

Academic Year 2024/25

Master of Laws (by Research)

Code: 5819 F/P

Notes:

- (i) *These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Regulations for Research Masters Degree Programmes.*

1. Programme Structure

- (a) The Master of Laws (by Research) programme is available for study in both full-time and part-time modes.
- (b) The period of study for full-time mode shall be a minimum of 12 months. The period of study for part-time mode shall be a minimum period of 24 months.
- (c) All candidates are required to complete the Law School's research training module LAW8152 *Applied Research Methods in Law*. For the purposes of the Master of Laws (by Research) programme LAW8152 is not a credit bearing module.

2. Progression

- (a) A candidate registered on the Master of Laws (by Research) programme shall comply with the University's requirements for progression, as follows:
- (i) Within 1 month of registering for the programme, the candidate and the supervisor shall have signed an approved learning agreement to cover the period of candidature;
- (ii) Candidates should submit project proposals within the guidelines identified by the HaSS Graduate School Committee, up to a maximum of three months from registration. The candidate's project proposal must be approved by an independent school panel and the Head of the Newcastle Law School, before being submitted for approval by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies. Where a candidate's project proposal has already been reviewed and approved by external peer review, a project plan and supervisory team list should still be submitted to the panel for approval before being submitted for approval by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies;
- (iii) Progression on the programme will be dependent upon acceptance of the project proposal. If, even after a re-assessment opportunity, the School panel does not approve the arrangements for the project it will be the annual progression panel that will be required to make a recommendation regarding the outcome for a candidate (see clause 2 (d));
- (iv) Candidates should submit reports and evidence of achievement as specified by the School or HaSS Graduate School Committee on an annual basis. Candidates may also be required to make a project presentation or submit a piece of work or to attend a viva as prescribed by the School. This material, along with reports from the supervisory team, will be considered as part of an annual submission to the progress panel for each candidate.

- (b) The School will appoint a progress panel for each candidate. The progress of each candidate will be reviewed annually, until submission of the thesis for examination although this requirement may be stayed at the discretion of the Dean of Postgraduate Studies if the candidate is ready to submit a thesis within the 12 month registration period.
- (c) The supervisory team shall submit an annual report concerning the progress of the candidate's research for review by the appointed progress panel.
- (d) The progress panel will make a report to the Dean of Postgraduate Studies and further progress on the programme of study is subject to approval by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies. In addition to detailed feedback that the progress panel may wish to provide to the candidate and the supervisory team, the progress panel will make one of the following recommendations:
 - (i) that the candidate's performance is satisfactory and that study for the Master of Laws (by Research) may continue;
 - (ii) that notwithstanding some concerns which the candidate and supervisory team should note, the candidate's overall performance is satisfactory and that the candidate may continue;
 - (iii) that the candidate's performance is unsatisfactory and that a further assessment should be held within two months to determine whether progress on the programme will be recommended;
 - (iv) that the candidate's performance is unsatisfactory and that no submission for a Master of Laws (by Research) examination is recommended, and that the candidate's candidature is terminated.

Note: The progress panel should not normally recommend that a candidate's registration is terminated, without having previously provided a further assessment opportunity to the candidate.

- (e) In exceptional cases where the progress panel is not satisfied that the supervisory arrangements are adequate and appropriate, but considers that the candidate would otherwise be able to achieve the standards of the award, the panel may seek the approval of the Head of the Newcastle Law School, to make a recommendation to the Dean of Postgraduate Studies for the replacement of all or part of the supervisory team.
- (f) The annual progression review procedure will be deemed equivalent to a board of examiners and therefore the University's procedure for assessment irregularities shall apply to any reported or suspected cheating or plagiarism. The procedures are available at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/progress/Regulations/Procedures/assessment.htm>

3. Supervision and Assessment

- (a) The Dean of Postgraduate Studies shall appoint two supervisors for a candidate registered on the Master of Laws (by Research) programme on the recommendation of the Head of the Newcastle Law School. The supervisors will supervise the candidate in accordance with the University's *Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes*.
- (b) A candidate registered on the Master of Laws (by Research) programme is required to present a thesis of no more than 30,000 words embodying the results of the candidate's research on a legal subject previously approved by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies. The candidate may

be required by the examiners to present himself or herself for an oral examination on the subject of the thesis.

- (c) A full-time candidate registered on the Master of Laws (by Research) programme must submit the thesis for examination within 12 months of the end of the prescribed period of study. A part-time candidate registered on the Master of Laws (by Research) programme must submit the thesis for examination within 24 months of the end of the prescribed period of study.
- (d) Theses must be submitted in accordance with the University's *Rules for the Submission of Work for Higher Degrees*, available as a separate pamphlet (*University Regulations*) from the Academic Registrar and also at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/docs> .
- (e) The examiners may accept a thesis, reject it or return it to the candidate with permission to resubmit it with modifications in form or content as indicated by the examiners. Any such resubmission must be within 12 months of the date of the examiners' decision and is subject to the payment of the appropriate fee.
- (f) The time limits specified in the regulations may be extended by up to 12 months by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies.
- (g) A candidate by thesis may not submit a thesis of which a substantial part consists of material which has been accepted or submitted for any other degree or qualification.