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Guidelines on MPhil/PhD written thesis format at UWE

incorporation of research outputs

Guidelines for Written Thesis Format at UWE

- The following slides contain a short explanation of the UWE Regulations on incorporating research outputs into written theses
- A full [rationale](#) for allowing research outputs to be incorporated into written theses at UWE is also available
- There is a [7 minute video](#) for examiners on assessing candidates who submit theses that incorporate written research outputs

Why?

- 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 Awards of MPhil and PhD (Handbook Part 1)

- Written theses for these awards can include research outputs ([PGR1.2.1](#))
- A variety of written research outputs can be incorporated into a written 'body of work' to be assessed ([PGR1.2.2](#), [PGR1.2.3](#))
- Research outputs incorporated into the body of work to be assessed must have been produced during the period of registration for the award ([PGR1.2.1](#))

MPhil/PhD and Qualification Descriptors [\(Handbook Part 2\)](#)

- For research degrees the focus is on demonstrating that the candidate and their work meet the Qualification Descriptors [PGR2.2.1R](#) and [PGR2.3.1R](#)

MPhil/PhD and Preparation of Final Thesis [\(Part 13\)](#)

- For MPhil and PhD there are maximum word counts that are slightly greater if written research outputs are included ([PGR13.9](#)) and some guidance on general structure ([PGR13.10.1](#))

MPhil/PhD Preparation of Final Thesis [\(Handbook Part 13\)](#)

- 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 [\(PGR 13.10.3\)](#).
- 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 [\(PGR 13.12\)](#)
- It is ‘the body of work’ that can include written research outputs.

To 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.

For further information:

- See the Graduate School Handbook.
- Talk to your supervisory team
- Get advice from the Director of PG Research in your Faculty.
- Email research.degrees@uwe.ac.uk