Regulatory Framework for Professional Doctorates

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# Introduction

1. Successful completion of courses subject to this framework will result in the award of Professional Doctorate.

2. Taught modules offered for credit as part of a course of study leading to the award of a professional doctorate are subject to the requirements of the [Credit Framework](https://www.kent.ac.uk/education/regulatory-framework/credit-framework) and the [Code of Practice for the Quality Assurance of Taught Courses of Study](https://www.kent.ac.uk/education/regulatory-framework/codes-of-practice-for-taught-courses).

3. The component elements of professional doctorate courses consisting of independent research study resulting in the production of a thesis are subject to the requirements of the [Regulations for Research Courses of Study](https://www.kent.ac.uk/education/regulatory-framework/academic-regulations-for-research-courses) and the [Code of Practice for the Quality Assurance of Research Courses of Study](https://www.kent.ac.uk/education/regulatory-framework/codes-of-practice-for-research-courses).

# Stages

4. The taught component and the research component of a professional doctorate course will be regarded as separate stages of the course.

5. The taught component of the course may consist of one or more stages. The minimum requirements for progression between the taught stages of the course will be as set out in the Credit Framework. Any additional requirements will be set out in the approved course specification.

# Progression

6. Students may be permitted to progress from the final taught stage of a course into the research stage while ‘trailing’ a number of failed credits, provided that:

1. the trailing of credits is not specifically denied in the relevant course specification; and
2. the proportion of trailed credit is not in excess of the limit established by the Credit Framework for ‘trailing’ credits (i.e. up to maximum 25% of the credits for the stage).

Credits trailed into the research stage of a course must be successfully retrieved by the candidate prior to the submission of the doctoral thesis for examination.

7. Students who complete the taught stage(s) of the course but fail to complete the research stage may be eligible for an alternative exit award provided that:

(i) the student has achieved the volume of credit required for the award; and

(ii) the outcomes for such an award are set out in the approved course specification for the Professional Doctorate and are consistent with the University’s existing requirements for such awards.

# Credit Requirements

8. The minimum credit requirements for the Professional Doctorate and any associated alternative exit awards will be as follows:

* Professional Doctorate: 540 credits (at least 180 credits at level 7 and at least 360 credits at level 8)
* MA/MSc/Master’s by Research: 180 credits (at least 150 credits at level 7)
* PGDip: 120 credits (at least 90 credits at level 7)
* PGCert: 60 credits (at least 40 credits at level 7)

For the duration of the taught component, the applicable regulations for students are the Credit Framework. When undertaking the research component, candidates are considered research students and the Research Regulations are applicable.

# Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

9. With regard to the application of RPL (see [Annex R](https://www.kent.ac.uk/education/regulatory-framework/codes-of-practice-for-taught-courses#annex-r)), the proportion of credit that might be awarded via this means will be determined with respect to the taught components of the course rather than with respect to the total credit value of the professional doctorate award.

# Transferring to a Different Course

10. Students who successfully complete the Master’s by Research may elect to transfer into a relevant PhD course rather than continue on the Professional Doctorate course.