

Incorporating research outputs in your thesis

UWE Bristol Doctoral Academy

Introduction

- This document contains a short explanation of the UWE Bristol regulations on incorporating research outputs into written theses.
- A [full rationale](#) for allowing research outputs to be incorporated into written theses at UWE Bristol is also available.
- There is a [7-minute video](#) for examiners on assessing candidates who submit theses that incorporate written research outputs.

Why use a written thesis format

- To keep the focus on the Qualification Descriptor in a changing research environment.
- To relieve pressure on PGRs to produce both outputs and a thesis.
- To be accessible to new ways of researching.
- To be accessible to a variety of knowledges.

UWE Bristol awards of MPhil and PhD

See the [Research Degree Awards](#) section of the **Doctoral Academy Handbook**.

- Written theses for these awards can include research outputs (see [regulation E.4iii](#) and related procedures).
- A variety of written research outputs can be incorporated into a written 'body of work' to be assessed. These are set out in the procedures.
- Research outputs incorporated into the body of work to be assessed must have been produced during the period of registration for the award.

MPhil/PhD and qualification descriptors

See the [Research Degree Awards](#) section of the **Doctoral Academy Handbook**.

- For research degrees the focus is on demonstrating that the candidate and their work meet the Qualification Descriptors (see [regulation E3.i](#) and related procedures).

MPhil/PhD and preparation of final thesis

See the [Final submission](#) section of the **Doctoral Academy Handbook**.

- For MPhil and PhD there are maximum word counts that are slightly greater if written research outputs are included and some guidance on general structure.
- Any written research outputs incorporated into the 'body of work' to be assessed must be accompanied by a statement about their origin and the candidate's contribution.

- The written thesis to be assessed must include: introductory/contextual material; the body of work; a synthesis of the work that establishes ownership and includes a claim to meet the qualification descriptor.
- It is 'the body of work' that can include written research outputs.

Please note:

- 'The body of work' to be assessed will in many, perhaps most, instances be a series of chapters.
- There are no regulations on number, format, status etc. of any written research outputs included in the 'body of work' but the overall thesis must comply with maximum word limits.
- If appropriate, research publications can be included as appendices separately from the written thesis.
- The onus is on the candidate to make a *coherent claim to meet the qualification descriptor* based on the 'body of work' submitted.

Further information

- See the [Doctoral Academy Handbook](#).
- Talk to your supervisory team.
- Get advice from the Director of postgraduate research in your School or College.
- Email us at research.degrees@uwe.ac.uk.