1. Introduction

1.1 Candidates may proceed under these regulations to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works. The University shall award this degree to registered candidates whose submitted work (i) forms a coherent body of research, (ii) is timely and current as determined by academic judgement, (iii) demonstrates the use of appropriate research methodology and (iv) meets the criteria for the Doctor of Philosophy as specified in the Regulations for Research Programmes of Study.

1.2 Research as defined for the purposes of the Research Excellence Framework is a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared. It includes work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce and industry, and to the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances, films, artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products and processes, including design and construction. For the purposes of this document, published work covers a range of research outputs including substantial or sole authorship of a book, chapters in books, papers/articles in refereed journals and exhibitions or performances of which a permanent record has been made. Only published work that is available and accessible in the public domain will be eligible for consideration.

2. Eligibility and Entry Requirements

2.1 The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works is intended for candidates who have developed their research skills to doctoral level and published extensively during the course of their careers inside or outside academia.

2.2 Candidates must be:

Graduates of normally at least seven years standing, normally holding a first or upper second class honours degree or equivalent experience. **(Note: a candidate does not need to be a Kent graduate to be able to apply for the Doctor of Philosophy by Published Works.)**

3. Admission

Admission to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works is a two stage process. Academic Schools are not obliged to offer the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on Published Works.

3.1 Stage 1 *(Prima facie assessment)*

3.1.1 Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works are required to undergo a *prima facie* assessment of their work prior to formal admission. This stage is used by the School to make a preliminary judgement as to the quality, coherence and timeliness of the publications intended for submission for the award of Doctor of Philosophy.

3.1.2 The *prima facie* assessment will be made by at least two members of the School with experience in the relevant subject area. The candidate may also be invited to attend an interview as part of the *prima facie* assessment process.
The following decisions will be open to the School:

i) To recommend that the candidate is eligible for admission to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works.

ii) To recommend that the candidate is not eligible for admission to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works. The candidate will not be eligible to reapply for 12 months following the date of the prima facie assessment decision.

iii) To recommend that the candidate is not eligible for admission to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works at this time, but advice may be given to the candidate which might, at a future date, lead to him/her passing the prima facie stage.

The School will complete the prima facie report form (see Appendix 1) and send this to the relevant Dean of the Faculty for consideration and approval. Final approval will be given by the Dean of the Graduate School.

In the case of recommendations ii and iii above, the School may also recommend that the candidate apply for a traditional programme of study leading to the award of Doctor of Philosophy.

Prima facie approval does not imply that the submission will ultimately merit the award of Doctor of Philosophy. The award of the degree will be determined via an examination as outlined in section 6 below.

The School will be required to recommend the length of the summary and supporting statement to accompany the Published Works for examination. This will normally be up to 12,000 words, but the School may recommend a longer summary and supporting statement (i.e. up to 30,000 words) to accompany the work for examination in cases where a candidate is submitting work that is practice-based or practice as research, such as performances or films. The word count must be recommended and approved as part of the application process.

Stage 2 (Formal application)

Candidates who pass the prima facie stage are eligible to progress to full registration. Candidates will be registered as part-time students for twelve months.

Published Works

Publications for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works shall normally consist of articles, chapters, books or other published work. Where appropriate to the discipline the publications could be expected to be peer reviewed. There is no minimum or maximum number of items of published work that should be submitted for this degree. The body of work submitted should represent an equivalent number of words/pages to that contained in a traditional submission for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, as set out in the Instructions to Candidates for the Examination of Research Degrees¹, and be of an equivalent quality.

The published work must (i) form a coherent body of research, (ii) be timely and current as determined by academic judgement, (iii) demonstrate the use of appropriate research methodology and (iv) meet the criteria for the Doctor of Philosophy in the Regulations for Research Programmes of Study.

¹ http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/regulations/index.html?tab=research-programmes
University of Kent

4.3 The published work submitted must be formally published or in press or otherwise in the public domain on the date of registration. Manuscripts of works not yet submitted for publication are ineligible for submission.

5. Supervision

5.1 Candidates for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works will require support and guidance on collating the material for submission and writing the overarching summary document (see section 6.1 below).

5.2 The supervisor appointed will be an academic member of staff experienced in the supervision of doctoral research (i.e. an approved Supervisory Chair).

5.3 The role of the supervisor will be to:

- guide the candidate in the selection of publications for inclusion in the submission;
- support and advise the candidate on the development of the summary document;
- advise the candidate on the organisation and coherence of the body of research work;
- interact with the candidate every four weeks during the period of registration to fulfil the supervisory requirements as outlined in Annex H (Supervision)\(^2\) of the Code of Practice for the Quality Assurance for Research Programmes of Study.

6. Examination

6.1 The submission of published works for examination should form a coherent description of a unified body of research. In addition to the published works, candidates are normally required to submit a summary and supporting statement of up to 12,000 words (see point 3.1.7 above) that:

- provides an introduction and conclusion to the submission that places the work in context;
- gives emphasis to significant findings and conclusions;
- establishes the linking hypothesis between the various topics covered by the published works;
- creates a theoretical framework or integrates theory relevant to the published works;
- indicates, in the case of work submitted under joint authorship, the contribution made by the candidate.

6.2 Where multi-authored works are included in the submission, candidates are required to submit evidence of their individual contribution to the work. A signed statement(s) should be provided from the co-authors, detailing and confirming the candidate’s contribution to the work.

6.3 Any material which the candidate has previously presented and which has been accepted for the award of an academic qualification at this University or elsewhere must be clearly identified in the thesis. Such material will be ignored by the examiners in deciding whether the candidate is worthy of the award of a degree.

\(^2\) [http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/research/annexh.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/research/annexh.html)

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6.4 The submission for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy based on published works will be examined in accordance with the Regulations for Research Degrees.

The examiners may recommend:

(a) the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy;
(b) the award of the degree subject to specific revisions of the summary and supporting statement within three months of examination;
(c) that the degree is not awarded. Any new application would require re-registration and a substantially new submission;
(d) the alternative exit award of a Master of Philosophy.

The work submitted for examination should be bound in accordance with the Instructions to Candidates for the Examination of Research Degrees.  

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