



University of
St Andrews

Higher degree senate regulations

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1.1	Updated to include Doctor of Divinity	Approved	Emmy Feamster, Deputy Head of Education Policy and Quality	16/05/2024

HIGHER DOCTORATE SENATE REGULATIONS

Eligibility

1. The Senatus Academicus may admit candidates for the degrees of Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Science (DSc), Doctor of Letters (DLitt), or Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) in recognition of a corpus of work of a professorial standard attained over an extended period of no fewer than ten years, containing original and significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge and learning which has given the candidate international distinction in their field.
2. A candidate must be either:
 - a. a graduate of the University who holds a doctorate or other recognised terminal degree of at least ten years standing; or
 - b. a professor in the University with no fewer than four years' service since the date of their appointment.
 - c. a retired or emeritus staff whose final employment was at the University and who currently holds an emeritus or honorary academic position.

Presentation of material and declaration by candidates

3. Each candidate for a Higher Doctorate shall present a specially composed thesis, or a published work, or a series of published papers, or any combination of these. The material may either be entirely that of the candidate or carried out in collaboration with another person or persons, provided that, in the latter case, the contribution of the candidate can be clearly defined. The standard of work required for the Higher Doctorate is a high one. The subject matter must be coherent and original and should form a contribution to the advancement of knowledge of the subject of such substance and distinction as to give the candidate international distinction in some branch or branches of learning.
4. The submission shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee and a declaration signed by the candidate certifying either:
 - a. that the candidate is the sole author of the work; or
 - b. that the candidate is the joint author of the work in collaboration with another person or persons who shall be named, in which case the declaration must also include a statement clearly defining the extent of the candidate's personal contribution to the joint work.
5. In each case, such declaration must also state the extent (if any) to which the work has been submitted in any previous application for any degree and the result of any such application. Work submitted in a successful application for any degree shall be disallowed. The Senatus Academicus shall have discretion to allow or disallow work submitted in an unsuccessful application.
 - a. if after inquiry the Senatus Academicus is not satisfied with the declaration provided for in regulation 4, the Senatus shall have power to refuse the application.
 - b. if after inquiry the Senatus Academicus is satisfied with the said declaration it shall remit the work submitted to an examining committee as provided in regulation 6

Examining committee and award of the degree

6. For the purpose of examining the work submitted by a candidate, the Assistant Vice-Principal (Dean of Science) or Assistant Vice-Principal (Dean of Arts and Divinity) shall

appoint a committee consisting of two external examiners selected from a list supplied by the School and two or more members of the academic staff of the University, one of whom shall be of professorial standing, or recognised equivalent.

7. The submission will be examined in accordance with the [Higher Degrees](#) policy.
8. If, following a report from the examining committee, the relevant Assistant Vice-Principal is of the opinion that the work submitted constitutes an original and sufficiently substantial contribution to knowledge by the candidate, the candidate shall be awarded the degree.
9. A final copy of the approved portfolio must be submitted to the University Library. The Library shall have the power to decide when and under what conditions these copies shall be available for consultation or borrowing but the copyright shall belong to the candidate.

Appeal procedure

10. If, after the recommendation of the examining committee is approved and communicated, the candidate wishes to appeal against the examining committee's recommendation, they may request a review of this academic decision by submitting an appeal, in writing, to the Vice-Principal Education (Proctor). Any such appeal should be raised by candidates within 5 working days of the date of notification of the examining committee's recommendation. Guidance on the procedure to be followed, including permissible grounds of appeal, can be obtained from the Court and Senate Office.

Version number	Purpose / changes	Document status	Author of changes, role and school / unit	Date
1.0	Restructured regulations following a significant overhaul of all Senate Regulations.	Approved	Emmy Feamster, Deputy Head of Education Policy and Quality	03/08/2023
1.1	Updated to include Doctor of Divinity	Approved	Emmy Feamster, Deputy Head of Education Policy and Quality	16/05/2024