along with any supporting information on the proposed examiner's qualifications, to Research & Innovation Services for Faculty approval.

At least two examiners must be appointed, neither of whom has had any direct involvement in the student's research project. At least one examiner must be an external examiner. Most University staff candidates are required to have two external examiners. In cases where there is no suitably qualified member of staff other than the supervisor, two external examiners are normally appointed. In cases where two external examiners are appointed, departments are asked to nominate a member of academic staff to act as internal co-ordinator and to liaise with the examiners and the student concerning the arrangements for the oral examination.

In all cases, examiners must be formally appointed before the thesis is despatched to the examiners and the date of the viva voce examination is set.

Should an occasion arise where an examiner must be replaced, a form is available for this purpose from www.shef.ac.uk/researchoffice/howto/apexaminers2.html. The same procedure applies as for the original appointment form.

Examiners' Fees and Expenses

Expenses and fees for examiners should be claimed through Research & Innovation Services, not the academic department, in line with the guidelines issued to examiners with the thesis.

Submission of theses

Theses for higher degrees by research should be submitted to Research & Innovation Services (not to the student's department).

Subject to the examiners having been appointed, a thesis submitted to Research & Innovation Services will normally be despatched to the examiners within 72 hours. Thesis despatch will be significantly delayed if examiners have not been approved in advance of submission.

If possible, students are asked to submit their thesis in person, so that relevant details, such as contact addresses may be confirmed and the student informed of any outstanding fees which, if unpaid, may result in the degree being withheld.

If unable to submit in person, students should contact Research & Innovation Services to ensure that their thesis has been received, their records updated, and to check if there is any further information required. Failure to contact Research & Innovation Services under these circumstances may result in a delay in the thesis being processed.

Staff candidates are required to pay a fee on submission of the thesis. In 2009–10 this will be £367.

Payments required upon the submission of any thesis may be made at the Income Office, Level 6, University House by cash, personal cheque, bankers draft, credit card or debit card. Payments to be made by credit/debit card can also now be made on-line at www.sheffield.ac.uk/payments/

UCard from submission of thesis

Should a student's time limit run out once they have submitted their thesis (but before their award has been made), they are required to go to the Computer Centre and have the card renewed for a period of three months. This process can be repeated until their award is made. If a student is required to resubmit then their time limit is changed. Therefore they can acquire a new card in line with the new time limit on their student record.

Arrangements for the oral examination (viva voce)

A booklet, *Guidance Notes for Examiners*, is issued to examiners along with their appointment letter. It is also issued to the internal co-ordinator of a staff candidate.

The booklet contains information on:

- The examination of the thesis;
- Arrangements and conduct of the oral examination;
- Report on the examination;
- Responsibilities of examiners;
- Responsibilities of others.

The booklet is available to research students and supervisors on request from Research & Innovation Services.

Examiners are advised, on appointment, that the oral examination should normally take place within ten weeks of receipt of the thesis. This is an expectation, not a mandatory requirement. A period of at least one month can be expected to elapse between submission of the thesis and the oral examination, and a student who intends to leave Sheffield on a specified date, for example to return to a post overseas, should ensure that a reasonable amount of time is available after the oral examination in case it is necessary to consult the supervisor on any revision or amendment to the thesis which the examiners may require.

It is the responsibility of the internal examiner or the internal co-ordinator to arrange the date, time and venue for the oral examination and to inform the candidate of the arrangements which have been made. Before doing so, the internal examiner/co-coordinator should ensure that the examiners have been formally appointed and have received the thesis. (Please note that Research & Innovation Services cannot make arrangements for the oral examination.)

Prior to the oral examination the examiners are required to read the thesis and independently to prepare written reports on it. Examiners are advised that their judgment of the thesis should be based on what may reasonably be expected of a diligent and capable student after completion of the prescribed period of research for the degree for which the thesis has been submitted.

Oral examinations are normally held within the University. The student's supervisor should not attend, unless the student and the examiners have agreed his/her presence in advance.

The supervisor should, however, be available prior to and following the oral examination, i.e. to offer advice and support to the student, and the issue of whether he/she is to be present should have been raised with the student.

If present, the supervisor should enter and leave the room at the same time as the student and should participate in the discussion only if asked to provide clarification on a specific matter.

In cases where two external examiners have been appointed, the internal co-ordinator will sit in on the oral examination to ensure that University procedures are followed. The internal co-ordinator will play no other part in the examination.

Conduct of the oral examination

The examination will normally be conducted under the chairmanship of the external examiner. At the oral examination the examiners together test the student's knowledge of matters relevant to the subject of the thesis. The purpose of the examination is to enable the examiners to clarify any ambiguities in the thesis, to satisfy themselves that the thesis is the student's own work, that the student is familiar with the relation of his/her work to the field of study and that his/her knowledge and understanding of related fields in the subject are of the standard expected for the award of the degree. On completion of the oral examination, the Examiners will normally advise the candidate of their intended recommendation to the Faculty.

Attendance at the oral examination

The oral examination is an integral part of the examination process and attendance is compulsory. Failure to attend a pre-arranged oral examination without prior notification and good reason (notification to the supervisor and/or internal examiner), may result in the student failing the oral examination and ultimately failing their degree.

After the oral examination

After the oral examination, the examiners complete a report that is sent to Research & Innovation Services for Faculty approval. Unless there is some disagreement between the examiners as to the appropriate recommendation (a very rare occurrence), this is a joint report, to which the preliminary reports completed prior to the examination are appended. Once completed and signed, the report form should be returned to Research & Innovation Services within two weeks of the date of oral examination. Where minor amendments are required, the student will be informed of these by the examiners and is allowed three months from the date of notification to make the amendments. The joint report form should be completed, signed and dated and returned to Research & Innovation Services, minus the separate *minor amendments* sheet, which should be detached and retained until the amendments have been

completed to the examiners' satisfaction. One of the examiners should be designated to approve the amendments once they have been completed. The agreed examiner should then sign and date the separate minor amendments sheet and return it immediately to Research & Innovation Services. It is the responsibility of the student to submit a final, approved copy of the thesis to Research & Innovation Services (please also refer to the Minor Amendments section which follows).

The recommendations open to the examiners following the oral examination are as follows for the degree of PhD (options for other degrees vary and are detailed in the *Guidance Notes for Examiners*):

- that the degree be awarded without the need for any corrections to the thesis;
- that the degree be awarded once specified minor amendments have been completed to the satisfaction of the examiners;
- that the degree be not now awarded, but that the candidate be allowed to undergo a further oral examination without modification of the form or content of the thesis;
- that the degree be not now awarded, but that the candidate be allowed to submit a revised thesis after such modification of form or content as the examiners may prescribe, with/without oral re-examination;
- that the degree be not awarded.

In addition, examiners for the degree of PhD may also make either of the following recommendations:

- that the degree of PhD be not awarded, but that the degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) be awarded (subject only to the necessary changes to the cover and title page of the thesis);
- that the degree of PhD be not awarded, but that the candidate be allowed to submit a revised thesis for the degree of MPhil after such modification of form or content as the examiners may prescribe, with/without oral re-examination.

Minor amendments

It is often the case that the examiners wish to recommend the award of the degree subject to the completion of minor amendments to the thesis. This is an option which may be exercised when the examiners are satisfied that they could recommend the award of the degree once minor amendments only have been made to the thesis and where the nature and extent of the required amendments are such that they can reasonably be completed within a period of three calendar months from the date of notification of the amendments. If more substantial amendments are required before the award of the degree can be recommended, then the examiners should recommend a formal resubmission of the thesis.

When minor amendments are required, the internal examiner will advise the student of the three-month timescale for completion of the amendments. The internal examiner will normally act on behalf of both examiners to confirm that the amendments have been satisfactorily

completed. Exceptionally, the three calendar months time-limit may, for good reason, be extended by the Faculty. An application form is available from Research & Innovation Services and the standard continuation fee will be levied for the duration of the extension period. Students may retrieve the original master copy of their thesis from Research & Innovation Services in order to make the necessary changes, should they wish to do so. A student who is required to make minor amendments should submit their revised thesis to the internal/external examiner for checking, as instructed. Once the amendments have been approved, a new, correctly bound copy of the approved thesis must be submitted to Research & Innovation Services to be deposited in the University library. Students should provide a further bound copy for their department, should their department require this. It is recommended that students also print and bind a copy for their own personal use.

For students who commenced their research degree from the start of the 2008–09 session, it is a requirement that the final, examined and approved thesis must be uploaded by the student to White Rose eTheses Online otherwise the degree will be withheld. This is not a requirement for students who commenced their degree prior to 2008–09, although such students may choose to do so. In agreed circumstances, an electronic version in physical format (e.g. CD or DVD) will be considered to satisfy this requirement. Information on how to upload the final, examined and awarded thesis to the White Rose eTheses Online server can be found at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/pgresearch/howto/uploadingtheses.html

Guidance on resubmission

In cases where a formal resubmission is required, examiners are advised that their report should contain detailed advice to the student on the required amendments and improvements. The student will receive formal notification of the requirement to resubmit by letter from Research & Innovation Services and will also receive a copy of the examiners' report.

A student required to resubmit their thesis is allowed 12 months in which to do so from the date of formal notification from Research & Innovation Services. Where an extension to this time limit is requested, this will be considered by the department, the Faculty and, where appropriate, the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, in the normal way.

Three copies of the revised thesis should be submitted directly to Research & Innovation Services, following the same procedures as apply to a first submission. The resubmitted thesis should not be sent direct to either of the examiners prior to formal resubmission. Research & Innovation Services can only accept a resubmitted thesis once the student has been formally notified in writing of the examiners' decision on the first submission. It is the responsibility of the student to collect any copies of the thesis held by Research & Innovation Services in order to complete the amendments prior to resubmission.

Note: For resubmissions the title page and front cover should be changed to show the date of the resubmission only, however it is not necessary for the thesis to state 'Resubmission'.

If a resubmission with oral is required, this will normally take place within 10 weeks of receipt of the thesis by the examiners.

If a resubmission without a further oral examination is required, the examiners should aim to complete the re-examination within approximately 6–8 weeks of their receipt of the revised thesis. Following the re-examination, if minor amendments are required, the student is allowed three calendar months in which to complete the amendments from the date of notification. The examiners' report form should be returned to Research & Innovation Services, minus the minor amendments sheet, which should be detached and retained until the amendments have been completed to the examiners' satisfaction.

A fee is payable on resubmission. For 2009–10 this will be £217 for resubmission without oral examination and £294 for resubmission with oral examination.

Students who are required to resubmit will have their time limit changed. Therefore a new UCard can be acquired in line with the new time limit on their student record.

Submission of electronic theses

Students who registered for a research degree from the start of the 2008–09 session onwards are required to submit an electronic copy of their final approved thesis to the White Rose eTheses Online server. This requirement is in addition to the requirement to submit a final hard copy for the University Library. Information on how to upload the final, examined and awarded thesis to the White Rose eTheses Online server can be found at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/pgresearch/howto/uploadingtheses.html

Embargoes of Theses

The University has procedures for embargoing certain theses under certain conditions, e.g. where there are commercial sensitivities or where it is necessary to delay access to a thesis until after publication of results. Both print and electronic theses can be embargoed. The University has recently agreed that decisions on embargoing a thesis should be ratified at Faculty level. The University has also agreed that there should be a default limit of 5 years, although embargo periods can subsequently be extended. Indefinite embargoes are also permitted.

Award and conferment of degrees

Notification of the award of a degree will be sent to successful students by Research & Innovation Services, following approval by the Faculty. Letters will be posted to the correspondence address held on the student's record. Students are responsible for ensuring that their addresses are kept up-to-date on the student record. This is essential so that important University correspondence is received promptly.

Every effort is made to keep to a minimum the delay between receipt of the examiners' report by Research & Innovation Services, formal approval by the Faculty and subsequent notification to the student of the award of the degree; however students should be aware that the process can take a number of weeks. Any student who requires urgent notification of his/her result, for example for employment purposes, should contact Research & Innovation Services.

Once a degree has been awarded, details will be forwarded to the Events Team, who will contact the student in due course to arrange for the formal conferment of the degree. The Events Team will then issue an invitation to the next available Degree Ceremony, which will normally be held in the December/January or July following the award. Any queries concerning the likely date of the ceremony should be addressed to the Events Team on (0114) 222 8828 or e-mail graduation@sheffield.ac.uk.

It should be noted that, although as many students as possible are invited to the first ceremony to be held after the award of their degrees, it is not always possible to include all candidates at a particular ceremony; students should not therefore assume that they will automatically be included in that ceremony, even if departments and supervisors indicate that this will be the case. Only the Events Team has the authority to confirm invitations to particular ceremonies.

Students graduating in person will receive their degree certificates at the Degree Ceremony. Students who choose to graduate in absentia may request their certificates by post from the Events Team.

Help if issues arise

Complaints procedure

Where difficulties arise it is important to seek to address these as early as possible. Many difficulties can be resolved at an early stage by talking informally with the individual(s) most concerned with the issue at a local level. Briefly, students should initially raise any complaints with their supervisor. If they cannot be resolved, they must report the complaint to the Postgraduate Tutor or the Head of Department initially, and, if appropriate, the Faculty. The department must ensure that complaints procedures are operational and effective. However, as noted above, it is the responsibility of students to ensure that any problems are raised at the appropriate level and at the earliest opportunity. Students can also seek advice from the Student Advice Centre or from Research & Innovation Services in the Students' Union at this stage.

In the event that such difficulties cannot be resolved informally, the University has formal procedures for making complaints, whether about the delivery and quality of services received (i.e. non-academic matters), or about the delivery or quality of research supervision or any other matters relating to the programme of study.

Details of the procedures are contained in the Students' Charter, copies of which are available from the Advice Centre in the Union of Students and from the Student Services Information Desk. Complaints procedures and a complaint form are also available at:

www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/procedures/grid.html#complaints

Research & Innovation Services can provide impartial advice to students and to departments on procedural matters relating to the complaints process.

As well as the complaints procedure there is also a procedure for complaints about personal harassment. Details can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/procedures/grid.html#harass

Academic Appeals regulations

Under these Regulations, a student may apply for a recommended examination result to be re-considered in the light of new evidence.

General regulations and procedures for Academic Appeals can be found at

www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/procedures/grid.html#academic

Additional Information, Facilities and Support

Dates of semesters

2009–10

Intro Week: 21 September – 27 September 2009

Autumn Semester: 28 September – 19 December 2009
18 January – 06 February 2010

Spring Semester: 08 February – 20 March 2010
12 April – 20 June 2010

Health and Safety

The University attaches great priority to Health & Safety for its staff and students. This requires the full co-operation of everyone to ensure such standards are maintained.

Staff and students are encouraged, not only to comply with the relevant legislation and codes of practice but to maintain a safety culture where hazards are identified, assessed and risks are kept to a minimum.

A copy of the University's Code of Practice for Health & Safety is available on the Safety Services website and should be downloaded by all researchers.

Supervision

The University has a legal duty to provide "such supervision as is necessary" to ensure the health and safety of all students, including researchers. Relying solely on a student's graduate status or general competence cannot discharge this duty.

The duty to supervise is delegated to the appropriate Head of Department and thence to the member of staff directly responsible for the student (the supervisor).

Departmental management must be able to demonstrate that they have effective supervisory measures in place. Within a department this will include risk assessment, safe systems of work and personal monitoring arrangements, appropriate to the task in hand. All research students must undergo initial training, at which the operation of such measures is explained in a practical sense.

Research projects

For research projects, effective or adequate supervision does not necessarily mean a constant direct presence. Where this is required, it may be carried out, if necessary by another authorised member of staff, provided that they have the necessary qualifications, knowledge and skills.

It is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that:

1. The project is properly assessed:
 - (i) for compliance with the law;
 - (ii) for compliance with existing departmental procedures;

- (iii) for compliance with the University local rules (e.g. for radiation, micro-organisms or genetic modification work);
- (iv) to assess risks and safety precautions required (note that the law requires risk assessment to be written down unless the risks are insignificant).

2. Any precautions which are necessary are agreed between the supervisor and the student and these should be documented.
3. Regular checks are carried out by the supervisor (or authorised nominee) to ensure that the student is actually following the agreed procedure.
4. It has been made clear to the student that:
 - (i) Any alteration to the agreed methods must be discussed with the supervisor before being put into practice. These alterations must be agreed and documented.
 - (ii) They also have a responsibility not to endanger themselves and others by their actions. They also have a duty to co-operate with those in authority over health and safety matters.

Risk assessment and levels of supervision

A full risk assessment must be carried out and generally written down for the proposed procedure before any experimental or practical work is undertaken.

Appropriate controls must be in place, including any safe systems of work, necessary safety equipment and personal protective gear. Supervisors must ensure that the student has read the assessment and understood its implications. The form must be signed by both the student and the supervisor.

General standards for similar work must be the same throughout a department.

After a full risk assessment has been completed, the following scheme for determining the level of supervision may be adopted:

- A The work may not be carried out without the direct supervision of a designated member of staff continuously present in the room where the work is being carried out.
- B The work may not be started without the task supervisor's advice and approval, which may involve additional training in the procedures and, in the initial phase of work, require the direct supervision of a designated member of staff continuously present in the room where the work is being carried out.
- C The work may not be started without the task supervisor's advice and approval, but may be carried out without direct supervision once additional training in procedures involved has been received.

- D Work where extra care must be observed but where it is considered that workers are adequately trained and competent in the procedures involved.
- E Work where risks are insignificant and carry no special supervision considerations. This is the only category where some (but not all) activities may be suitable for out-of-hours work.

Remember that the concept of information, instruction and training and supervision is enshrined in the law. There can be no defence for not applying these principles.

Bear in mind also that as a piece of work develops, safety and supervision requirements may change. The law requires risk assessments to take account of this and for them to be revised as appropriate.

If students are required to work out of hours, they must have passed out-of-hours training within the last three years and fire training within the last 12 months. They must also have permission from their Head of Department and not work alone. The importance of signing in and out of the building must be emphasised to them. ANY work done out of hours must be in the lowest risk category, i.e. intrinsically safe.

Where those being supervised show a disregard for matters of safety, departments must implement appropriate disciplinary procedures to ensure the safety of the person concerned and anyone else who might be adversely affected, including any emergency and service personnel.

Data Protection: implications for research

The Data Protection Act 1998 is concerned with data relating to living, identifiable individuals; how this data can be used; to whom it may be transferred and in protecting the rights of people regarding their own data. The University has a Personal Information Policy (shef.ac.uk/cics/dataprotection) that sets out the legal requirements for members of the University who process personal information for any reason. Personal data processed for research purposes is subject to special conditions as follows:

Personal data collected purely for research or statistical purposes is exempt from some of the requirements of the Act as long as the following conditions are met:

- individuals are not identified on publication
- no distress or damage is, or is likely to be, caused to an individual.

Unlike data collected for other purposes, research data may be used for further research studies, and by other researchers, although researchers should be mindful of any conditions implicit or stated to data subjects when the data was originally collected. Research data may also be kept indefinitely, and people whose data is studied as part of a research project do not have the automatic right to access that data, as they do if it is held for other purposes.

Data originally collected for research may not subsequently be used for non-research purposes.

If you have any queries on data protection or personal data matters, please contact the University Data Controller, Department of Corporate Information and Computing Services.

Intellectual Property Rights and the exploitation of research

The term 'intellectual property' refers to the outputs of creative endeavour in scientific, engineering, industrial, literary and artistic fields that can be identified and protected under legislation relating to patents, trade-marks, copyright and design rights. Patents for new technology are of prime interest to scientists and engineers, although copyright can also be important (for example, for the protection of computer software). Like any other form of property, intellectual property can be sold, leased or mortgaged, so long as ownership has been established unambiguously. By providing security of knowledge, and establishing rights and rewards, intellectual property stimulates the innovation process.

The importance of undertaking research of value to the UK economy, with relevance to UK industry, is clearly recognised. However, it must be emphasised that, in pursuing their research, students cannot and should not be aiming specifically to generate intellectual property. The aim of their research must be to enhance knowledge and understanding within a particular subject area. This may or may not have commercial relevance. In this sense, intellectual property does not necessarily reflect the quality or importance of research.

Nevertheless, it is possible that in the course of research, results will be achieved or conclusions reached which have exploitable consequences. The ability of the student and the supervisor to recognise potentially exploitable research as it arises, and to take appropriate action, is enormously important.

Intellectual property rights arising from work undertaken by research students rest clearly with the University. It is a condition of registration that students agree formally to transfer or assign to the University any intellectual property rights resulting from the agreed programme of study and research. This requirement covers:

- the ownership of and the sole right to exploit any patentable invention or discovery made;
- all rights (including design rights and rights which are capable of registration under the Registered Designs Act 1949) in any design produced;
- copyright in (a) any computer programme and (b) any engineering drawing design capable of commercial exploitation.

The University is therefore free to exploit any intellectual property as it considers to be appropriate. However, it is expected that, following from recognition of the contribution made by the student and through natural fairness and justice, the University will grant to the student a reasonable share of any benefits accruing. It may be the case that the University does not wish to or is unable to exercise its rights of exploitation. In such cases, these rights may be returned to the student, either for an agreed period or on a permanent basis.

Where the whole or part of a student's programme of research is funded by, or involves the use of facilities provided by, a third party, under an agreement made with the University (such as a CASE award), the following provisions apply:

- The University may in its own name or as agent for the student transfer or assign to the third party rights regarding intellectual property.
- Students must, in accordance with any relevant terms of the agreement between the University and the third party, keep confidential all information relating to the work or business of the third party, acquired by the student doing that programme, or part programme of study. Such information must not be used for the student's own benefit or disclosed to any other persons except with the consent of the third party.
- These regulations apply to copyright in any work, including any report, essay, dissertation or thesis produced by the student during or as a result of their research programme.

Again, it is intended that these rules be applied in such a way as not to disadvantage the student as generator of intellectual property, nor to deter subsequent exploitation.

Circumstances will vary between different programmes of research and no single approach will apply in all cases. However, it is important that such arrangements provide for a suitable return to the institution and the student, that ownership reverts to the institution after an agreed period if exploitation is not pursued, and that there shall be no significant restrictions on the future research activity of individuals and that the academic freedom to publish is preserved. Whether the intellectual property rights are retained by the University or have been transferred or assigned to a third party, students must not, without consent, publish any work which might prejudice the exploitation of the rights.

These rules may appear very formal and restrictive. Remember that they are intended to safeguard the interests of all concerned, including students. If students or their supervisors believe there is commercially valuable/patentable property arising out of a particular research programme it must be registered. To register it is necessary to complete a Commercial Opportunities Disclosure form, available via the Commercial Assessment System at www.sheffield.ac.uk/researchoffice/commercial/commercial_assessment.html. Sheffield University Enterprises Limited (SUEL), acting on behalf of the University, will then assess the commercial value of the concept and determine the exploitation route.

Learned Societies Fund

The Learned Societies Fund provides allowances towards expenses incurred in attending meetings of learned societies within the UK (other than Sheffield) and EC. Eligibility is restricted to academic and academic related staff, technical staff above trainee grade, and research students who do not obtain support for attending learned society meetings from their sponsors.

Claims may be made for:

Meetings outside Sheffield

- A contribution (maximum £28) towards the conference fee.
- Travel costs of a maximum of a standard second-class rail fare. For travel outside the UK the maximum amount claimable is £250.
- A maximum of three nights' accommodation for any one meeting at the actual cost of accommodation and subsistence, subject to a maximum figure of £42 per night (£49 for inner London).
- If overnight absence is not necessary, a daily subsistence allowance is claimable.
- Taxi fares are only allowable to the value of £5.

Meetings within Sheffield

- Contributions towards conference registration fees are normally restricted to a maximum of £28.

Full guidance notes and a claim form can be found at www.sheffield.ac.uk/finance/usefulforms/learnedsociety.html

The claim form should be printed on yellow paper.

Regulations

Research students and supervisors are advised to read the Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research (provided in the University Calendar), which is available from: www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/calendar/

Additional University Services and Facilities

Accommodation & Campus Services

The Edge, 34 Endcliffe Crescent, Sheffield, S10 3ED
 Telephone: 222 8800 – General Enquiries
 Fax: 222 0289 – General Fax
 Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/housing/

Careers Service

388 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2JA
 Telephone: 222 0910
 Web Site: www.shef.ac.uk/careers/postgraduates/research

Open: Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
 Except Tuesday 11.00am – 5.00pm

(Times may vary during undergraduate vacations – please check.)

The Careers Service provides a professional, integrated guidance, information and advice service to all students and recent graduates of the University. Two specialist advisers provide one-to-one guidance specifically for postgraduate researchers.

The Service is committed to supporting all students, both home and international. It offers advice, guidance and information that is specifically relevant to postgraduate research students. In addition, it offers skills development sessions and other events designed to help students to explore options, meet employers and apply successfully for jobs.

The careers advisers for research students deliver a series of workshops tailored specifically to the needs of research students and these are accredited as part of the Research Training Programme.

In April 2008, the Careers Service received accreditation in line with the national 'Matrix' standards for advice, guidance and information.

Computing facilities

Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/cics/

The Department of Corporate Information and Computing Services (CiCS) offers a wide range of computing facilities for all students. Many departments have additional facilities. CiCS facilities include:

- IT Centres and open access Student Computing Rooms (some 24-hour)
- Low cost, high quality laser printing
- Campus wide electronic information systems
- Email
- Short courses

- Documentation
- Helpdesk service
- Personalised internet portal service, MUSE
- Remote access to the internet.

Counselling Service

36 Wilkinson Street, Sheffield, S10 2GB
 Telephone: 222 4134
 Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/counselling/
 Email: ucs@sheffield.ac.uk

The University's Counselling Service is completely confidential and no other department or personnel are normally informed of your use of the Service. The Service offers individual counselling and group work. Workshops are also run including:

- Anxiety Management
- Relaxation
- Assertiveness
- Exam Preparation

English Language Teaching Centre

283 Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2HB
 Telephone: 222 1780
 Fax: 222 1788
 Email: elt@sheffield.ac.uk
 Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/eltc

ELTC provides assistance to students who need help with their English. Most of ELTC's clients are international students, but staff are happy to assist home students. A wide range of free English language support classes are offered each semester. The Centre also offers a one-to-one Writing Advisory Service. Students can also take the University of Sheffield English Proficiency Test (USEPT) at the Centre, if required.

Library

Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/

Western Bank Library

Western Bank
 Telephone: 222 7204 (Enquiry Desk)
 Email: library@sheffield.ac.uk

Information Commons

44 Leavygreave Road
 Telephone: 222 9999
 Email: infocommons@sheffield.ac.uk

Health Sciences Library (Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing)

Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Telephone: 271 2030 (Enquiry Desk)

Northern General Hospital (Medicine, Nursing)

Telephone: 226 6800/6801 (Enquiry Desk)

St George's Library (Engineering, Management, Computer Science, Information Science, Leisure Management)

Mappin Street
Telephone: 222 7301 (Enquiry Desk)

In addition to providing advice on referencing and copyright outlined in this Code of Practice, and delivering a number of RTP units, the University Library offers a range of services to research students, including a free minibus service to the British Library Document Supply Centre at Boston Spa.

Further information can be found at:

www.shef.ac.uk/library/services/researchers.html

Library tours and advice sessions for new research students are available on the following dates. There is no need to pre-book.

Information Commons tours:

Meet in the foyer of the Information Commons

Wednesday 14 October 2009 2.00pm – 3.00pm,
Information Commons

Thursday 22 October 2009 2.00pm – 3.00pm,
Information Commons

Western Bank Library tours:

Meet in the foyer of Western Bank Library

Thursday 15 October 2009 2.00pm – 3.00pm,
Western Bank Library entrance area

Wednesday 21 October 2009 2.00pm – 3.00pm,
Western Bank Library entrance area

Modern Languages Teaching Centre

Portobello Centre, Pitt Street, Sheffield S1 4ET

Telephone: 222 0630

Fax: 222 0632

Email: mltc@sheffield.ac.uk

Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/mltc

The Modern Languages Teaching Centre exists to enable students of the University to learn a modern foreign language. The Centre offers institution-wide accredited modules, intensive language courses, and a self-access Centre.

Print Service

Bolsover Street, Sheffield, S3 7NA

Telephone: 222 1220

Fax: 222 4001 / 222 4002

Email: print.enquiries@sheffield.ac.uk

Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/cics/uniprint

UCard

Your UCard provides proof of your student status and membership of the Union of Students. It also acts as your library card and will be needed to gain access to some buildings.

Further information can be gained from

www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/ucards

UCard issuing points are available Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, at: Student Services Information Desk (SSiD), Union of Students Building and University Computer Centre, 8–20 Hounsfield Road.

Should a student's time limit run out once they have submitted their thesis (but before their award has been made), they are required to go to the Computer Centre and have the card renewed for a period of three months. This process can be repeated until their award is made. If a student is required to resubmit, then their time limit is changed. Therefore they can acquire a new card in line with the new time limit on their student record.

USport

USport, Goodwin Sports Centre,

Northumberland Road,

Sheffield S10 2TY

Telephone: 222 6999

Fax: 222 6998

Email: info@usport.co.uk

Web Site: www.usport.co.uk

The University of Sheffield has some of the best and most extensive sporting facilities in the UK. So whether you want to take up a new activity, or continue your favourite sport, at either recreational or competitive level, our sports scene provides something for everyone.

Welfare and Advice

Childcare

The Children's Services Manager
93 Brunswick Street, Sheffield, S10 2FL
Telephone: 273 9361
Fax: 275 2506
Email: Nursery@sheffield.ac.uk
Web Site: www.shef.ac.uk/union/nursery/

The University's Union of Students has a Nursery providing care and education for students' children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years. The Nursery also runs half-term play schemes and can offer information on child minding for older children at the end of the school day.

Cross-cultural issues

Email: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk

The University is an international community – over 4000 overseas students from more than 130 different countries. There are a number of international student events and activities organised by the Union and the University that you are welcome to attend. If you want to receive news of these, email Student Services at the above address with a request to receive bulletins.

Disabled students

Disability and Dyslexia Support Service
The Hillsborough Centre, Alfred Denny Building
Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TN
Telephone: 0114 222 1303
Fax: 222 1373
Email: disability.info@sheffield.ac.uk
Web: www.shef.ac.uk/disability

The University of Sheffield welcomes applications from disabled students and students with a specific learning difficulty, i.e. dyslexia. If you are thinking about studying at the University we encourage you to contact the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service at the earliest possible time to discuss your support needs. When completing your application form, it is helpful to us if you disclose information about your disability, in order that we can discuss and plan with you appropriate support, safety and facilities you may require.

The University publication '*Information for Disabled and Dyslexic Students*' describes the facilities and support currently provided within the University. You can access it online at: www.sheffield.ac.uk/disability. Copies are also available from the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service.

We are committed to responding effectively and appropriately to individual support needs. We take all practicable steps to ensure that students with disabilities can participate in their studies without disadvantage, and can make full use of the University's academic and support services.

If you are academically suitable and receive an offer, you will be sent a Learning Support Questionnaire to complete about your likely needs. You will also be given the opportunity to meet with a Disability Adviser and visit the University to assess the department, the facilities and the surroundings.

Funding for support

You may be eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) if you are a home student whose course is equivalent to at least 50% of a full time course. DSA funding can be used to pay for support to enable students to fully access their course of study. Please contact the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service for further information.

Overseas students, including EU applicants, are not currently eligible for the DSA. However, most of the University facilities and provisions are still available to them, apart from those that are specifically for UK students only, e.g. Access to Learning Fund.

Health matters

University Health Service
53 Gell Street, Sheffield, S3 7QP
Telephone: 222 2100 (24 hours)
Fax: 222 2123
Email: health.service@sheffield.ac.uk
Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/health/

Students (excluding staff-candidates) of the University with a Sheffield address are entitled to register with the University Health Service for NHS care (dependants can only be accepted if they live within the practice boundary). Please refer to the web site for full details of services available.

Dental treatment

The University does not have a dental service, however free dental treatment for fillings, crowns, bridges or dentures may be available at the School of Clinical Dentistry. Interested students would need to call in at the Main Reception at the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital and then attend an assessment clinic. Closely supervised student dentists undergoing training will treat those considered suitable.

Immigration issues

The UKBA is introducing a new immigration system known as the Points Based System. Student visas are issued under Tier 4 of the new system and the immigration rules for students in the UK have changed significantly since March 2009.

Information about student immigration can be found on Student Support and Guidance (SSG) web pages at: www.shef.ac.uk/ssid/international

Those with questions about their student visa can contact SSG by emailing: international.students@sheffield.ac.uk

Independent support agencies

If you feel you do not wish to use University facilities or need help when they are not available to you, the city has a number of independent support agencies who can help:

AIDS Line

Telephone Free: 0800 567 123

Alcohol Advisory Service

646 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield S7 2BB
Telephone: 258 7553

Alcoholics Anonymous

Telephone: 0845 769 7555

British Pregnancy Advisory Service

Telephone: 0845 730 4030

Family Planning Clinic

Mulberry Street, Sheffield, S1 2DH
Telephone: 271 6816

Genito-Urinary Clinic Royal Hallamshire Hospital

Glossop Road, Sheffield, S10 2PR
Telephone: 276 6928

Rockingham Drug Project

117 Rockingham Street, Sheffield, S1 4EB
Telephone: 275 5973

Samaritans

Rockingham Lane, Sheffield, S1 4FX
Telephone: 276 7277

Sheffield Rape & Sexual Abuse Counselling Service

PO Box 34, Sheffield, S1 1UD
Telephone: 244 7936

Victim Support

Sheffield Voluntary Action,
1st Floor, St James S1, Vicker Lane, Sheffield, S1 2EX
Telephone: 275 8411

Nightline

Telephone: 222 8787 (Listening)
222 8788 (Information)
Email: nightline@sheffield.ac.uk
Web Site: <http://nightline.union.shef.ac.uk/>

Nightline is the University's confidential listening and information telephone service. It is run by trained student volunteers, and operates from 8pm to 8am during semesters. It offers students everything from the phone number of a 24-hour taxi company, to exam dates, times and locations, and information about many issues that can be encountered within student life. The service can be called free from University networked phones.

Personal safety and security

Web Site: www.shef.ac.uk/security/advice/personalsafety.html

Women's Safety & The Women's Minibus

Women's Officer
Sabbatical Office, Level 4, Union of Students Building
Telephone: 222 8608

If you have any worries about safety or harassment, or if you would like help in solving any problems you or your friends are facing, please contact the Women's Officer. A Women's minibus service operates every evening from the Union of Students to home (within a five mile radius). Other request services and taxi connection services are available.

Alarms

Safety alarms are available free from the Women's Officer's office.

Safety Services

40 Victoria Street, Sheffield, S3 7QB
Telephone: 222 6198
Fax: 276 8741
Web Site: www.sheffield.ac.uk/safety/

Offering training, advice and Codes of Practice for First Aid; Specific Hazards; Fire; Radiation; Manual Handling; etc.

Security Services

University Security Control Room
Telephone: 222 4085

IN AN EMERGENCY

In the University – dial 4444 (24 hours)
Outside the University – dial 999

Religious matters

There is a multi-faith chaplaincy team at the University. For details of their facilities and services, or for information on local worship, please visit the following web site:

www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssd/chaplains/

Student Advice Centre

Union of Students Building

Telephone: 222 8660

Email: advice@sheffield.ac.uk

Web Site: www.shef.ac.uk/union/advice/advice-centre.php

The Centre provides a confidential, free advice and information service to all students. General advice and information is available on a wide range of welfare and related areas. Specialist advice and support are available for money, debt, housing, academic, immigration, consumer and employment issues.

Union of Students

Western Bank, Sheffield, S10 2TG

Telephone: 222 8500 (Reception)

Fax: 275 2506

Email: union@sheffield.ac.uk

Web Site: www.shef.ac.uk/union/index.php

The Students' Union is run by students for students and offers a full range of facilities and activities including entertainment, eating, banking, insurance and workspace. The Union also provides club and society activities, representation and welfare support for all students of the University.

Thesis binding at The University Print Service

The University Print Service provides a binding service (fastback) for University of Sheffield theses.

There are four thesis styles available which are reference T1, T2, T3 and T4. The difference between them is the text on the front cover and all are available either soft or hard bound.

All theses are A4 and bound in black PVC covers, with inner card covers at front and back. Details are gold foiled onto the spine of the document (soft bind only). The maximum thickness of a bound volume is 32mm (subject to sight); if your thesis is thicker it may need to be split into two or more volumes.

Rebinding

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Preparing for binding

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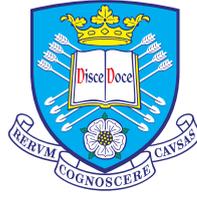
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