



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Academic Regulations for Research Awards

2024/25



**DOCTORAL
SCHOOL**

**Doctoral School
Research & Knowledge Exchange Directorate**

Contents

1. Application of the Regulations4

2. Research Awards of the University of Salford	5
3. Admission	6
4. Supervision	7
5. Advisers	8
6. Registration.....	9
7. Duration	10
8. Transfer of Candidature to another Research Award.....	11
9. Ethics	12
10. Training	13
11. Study Away from the University	14
12. Progression and Assessment of Candidature	15
13. Academic Appeal and Complaints	17
14. Interruptions of Study	18
15. Extensions of Candidature.....	19
16. Academic and Research Misconduct.....	20
17. Full-time Students: extraneous work	21
18. Students by Submission of Published Works: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) only.....	22
19. Presentation of Thesis	23
20. Appointment of Examiners.....	24
21. Examination of the Thesis and Student.....	25
22. Recommendations by the Board of Examiners	26
23. Re-examination following a Resubmission Outcome	31
24. Completion of Award	32
25. Posthumous Awards.....	33
26. Higher Doctorate Degrees at the University of Salford – Doctor of Science (DSc) and Doctor of Letters (DLitt)	34
Appendices	36

1. Application of the Regulations

- 1.1 The Academic Regulations for Research Programmes (Regulations) shall apply in their entirety to all research programmes of the University of Salford, irrespective of the site of delivery.
- 1.2 The Regulations in force at the time of a student's annual (re)registration shall be those for that academic year, unless specified otherwise within the Regulations. This includes return following Interruption of Studies.
- 1.3 The Regulations are reviewed annually and changes approved through Senate, coming into effect at the start the next academic year. The University reserves the right to introduce changes to the Regulations where it considers these to be in the best interests of the students and/or where required by law.
- 1.4 Senate may approve Emergency Regulations if the University, because of exceptional circumstances beyond its reasonable control, is unable to apply the Regulations as approved for an academic year. The Emergency Regulations shall set out modifications to the approved Regulations which shall apply to all students.

2. Research Awards of the University of Salford

2.1 Research Awards of the University shall be conferred by Senate and may only be awarded to students who have followed and completed a research programme of the University of Salford.

2.2 The Research Awards of the University and their level within The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies are set out below:

Doctoral (level 8)	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Engineering Doctorate (EngD) Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)
Doctoral Level including accredited Taught/Modular/Practice element: Professional Doctorates (level 8)	Professional Doctorate (DProf) Doctor of the Built Environment (DBEnv) Doctor of Real Estate (DRealEst) Doctor of Construction Management (DConsMgt)
Master's Level (level 7)	Master of Philosophy (MPhil) Master of Science (by research) (MSc) Master of Laws (LLM)
Higher Doctorates	Doctor of Letters (DLitt) Doctor of Science (DSc)
Honorary Doctorate	Determined by Honorary Degrees Committee

2.3 The University determines the methods by which a student may proceed to a Research Award. Those methods are set out for each Research Award in Table A.

3. Admission

- 3.1 An application for admission to a Research Award shall, in the first instance, be submitted on the prescribed form to the relevant school in which the applicant wishes to study ('the school'). A decision to admit will be made by the school in liaison with the University's Central Admissions Team.
- 3.2 All applicants to whom an offer may be made will be interviewed by at least one member of the prospective supervisory team or other appropriate person(s), as determined by the Dean.
- 3.3 The school will determine admission of a student for a Research Award on the basis of their application and interview.
- 3.4 The Associate Dean Research and Innovation or nominee must be satisfied of the applicant's general suitability to undertake the course of further study and research.
- 3.5 The school may admit an applicant as a part-time student provided that it is satisfied that the student is able to devote time to their programme of further study and research. International students studying in the UK on a Student Route visa cannot be registered on a part-time degree.
- 3.6 For a Doctoral Level award the student would normally have:
 - i) a Bachelor's degree with an Honours classification of Upper Second or First or;
 - ii) a Postgraduate Diploma or Master's degree or;
 - iii) an academic or professional qualification incorporating study at least comparable to 120 credits at level 7 of The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) or;
 - iv) an equivalent level of attainment to (i) above through a combination of certified or experiential learning.
- 3.7 For a Master's level award the student must have:
 - i) a Bachelor's degree with an Honours classification of Upper Second or First or;
 - ii) an academic or professional qualification incorporating study at least comparable to 120 credits at level 6 of The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ), with a level of achievement equivalent to a Honours degree Lower Second or above or;
 - iii) a Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate with a level of achievement equivalent to a Honours degree Lower Second or above or;
 - iv) an equivalent level of attainment to 3.7.i, by means of a combination of certified and experiential learning.

4. Supervision

- 4.1 The School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee (SREIC) is responsible for making arrangements for the provision of adequate supervision, guidance and training and, with the support of the relevant Dean of School, equipment and facilities for each student admitted to study in the School.
- 4.2 At the time of admission, the School will appoint an appropriately qualified member of the staff who holds a contract of employment from the University of Salford as a Primary or Joint Supervisor for the student. A Primary or Co-Supervisor may be from a school other than the home School if the nature of the research is interdisciplinary or relevant expertise lay in another School.¹
- 4.3 The Primary/Joint Supervisor(s) are responsible for supervising, monitoring and reporting the student's progression and be in a position to provide continuous supervision for the candidature.
- 4.4 At least the Primary, or one of the Joint, Supervisor(s) must hold a PhD. The Co-supervisor(s) is not required to hold a PhD.
- 4.5 The supervisor(s) for academic staff students may not be the student's line manager.
- 4.6 Staff members undertaking a staff PhD may not also act as a supervisor.
- 4.7 At the time of admissions, the school will appoint a supervisory team that will consist of at least two supervisors.
- 4.8 In the Professional Doctorate award, the Supervisor(s) will be appointed at the time of Transfer to the Research Component.
- 4.9 The proposed Supervisors must declare any potential conflict of interest to the School Associate Dean Research and Innovation or Dean of School.
- 4.10 At the time of admission, the School will appoint a Personal Tutor who will be a member of University of Salford academic staff and will provide pastoral guidance. The Personal Tutor may not also act as Supervisor to the student.
- 4.11 The SREIC is responsible for monitoring, especially in the event of staffing changes potentially impacting on supervision, the provision of adequate supervision, guidance and training and, with the support of the relevant Dean of School, equipment and facilities for each student to study in the School.
- 4.12 Supervisors may only take on supervision of new students if they have completed supervisor training within the last 3 years.
- 4.13 Any exceptions to the criteria for the supervisory team must be approved by the Dean of School, Associate Dean Research & Innovation (or equivalent) and ratified by the School Research, Enterprise & Innovation Committee.

¹ Appropriately qualified in this context means that the Primary, or at least one of the Joint, supervisor(s) must hold a PhD.

5. Advisers

- 5.1 The School may additionally support a student by the appointment of an Adviser; a subject specialist external to the School who can provide academic and/or professional guidance on certain aspects of a student's field of study.
- 5.2 A student studying split site will always have a Local Adviser appointed. The University of Salford will identify the Local Adviser, who may not be a subject specialist, as part of the admissions process.
- 5.3 A student permitted to undertake part of their programme of study away from the University may also have a Local Adviser appointed.

6. Registration

6.1 A student shall register within two weeks of the programme start date as defined in the terms and conditions for students. If a student passes all progression points, they shall re-register annually thereafter until their period of study is completed.

6.2 A student who fails to register during the appointed time shall have their candidature withdrawn.

6.3 If an Interruption of Study has been agreed by the University, the registration requirement is suspended for the duration of the Interruption.

7. Duration

- 7.1 The programme of study and research will be undertaken over continuous period unless the Associate Dean Research and Innovation or nominee recommends an interruption, per the [Student Interruption and Withdrawal Policy](#).
- 7.2 The minimum and, where applicable, maximum duration of the period of study is as set out for each Research Award in Table B. Reduced Candidature of up to a maximum of 12 months may be agreed by the PGR Director prior to registration. Students who have registered with APEL (Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning) may begin candidacy from the second academic year of Doctoral Level study.
- 7.3 A split site student should spend the equivalent of at least one third of the minimum duration of this period of study in the University of Salford and should be present for the three assessment points.
- 7.4 Any reductions to the minimum study duration must be approved by the SREIC.

8. Transfer of Candidature to another Research Award

- 8.1 A Masters Level student may be transferred to a Doctoral Level award, subject to the recommendation of the SREIC and the approval of the Postgraduate Research Awards Board (PRAB) prior to the presentation of the thesis. Where such a transfer is permitted the candidature for the previous Award shall be deemed to have been terminated.
- 8.2 A Doctoral Level student may be transferred to an alternative award subject to the recommendation of the SREIC and approval of the PRAB.
- 8.3 Where such a transfer is required or permitted, the candidature for the PhD shall be deemed to have been terminated. Any completed period of study is recognised as a period of study for the alternative research award.

9. Ethics

- 9.1 Before a postgraduate research student undertakes any primary data collection or analysis it is necessary for them to have an ethics application in receipt of a Favourable Opinion outcome.
- 9.2 All Doctoral Level students must have an ethics application in receipt of a Favourable Opinion outcome prior to the Internal Evaluation.
- 9.3 On receipt of a Favourable Opinion outcome, students must retain a copy to present at assessments.
- 9.4 An exception applies to students of a PhD by Published Work, whose existing ethics application(s) and outcomes for the published works that they intend to form their thesis, should be presented at prima facie for consideration (see Guidance on Ethical Principles for Prima Facie Assessment of PhD by Published Work).
- 9.5 Students who do not comply with the Academic Ethics Policy will be unable to progress with their studies.

10. Training

- 10.1 All Doctoral Level students (level 8) must complete the 1st year PGR cohort Training Programme before their Internal Assessment.
- 10.2 In exceptional circumstances, such as extensive prior experience or equivalent previous training, supervisors may request students are made exempt from a given training session. Approval for such requests are made to and given by the Postgraduate Research Director in the student's school. Exemptions are not made for Induction, Ethics Training, and Data Management Training.
- 10.3 For Level 7 students, only Induction, Ethics, and Data Management Training sessions are compulsory.

11. Study Away from the University

- 11.1 A student may be permitted by the SREIC to undertake part of their programme of further study and research elsewhere than in the University, provided that:
- i) the student spends the equivalent of 4 months of study for full-time (2 months for part-time) in the University per year.
 - ii) the institution or place away from the University is considered appropriate by the SREIC. Including provision of adequate facilities equivalent to the minimum that would be provided at the University of Salford. This will be confirmed in writing through the Local Adviser.
 - iii) the Supervisor has adequate authority and facilities for ensuring the institution or place away from the University allows for effective supervision.
- 11.2 Where a student is permitted to undertake part of their programme of further study and research elsewhere than in the University:
- i) the SREIC may approve a Local Adviser; *and*
 - ii) the Supervisor shall report annually to the SREIC on the supervision given to the student in the previous year.
- 11.3 The SREIC and the Dean of School may, in exceptional circumstances, on the recommendation of the Supervisor, permit a student to spend the whole of the minimum duration of their period of study and research at an institution other than the University, provided that:
- i) the SREIC and the Dean of School are satisfied that adequate facilities (including a person suitable for appointment as an Adviser) are available to the student at the proposed place of research; *and*
 - ii) the conditions with regard to the appropriateness of the institution, the supervisory arrangements and the adequacy of the authority and facilities extended to the Supervisor to visit the student are fulfilled.
- 11.4 Students may study off-campus with facilities provided through an approved agreement with another institution, as defined in the *Collaborative Provision Policy and Procedures* for split site and students without residence, subject to compliance with [National Security in Research Policy](#) and any licence requirements.
- 11.5 Students for the Award of Engineering Doctorate (EngD) will be required to spend an appropriate period interacting with the company or other sponsoring body associated with the study. Typically, this takes the format of a placement year in industry.

12. Progression and Assessment of Candidature

- 12.1 The SREIC shall monitor the progress of students. The University, through the Postgraduate Research Awards Board (PRAB) shall review and ratify decisions on progression and award.
- 12.2 The Learning Agreement must be completed within the first 3 months of student by the supervisors and students. The Learning Agreement must be reviewed at each progression point and following any change to the supervisory team or research focus.
- 12.3 A minimum of 12 documented student-supervisor meetings are required per academic year of study for full-time students and 6 per year for part-time students. For students working away from campus, such documented meetings can be held via telephone or Microsoft Teams.
- 12.4 A student seeking to transfer from a Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Master of Science (MSc) or Master of Laws (LLM) to a Doctoral Level award may also request a Transfer Assessment via a Change Request Form. This does not apply to sponsored or international students.

Annual Reports

- 12.5 An Annual Progress Report will be completed by the Primary Supervisor prior to re-registration, or to the completion phase.
- 12.6 An Annual Self-Evaluation Report is completed by the student prior to re-registration or to the completion phase.
- 12.7 The Annual Self-Evaluation Report shall inform the SREIC of the student's progress.

Assessment 1: Interim Assessment (IA)

- 12.8 The Interim Assessment shall take place between:
 - months 9-11 of a full-time candidature
 - months 15-20 of a part-time candidature
 - months 15-20 of a 5+2 Professional Doctorate
 - months 21-23 of a 6+1 Professional Doctorate
- 12.9 Failure to submit the Interim Assessment report and attend the assessment within the prescribed timeframe will be registered as a failed attempt unless personal mitigating circumstances (PMCs) are in place.
- 12.10 Students must submit the Interim Assessment report via Turnitin to perform a similarity check. This must be submitted with the assessment report.
- 12.11 Students not in receipt of a Favourable Opinion outcome on their research's ethics application by the Interim Assessment must submit a statement of the status of the ethics application, with the anticipated timeline, along with their assessment documentation.
- 12.12 The assessment panel shall comprise two appropriately qualified members of staff independent to the supervisory team.
- 12.13 If the student does not pass the assessment, a repeat Interim Assessment will be held:
 - no later than 1 month after the original Interim Assessment for full time candidature
 - no later than 3 months after the original Interim Assessment for part time candidature
- 12.14 Failure to successfully complete the repeat Interim Assessment will result in transfer or withdrawal and termination of candidature as approved by SREIC and PRAB.

Assessment 2: Internal Evaluation (IE)

- 12.15 The Internal Evaluation shall take place between:
- months 21-23 of a full-time candidature
 - months 35-40 of a part-time candidature
 - months 35-40 of a 5+2 Professional Doctorate
 - months 45-47 of a 6+1 Professional Doctorate
- 12.16 Once the supervisor(s) have confirmed a date within the prescribed timeframes given in 11.4, students must submit their Internal Evaluation report and attend the assessment. Failure to do so will be registered as a failed attempt unless personal mitigating circumstances (PMCs) are in place. Failure by the supervisor(s) to make examination arrangements will not result in a failed attempt.
- 12.17 Students must submit the Internal Evaluation report via Turnitin to perform a similarity check.
- 12.18 Students must submit a copy of their Favourable Opinion outcome on their ethics application with the Interim Evaluation report. In cases where students undertake distinct pieces of research that have separate review processes (e.g. phased projects), all planned and undertaken work must be in receipt of a Favourable Opinion outcome by Internal Evaluation.
- 12.19 If the student does not pass the assessment, a repeat Internal Evaluation will be held:
- no later than 3 months after the original Internal Evaluation for full time candidature
 - no later than 6 months after the original Internal Evaluation for part time candidature
- 12.20 Failure to successfully complete the repeat Internal Evaluation will result in transfer or withdrawal and termination of candidature as approved by the SREIC and PRAB. A student may additionally request to transfer at any time outside of assessment.
- 12.21 For any resubmission, at the end of the Internal Evaluation a final report is prepared by the panel for consideration by the Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee (REIC) and the PRAB. One of three recommendations may be made:
- Progression of candidature
 - Transfer to another Research Award: where such a transfer is required the candidature for the Doctoral Level award shall be deemed to have been terminated and the period of study for the Doctoral level Award may be recognised as a period of study for the other award
 - Termination of candidature

Reduced Candidature

- 12.22 Where Reduced Candidature has been agreed, the timing of Assessment 1: Interim Assessment is adjusted accordingly, meaning study commences at the start of Year 2.
- 12.23 Where Reduced Candidature has been agreed, thesis submission is at the end of Year 2 (equivalent for part-time candidature).

13. Academic Appeal and Complaints

- 13.1 A student has the right to appeal against the decision of the University. An appeal is lodged via the University's [Academic Appeals Procedure](#).
- 13.2 A student has the right to submit a complaint about University services, for example supervision, feedback or any other aspect of service. Such a complaint should be lodged via the University's [Student Complaints Procedure](#).

14. Interruptions of Study

- 14.1 A student may apply for an interruption to their programme of study for any current mitigating circumstances preventing continuation of studies (retrospective interruption cannot be applied under any circumstances).
- 14.2 The period of any approved interruption shall be between a minimum of 3 months and 12 months (normally taken in 3-month blocks) and exceptionally (at School discretion) up to 2 years.
- 14.3 Students may return to study earlier than their planned interruption period if they are able to do so. A period of interruption is not included in the student's duration of study. A new, later completion date will apply upon their return to study. An Interruption of Study is distinct from an Extension of Study.
- 14.4 At the time a student interrupts study, the student is not registered as a student and cannot access any of the facilities of registered students during this period.
- 14.5 An amendment to existing ethics review may be required on return from Interruption.²
- 14.6 If an export licence has been issued for the research, an amendment to any end dates provided on the licence application may be required. The supervisor and/or student should consult the export licence agreement and liaise with the Research Governance Manager (RE-export-NSI@salford.ac.uk) to make, confirm or discuss changes. Research may not continue until this has been confirmed.

² Individual cases should be discussed with the Ethics & Research Governance Team as multiple or extended Interruptions of Study may require a new ethics application to be submitted, e.g. if the research was time sensitive.

15. Extensions of Candidature

- 15.1 In exceptional circumstances the SREIC may recommend to the Postgraduate Research Awards Board that the student should be granted an extension of candidature. The recommendation will include the final date for submission, after which the submission will not be permitted.³ The request for an extension of candidature is approved in principle by the PGRD and ratified by PRAB. The extension, or the period for which it applies, is not confirmed until ratified by PRAB.
- 15.2 An extension request must be submitted at least 6 months before the end of the candidature, unless the circumstances that form the ground for the request happen within the last 6 months of the candidature. In any case the request must be submitted as soon as reasonable after the occurrence of the circumstances and there is no guarantee it will be granted.
- 15.3 Ethics applications in receipt of a Favourable Opinion may require an amendment to the end date where an Extension of Candidature has been granted.
- 15.4 If an export licence has been issued for the research, an amendment to any end dates provided on the licence application may be required. The supervisor and/or student should consult the export licence agreement and liaise with the Research Governance Manager (RE-export-NSI@salford.ac.uk) to make, confirm or discuss changes. Research may not continue until this has been confirmed.

³ There are visa implications for international candidates studying in the UK on a Student Route visa who are granted interruptions of study or an extension of study period. Candidates must consult with their supervisory team and the Home Office Compliance Team to discuss the implications of an interruption or extension on their visa.

16. Academic and Research Misconduct

- 16.1 Any attempt by a student to gain an unfair advantage in assessment leading to a research award shall be deemed academic misconduct.
- 16.2 Cases of suspected academic misconduct in assessment shall be considered in accordance with the [Academic Misconduct Procedure](#). This procedure provides for the most serious cases of academic misconduct to be referred for consideration under either the [Student Disciplinary Procedure](#) or the [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#).
- 16.3 The [Academic Misconduct Procedure](#), the [Student Disciplinary Procedure](#) and the [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#) shall set out the arrangements for investigating alleged academic misconduct and for applying penalties to progression.
- 16.4 Research Misconduct by Doctoral Level students is as defined in the Research Misconduct Policy. Allegations of research misconduct by Doctoral Level students are assessed against the Research Misconduct Policy and progressed through the Academic Misconduct Procedure.

17. Full-time Students: extraneous work

- 17.1 Students are required to devote the majority of their time to their programme of further study and research.
- 17.2 The amount of time devoted to work outside of study by Full Time students may not exceed a maximum of 20 hours per week during term time. Different conditions apply to Scholarship Students and the Terms & Conditions should be consulted. Different conditions apply to students on the Student Route Visa and regulations should be consulted prior to undertaking work.
- 17.3 Students undertaking teaching duties are individually responsible for ensuring that these duties do not prevent them from progressing their research and for keeping their supervisor(s) informed.

18. Students by Submission of Published Works: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) only

- 18.1 The candidature for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Published Works follows a successful prima facie assessment. Prima facie assessment is undertaken by an independent panel consisting of the Dean of School/their representative, the PGR Director and proposed supervisor.
- 18.2 At the time of formal registration, the SREIC shall make arrangements for the supervision of the student in line with other PhD students.
- 18.3 The registration of the student shall be for a maximum of 12 months up to the submission of the thesis, plus 12 months for examination, completion and award.
- 18.4 For such a student, the provisions of all other relevant regulations applicable to the PhD, including Examination shall apply. The published works are treated as a thesis for the purposes of interpreting the *Regulations*.

19. Presentation of Thesis

- 19.1 The student must submit Notice of Presentation (NoP) at least 2 months before the intended date of viva voce. On receipt of the NoP, the SREIC will request the Supervisor to confirm that they have completed all requisite documentation.
- 19.2 A student may present a thesis any time after the minimum duration of their period of study. Completion and ratification must take place not more than 1 year (2 years for part time students) from the the minimum period.
- 19.3 Exceptionally, if the Primary Supervisor is unable to complete the requisite progression documentation as detailed in the Regulations, Supervisor Handbook and Supervisor Role Descriptor (e.g. due to illness) then the Associate Director Research & Innovation or nominee may do so.
- 19.4 The content of thesis shall be in the English language, unless the subject of the thesis is a language other than English and has been approved by the PRAB.
- 19.5 Material which has been included in a thesis, portfolio or report submitted in support of a successful application for a degree or qualification of any Higher Education Institution shall not be embodied in the thesis presented for Research Award, except such material:
- 19.6 If unpublished, may be reported in sufficient detail to enable the work done during and for the purpose of the programme of further student and research to be fairly evaluated;
- 19.7 If published, may be mentioned for purposes of reference in the same way as publications by other workers. In either case the fact of the previous submission of such material shall be made clear at all relevant points in the thesis;
- 19.8 May be included in a thesis presented for the award of Doctor of the Built Environment/Real Estate/Construction Management (DBEnv/DRealEst/DConsMgt) where this has previously been submitted in support of a PgCert, PgDip or Taught Master's Award within the same programmed (and, in the case of the latter named Award, the student has re-joined the programme within 3 years of achieving the Award).
- 19.9 The copyright of the thesis as a literary work is invested in the student except in certain circumstances which are set out in the *Intellectual Property Policy*.
- 19.10 At the time of presentation, the student shall be required to provide written confirmation that the thesis is their own work, undertaken while on their programme of study. The supervisor shall be required to countersign.
- 19.11 The contents of the thesis are prescribed by the specific programme of study, as detailed in the Code of Practice for the Conduct of Postgraduate Research Degree Programmes.

20. Appointment of Examiners

- 20.1 On receipt of Notice of Presentation (NoP) from the student, the PGR Director or Associate Dean of Research and Innovation within the student's school will appoint the Board of Examiners.
- 20.2 The PGR Director and/or Associate Dean Research and Innovation of the student's school is responsible for ensuring that all examiners are appropriately qualified, in terms of knowledge and expertise relevant to the subject of the thesis, and independent.
- 20.3 The Board of Examiners will comprise at least two examiners, one of whom shall be external to the University.
- 20.4 The Board of Examiners for staff candidates will comprise at least two external examiners.
- 20.5 Any internal member of the Board of Examiners shall not have formed part of the student's supervisory arrangements during the candidature or a member of their Assessment 2: Internal Evaluation Panel. In exceptional circumstances, where the pool of colleagues available in the appropriate discipline is limited, the School PGR Director may approve the appointment of an assessor who took part in the Assessment 2: Internal Evaluation Panel.
- 20.6 For the Award of Engineering Doctorate (EngD), the SREIC, on behalf of the School Executive shall appoint two external Examiners of whom one shall be a technical specialist and one a business specialist. The SREIC also appoint one internal Examiner.
- 20.7 For viva voce examinations, an Independent Chair shall be appointed. The Independent Chair shall be a member of University staff, from a directorate different to that of the student's supervisor, who has no academic involvement in the student's programme of study.

21. Examination of the Thesis and Student

- 21.1 The Examiners shall examine the thesis, report or portfolio presented by the student using the assessment criteria (Table C).
- 21.2 The internal examiner will submit the thesis to Turnitin to perform a similarity check. Where the student is to be examined by 2 external examiners the School Postgraduate Research Director (or their nominee) will perform the similarity check. The Originality Report from Turnitin must be submitted with your assessment.
- 21.3 For the viva voce, Examiners shall complete a pre-oral examination report, which must be submitted to the University prior to the commencement of the examination. Under no circumstances may examiners discuss the thesis prior to submission of both pre-oral examinations.
- 21.4 The Independent Chair is responsible for the overview of the assessment process.

22. Recommendations by the Board of Examiners

- 22.1 The Examiners will report their recommendations to the PRAB.
- 22.2 The Examiners shall submit a Joint Examiner's Report.
- 22.3 The report of the Examiners will always be made available to the student and the supervisory team.
- 22.4 In their report the Examiners will make one recommendation as set out in Table E below.
- 22.5 The PRAB will select one decisions set out in Table F (Table F).
- 22.6 Where the examiners are unable to agree on their recommendation they will each separately submit an examiner's report and recommendation. The SREIC shall then appoint a further Examiner or Examiners at its discretion, replacing both, or either the internal or external Examiner(s).
- 22.7 Where major corrections are required both the internal and external examiner will review the revised thesis.
- 22.8 Where minor corrections are required, the revised thesis may be reviewed by either, or both the external or internal examiner and the need is determined by the examiners.

Table E – Recommendations by the Board of Examiners (Regulation 21)

Award	Recommendations
PhD EngD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) that the degree be awarded; or ii) that the degree be conditionally awarded subject to minor typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 3 months of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iii) that the degree be conditionally awarded subject to major typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 6 months of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iv) that the student be permitted to present a revised thesis within 12 months of the date of the original oral examination, and attend a further oral examination if required by the examiners after the corrections have been considered; or v) that the thesis is satisfactory but a further oral examination is required within 3 months of the date of the original oral examination; or vi) that the thesis be resubmitted for another (lower) award within 3 months; or vii) that the thesis does not satisfy the criteria for a postgraduate research award and the candidature be terminated.
DMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) that the degree be awarded; or ii) that the degree be conditionally awarded, subject to minor typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 3 months of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iii) that the degree be conditionally awarded subject to major typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 6 months of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iv) that the student be permitted to present a revised portfolio within 12 months of the date of the original oral examination, and attend a further oral examination if required by the examiners after the corrections have been considered; or v) that the portfolio is satisfactory but a further examination is required within 3 months of the date of the original examination; or vi) that the portfolio be resubmitted for another (lower) award within 3 months; or vii) that the portfolio does not satisfy the criteria for a postgraduate research award and the candidature be terminated.

--	--

Table E – Recommendations by the Board of Examiners (Regulation 21)

DProf DEnv DRealEst DConsMgt DBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) that the degree be awarded; or ii) that the degree be conditionally awarded subject to minor typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 3 months of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iii) that the degree be conditionally awarded subject to major typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 6 months of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iv) that the student be permitted to present a revised thesis within 12 months of the date of the original oral examination, and attend a further oral examination if required by the examiners after the corrections have been considered; or v) that the thesis is satisfactory but a further oral examination is required within 3 months of the date of the original oral examination; or vi) that the thesis be resubmitted for another (lower) award within 3 months; or vii) that the thesis does not satisfy the criteria for a postgraduate research award and the candidature be terminated. However such a student, having successfully completed the Taught (Modular) Element and having obtained 180 credits at Level 7, shall be referred to the appropriate Board of Examiners for Postgraduate Taught Awards and shall be eligible to be considered for the classification of Merit or Distinction.
---	--

MPhil MSc LLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) that the degree be awarded; or ii) that the degree be conditionally awarded subject to minor typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 4 weeks of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iii) that the degree be conditionally awarded subject to major typographical corrections and/or amendments to content which can be completed within 3 months of the date of the oral examination and which do not require a further oral examination; or iv) that the student be permitted to present a revised thesis within 6 months of the date of the original oral examination, and attend a further oral examination if required by the examiners after the corrections have been considered; or v) that the thesis is satisfactory but a further oral examination is required within 3 months of the date of the original oral examination; or vi) that the thesis does not satisfy the criteria for a postgraduate research award and the candidature be terminated.
--------------------------	--

Table F – Decisions of the Postgraduate Research Awards Board (Regulation 21)

Award	Decision
PhD EngD DMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) that the degree be awarded; ii) permit the student to present a revised thesis and to present themselves for examination again on a subsequent occasion with or without a further oral examination within 12 months; iii) permit the student to present themselves for a second oral examination or for a written examination within 3 months; iv) permit the thesis to be resubmitted for another (lower) award within 3 months; v) that the degree be not awarded and that the candidature be terminated.

DProf DBEnv DRealEst DConsMgt DBA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) that the degree be awarded; ii) permit the student to present a revised thesis and to present themselves for examination again on a subsequent occasion with or without a further oral examination within 12 months; iii) permit the student to present themselves for a second oral examination or for a written examination within 3 months; iv) permit the thesis to be resubmitted for another (lower) award within 3 months; v) that the degree be not awarded and that the candidature be terminated. However such a student, having successfully completed the Taught (Modular) Element and having obtained 180 credits at Level 7, shall be referred to the appropriate Board of Examiners for Postgraduate Taught Awards and shall be eligible to be considered for the classification of Merit or Distinction.
MPhil MSc LLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) that the degree be awarded; ii) permit the student to present a revised thesis and to present themselves for examination again on a subsequent occasion within 6 months; iii) permit the student to present themselves for a second oral examination or for a written examination within 3 months; iv) that the degree be not awarded and that the candidature be terminated.

23. Re-examination following a Resubmission Outcome

- 23.1 Where a student has received a resubmission outcome following examination, they are thus permitted to present a revised thesis, report or portfolio and to present themselves for examination again on a subsequent occasion ('re-examination'). The arrangements and regulations for the re-examination shall be as if the student were being examined for the first time.
- 23.2 Only the PRAB may excuse the student from further oral examination, on recommendation from the examiner(s).
- 23.3 Re-examination is subject to a fee of £200 per external examiner of Doctoral Awards and £150 per external examiner for Masters Awards. SA-PGR will request and receive this payment on confirmation of the re-examination outcome.
- 23.4 Any corrections required following the examination of the resubmitted thesis will be reviewed and approved by either or both of the examiners, as determined by the examiners.
- 23.5 Students for re-examination shall pay the re-examination fee prescribed at the time of giving Notice of Presentation for Revised Thesis.
- 23.6 A student who has failed in a re-examination shall not be permitted to present themselves for re-examination on a further occasion.

24. Completion of Award

- 24.1 The award may be conferred at any time by the PRAB after a report from the examiners.
- 24.2 An electronic copy of the thesis, report or portfolio of each student who has had conferred a Research Award must be deposited in the University of Salford's Institutional Repository (USIR).
- 24.3 With the agreement of their supervisor an Associate Dean(s) Research and Innovation, the author of a thesis deposited in USIR, may request that a moratorium be imposed for an initial period of not more than 2 years from the date the Award was conferred.⁴ The period of moratorium may be extended for further periods, each not exceeding 1 year, at the discretion of the SREIC. The total period of the moratorium may not exceed 5 years. A student wishing to request a moratorium on the thesis shall give notice of this request at the time of presentation of the thesis, report or portfolio.
- 24.4 The author will assign a Creative Commons licence at thesis deposit. The licence will come into effect at the end of the moratorium.

⁴ A moratorium will prevent the thesis being accessed and downloaded from USIR.

25. Posthumous Awards

- 25.1 The Postgraduate Research Awards Board may recommend to Senate that a posthumous award of a qualification be made for a deceased student in the following circumstances:
- a) after the thesis has been examined, or submitted for examination, but before the oral examination (where required) can be held. In such a case, the Postgraduate Research Awards Board shall consider the work presented and, provided that it is satisfied that the work is the student's own (by means of the receipt of reports from the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee and a member of the supervisory team), may decide to recommend that an award be made.
 - b) before submitting the thesis. In such a case, the Postgraduate Research Awards Board shall consider available evidence of the research work completed by the student. Normally, such evidence shall be supplied by a member of the student's supervisory team, who shall also submit a report for consideration by the Examiners. The School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee shall also submit a supporting recommendation regarding the award of the degree. The following criteria must also be satisfied:
 - i) enough of the thesis must have been completed to allow a proper assessment to be made of the scope of the thesis;
 - ii) the standard of the research work completed must be of that normally required for the award of the degree in question, and must demonstrate the student's grasp of the subject.

26. Higher Doctorate Degrees at the University of Salford – Doctor of Science (DSc) and Doctor of Letters (DLitt)

26.1 The Doctor of Science (DSc) and Doctor of Letters (DLitt) is awarded to graduates of the University, or members of staff, who are judged by external peers to have made an original and distinguished contribution to their field of research. These degrees have a higher standing than either a Master's degree or Doctorate and through the award recognize the authoritative standing of the students within their field.

26.2 The DSc and DLitt may be awarded to those who:

- have produced work of high distinction which constitutes original, sustained (not less than 7 years), and considerable scholarly impact, *and*
- have international leading distinction within the field of study, *and*
- have produced seminal publications in high impact journals or equivalent.

Eligibility	Member of University of Salford staff with at least three years' service and a recognised Bachelors, Masters or Doctoral degree awarded by another University; or a graduate of the University of Salford not less than 8 years standing from admission to their first degree.
Admission	<p><u>Application</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications shall be made to the Director of Postgraduate Research and shall include: a list of the published works which the student is submitting, a summary with commentary of the work upon which the candidature is to be based, and a brief CV. <p><u>Pre-registration Assessment (Prima Facie)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application shall be forwarded by the Director of Postgraduate Research to the Dean of School appropriate to the field of study who shall convene an assessment panel to determine whether there is a prima facie case for proceeding with the application. • The assessment panel shall comprise of the Dean of School and the Associate Dean of Research (or their nominees). <p><u>Registration</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon a successful prima facie assessment and the payment of the required registration fees, the applicant will be registered as a Higher Doctorate student.
Preparation for Submission	The Director of Postgraduate Research, in consultation with the Dean of School appropriate to the field of study, will allocate a University adviser to the student to provide guidance on the next stage of submission.
Duration	A formal submission must be made within 3 months of being registered.
Formal Submission	The student shall submit electronic copies of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. up to ten selected published works 2. critical commentary of up to 10,000 words describing the student's research career, how they have established their research reputation, and how the criteria for the degree are met, 3. a statement outlining the extent to which the works are based on the student's own independent work; an indication as to the extent that the work was produced jointly and the clear quantitative and/or qualitative apportioning of the extent of the sharing of the work; and statements by those with whom work was shared agreeing that apportioning, and 4. a statement whether any of the published works have been submitted for an award at this or any other university.

	The University shall retain the submitted copies.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Director of Postgraduate Research, on the advice of the relevant Dean of School, shall appoint three external expert examiners in the relevant discipline(s). The panel will normally include examiners of international standing: 2 international examiners are preferred, but at least 1 is mandatory • The examiners shall recommend by unanimous decision to the Postgraduate Research Award Board whether the evidence submitted demonstrates excellence in academic scholarship and merits the award against the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research is of the absolute highest quality; - Is substantial in scale and in the contribution it has made to knowledge; - Is authoritative, being able to demonstrate impact on the work of others; - Is of global research and international importance within the field - Of such breadth or covering branches of knowledge appropriate to the field and in line with disciplinary norms and expectations
Appeal	A student shall have the right to appeal against the decision of the University, through the Postgraduate Research Awards Board. Such an appeal should be lodged under the University's 'Academic Appeals Procedure'.

Appendices

Table A – Research Awards of the University

Research Award	Methods of Proceeding to a Research Award
PhD	<p>A student may proceed to the Doctor of Philosophy Award (PhD) by following a programme of research or a programme of advanced study and research and submitting either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) a thesis; or ii) in the case of musical composition, a folio of compositions plus a reduced thesis/critical commentary; or iii) in the case of creative (, the presentation of a body of works also recorded in permanent form plus a reduced thesis/critical commentary; or iv) in the case of creative writing, the presentation of a body of works also recorded in permanent form plus a reduced thesis/critical commentary/poetics; or v) in the case of media arts, a folio of films and/or videos written and/or directed by the student. In the case of creative arts, the exact format of submission (volume of works, portfolio and/or exhibition) shall be specified in special regulations for the programme of study; or vi) by submission of published works. Works submitted for the PhD shall normally consist of papers, chapters, research reports or other publications and must be accompanied by a critical review of up to 15,000 words. The publications should normally have been peer reviewed.
EngD	<p>A student may proceed to the Engineering Doctorate Award (EngD) by following a programme of advanced study and research in which all students will be required to show evidence of satisfactory progress and an ability to proceed with the programme in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) research, by, at the end of the first year, the submission of a substantial written report and by performance satisfactory to the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee at an oral examination conducted by the academic supervisor, industrial supervisor, Dean of School (or his /her representative) and Pro-Vice Chancellor of Research (or their representative), and by the submission of an annual report thereafter, and ii) the taught elements of the programme by satisfactory attendance and examination performance as prescribed by the special regulations for the programme.

Table A – Research Awards of the University (Regulations 2, 8 and 9)	
Research Award	Methods of Proceeding to a Research Award
DMA	A student may proceed to the Doctor of Musical Arts Award (DMA) by completing a series of projects that demonstrate excellence and artistic stature, integrating high levels of professional practice and research. Students will be required to submit a portfolio of evidence supported by a thesis.
DProf (Professional Doctorate)	<p>A student may proceed to the DProf Award by following a programme of advanced study and research in which all students will be required to show evidence of satisfactory progress and an ability to proceed with the programme in:</p> <p>a) Firstly, the Taught (Modular) Element of the programme by attendance and assessment as prescribed by the University's Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes and the Special Regulations for the programme. The Taught (Modular) Element of the programme shall comprise 180 credits at Level 7 and shall have the same structure and be subject to the same Taught Regulations as other Taught Master's Programmes of the University. A student registered on a Professional Doctorate who has obtained at least 60 credits at Level 7 but less than 120 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate. A student registered on a Professional Doctorate who has obtained at least 120 credits at Level 7 but less than 180 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma.</p> <p>b) Secondly, by a programme of integrated research and professional practice and the submission of a thesis.</p> <p>c) Students wishing to exit the programme after the completion of the Taught (Modular) Element and having obtained 180 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded a Taught Master's Award. Such students shall be eligible to be considered for the classification of Merit or Distinction. Such students will normally have the option to re-join the programme within 1 year.</p>
DBEnv DRealEst DConsMgt (Professional Doctorate)	<p>A student may proceed to the Doctor of the Built Environment/Real Estate/Construction Management awards by following a programme of advanced study and research in which all students will be required to show evidence of satisfactory progress and an ability to proceed with the programme in:</p> <p>a) Firstly, the Modular Element of the programme by attendance and assessment as prescribed by the University's Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes and the Special Regulations for the programme. The Modular Element of the programme shall comprise 180 credits at Level 7 and shall have the same structure and be subject to the same Taught Regulations as other Taught Master's Programmes of the University. A student registered for a Doctor of the Built Environment/Real Estate/Construction Management who has obtained at least 60 credits at Level 7 but less than 120 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in the Built Environment. A student registered for a Doctor in the Built Environment who has obtained at least 120 credits at Level 7 but less than 180 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Built Environment Research.</p> <p>b) Secondly, by a programme of integrated research and professional practice and the submission of a thesis.</p> <p>c) Students wishing to exit the programme after the completion of the Modular Element and having obtained 180 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded an MSc or MRes in Built Environment Research (a Taught Master's Award). Such students shall be eligible to be considered for the classification of Merit or Distinction and will have the option to re-join the programme within 3 years.</p>

DBA (Professional Doctorate)	<p>A student may proceed to the Doctor of Business Administration award by following a programme of advanced study and research in which all students will be required to show evidence of satisfactory progress and an ability to proceed with the programme in:</p> <p>a) Firstly, the Modular Element of the programme by attendance and assessment as prescribed by the University's Academic Regulations for Taught Programmes and the Special Regulations for the programme. The Modular Element of the programme shall comprise 180 credits at Level 7 and shall have the same structure and be subject to the same Taught Regulations as other Taught Master's Programmes of the University. A student registered for a Doctor of Business Administration who has obtained at least 60 credits at Level 7 but less than 120 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Introduction to Management Research. A student registered for a Doctor of Business Administration who has obtained at least 120 credits at Level 7 but less than 180 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Research Methodology in Management.</p> <p>b) Secondly, by a programme of integrated research and professional practice and the submission of a thesis. Students wishing to exit the programme after the completion of the Modular Element and having obtained 180 credits at Level 7 shall be awarded an MSc in Management Research. Such students shall be eligible to be considered for the classification of Merit or Distinction and will have the option to re-join the programme within 3 years.</p>
MPhil	<p>A student may proceed to the Master of Philosophy Award (MPhil) by following a programme of research, or a programme of advanced study and research, and submitting a thesis.</p>
MSc	<p>A student may proceed to the Master of Science Award (MSc) by following a programme of research, or a programme of advanced study and research, and submitting a thesis.</p>
LLM	<p>A student may proceed to the Master of Laws Award (LLM) by one of the following methods by following a programme of research, or a programme of advanced study and research, and submitting a thesis.</p>

Table B – Categories and Duration of Candidature (Regulations 2 and 6)			
The maximum duration of the period of study includes the time permitted for the maximum formal interruptions possible			
Award	Category of Candidature	Duration	Note
PhD DMA	(a) full-time	3 Years min 5 Years max	except where the student holds a Master's degree recognised for this purpose by the University or has been engaged for at least 1 year full-time on an approved programme of further study or research, the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may recommend that the minimum duration is reduced to not less than 2 years. In such circumstances Regulation 5(c) then applies in relation to the due recording and consideration of the admission decision and to the foregoing of the Assessment 1: Interim Assessment.
PhD DMA	(b) part-time	5 Years min 9 Years max	except where the student holds a Master's degree recognised for this purpose by Senate or has been engaged for at least 1 year full-time on an approved programme of further study or research or has furnished evidence of equivalent postgraduate experience, the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may reduce the minimum duration to not less than 3 years.
EngD	(a) full-time	4 Years min 6 Years max	except where the student holds a Master's degree recognised for this purpose by Senate or has been engaged for at least 1 year full-time on an approved programme of further study or research, the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may reduce the minimum duration to not less than 3 years.
DProf	(a) full-time	3 Years min 5 Years max	except where the student holds a Master's degree recognised for this purpose by Senate or has been engaged for at least 1 year full-time on an approved programme of further study or research, the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may reduce the minimum duration to not less than 2 years.
DProf DBEnv DRealEst DConsMgt DBA	(b) part-time	5 Years min 9 Years max	<p>except where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee that a student, who is a full-time or part-time member of academic staff of the University, will be able to conduct their programme of further study and research on a substantially full-time basis and will be substantially free from any other duties, the School Research and Enterprise Committee School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee than 3 years, except where the student holds a Master's degree recognised for this purpose by Senate or has been engaged for at least 1 year full-time on an approved programme of further study or research or has furnished evidence of equivalent postgraduate experience, the School Research and Enterprise Committee may reduce the minimum duration to not I School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee</p> <p>except where (i) above does not apply but the student holds a Master's degree recognised for this purpose by Senate or has been engaged for at least 1 year full-time on an approved programme of further study or research or has furnished evidence of equivalent postgraduate experience, the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may reduce the minimum duration to not less than 3 years.</p>
MPhil	(a) full-time	1 Year min 3 Years max	

MPhil	(b) part-time	2 Years min 5 Years max	
MSc LLM	(a) full-time	1 Year min 3 Years max	
MSc LLM	(b) part-time	2 Years min 5 Years max	
PhD by Published Works	All students	Year min Years max	Please refer to separate guidance available for the PhD by Published Works

Table C – Assessment Criteria (Regulation 19)

Award	The Examiners must ensure that the student meets the criteria consistent with the FHEQ guidelines for the appropriate level
PhD EngD DMA	i) that the student has demonstrated the ability to create and interpret new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship of a quality to satisfy peer review; and ii) that the student has demonstrated that the thesis is their own work; and iii) that the student has satisfied the Examiners in any oral examination; and iv) that in their opinion the thesis merits the Award.
DProf DBEnv DRealEst DConsMgt DBA	i) that the student has demonstrated the ability to create and interpret new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship of a quality to satisfy peer review; and ii) that the student has demonstrated that the thesis is their own work; and iii) that the student has satisfied the Examiners in any oral examination; and iv) that in their opinion the thesis merits the Award.
MPhil MSc LLM	i) that the student possesses a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of existing studies relevant to the subject of their thesis; ii) that the thesis gives evidence of sufficient experience in methods of research; iii) that the thesis contains a satisfactory statement of the purpose of the student's investigation and a critical discussion of the results; iv) that in their opinion the student merits the Award.

Table D – Examination of the Thesis and Student (Regulations 19 and 20)

Award	Requirement for Oral Examination	Other Provision
PhD EngD DProf DBEnv DRealEst DConsMgt DBA	The Examiners shall examine the student orally on the subject of the thesis and on the particular field of learning within which the subject of their thesis falls.	The oral examination shall be conducted jointly by the Examiners and shall take place in the University except in exceptional circumstances where the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may give permission for the oral examination to be held elsewhere than in the University. The Examiners may, at their discretion, require a student to present themselves for a written or practical examination or other test.
DMA	The Examiners shall examine the student orally on the subject of the portfolio and on the particular field of learning within which the subject of their portfolio falls.	The oral examination shall be conducted jointly by the Examiners and shall take place in the University except in exceptional circumstances where the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may give permission for the oral examination to be held elsewhere than in the University. Assessment will be based on the appropriate criteria for each component of the submitted portfolio. The Examiners may, at their discretion, require a student to present themselves for a written or practical examination or other test.
MPhil MSc LLM	The Examiners may at their discretion examine the student orally on the subject of the thesis and on the particular field of learning within which the subject of their thesis falls.	The oral examination, if any, shall be conducted jointly by the Examiners and shall take place in the University except that exceptional circumstances where the School Research, Enterprise and Innovation Committee may give permission for the oral examination to be conducted separately by the Examiners or for it to be held elsewhere than in the University. The Examiners may, at their discretion, require a student to present themselves for a written or practical examination or other test.