

A7: HIGHER DOCTORATES

INTRODUCTION

The award of a higher doctorate is intended to recognise the recipient's outstanding contribution to learning and/or its application in an appropriate field of study.

A higher doctorate is awarded only to a candidate of considerable experience, recognised as a leading authority in the field of study concerned. The measure of the candidate's contribution will be judged upon the amount and quality of published work and must demonstrate an increasing development in the field.

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REGULATION

1. AWARDS

The following higher doctorates may be awarded by The Robert Gordon University:

Doctor of Letters	DLitt
Doctor of Science	DSc
Doctor of Technology	DTech

Such awards may also be conferred posthumously in accordance with [Regulation A4: Assessment and Recommendations of Assessment Boards](#), paragraph 15.

2. CRITERIA

The award of a higher doctorate shall be made in recognition of work undertaken by the applicant which constitutes outstanding contribution to learning and/or its application.

3. ELIGIBILITY

An applicant for a higher doctorate awarded by the University shall normally be:

- (i) the holder, of at least seven years standing, of a first degree awarded by The Robert Gordon University or by the former Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA) following completion of a programme offered at the Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology; or
- (ii) the holder, of at least seven years standing, of a first degree awarded by an approved University or by the former CNAA, provided that the holder has been a member of the academic staff of the University for a period totalling at least three years; or
- (iii) the holder, of at least six years standing, of a Masters degree awarded by The Robert Gordon University or by the former CNAA following completion of a programme offered at the Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology; or
- (iv) the holder, of at least four years standing, of a higher degree by research awarded by The Robert Gordon University or by the former CNAA following completion of an approved programme offered at the Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology; or
- (v) the holder, of at least four years standing, of a higher degree by research awarded by an approved University provided that the holder has been a member of the academic staff of the University for a period totalling at least three years; or
- (vi) the holder of any other qualification deemed by Academic Council to be acceptable for this purpose.

4. SUBMISSION

4.1 An applicant shall submit three copies of the work on which the application is based. Submission may take the form of books, contributions to journals, patent specifications, reports, specifications and design studies and may also include other relevant evidence of original work. All material, other than books, should be secure in one hardback folder, or more if necessary, each containing a title and contents page. An applicant shall state which parts of the submission, if any, have been submitted for other academic award. The contents of the submission must be in the English language unless specific permission to the contrary has been given by Academic Council.

4.2 In addition to the copies of the work on which the application is based, the applicant must submit three copies of each of the following:

- (i) a statement of not more than 1,000 words stating which degree is being sought and setting out the applicant's view of the nature and significance of the work submitted;
- (ii) a signed full statement of the extent of the applicant's contribution to any of the work submitted which involves joint authorship or any other collaboration; and
- (iii) a list of all works published by the applicant whether included in the submission or not.

4.3 On receipt of an application for a higher doctorate, the Chair of Academic Council shall appoint a Professor or Reader of the University to consider whether a *prima facie* case for proceeding to a formal examination of the submission has been established, taking whatever advice it is deemed to be appropriate.

5. ASSESSMENT PROCESS

5.1 If satisfied that a *prima facie* case has been established, Academic Council shall appoint not less than three examiners, of whom at least one shall be a Professor or Reader within the University, and two shall be external to the University. Such external examiners shall be of recognised eminence in the subject of the work or works presented by the candidate.

5.2 Each examiner shall read and examine the submission and make an independent recommendation on the submission to Academic Council. The candidate shall be awarded the degree only if, in the opinion of Academic Council on the recommendation of these examiners, the body of work shall be held to constitute an outstanding contribution to the advancement and/or application of knowledge.

5.3 Should the examiners not be in agreement over the final recommendation, the independent reports shall be circulated to all examiners as a basis for further discussion. If agreement cannot be reached after this further discussion, an additional examiner shall be appointed.

5.4 Further to [paragraph 5.3](#) above, a viva voce examination may also be held if deemed necessary by the examiners.

5.5 No person may apply to the University to be a candidate for a higher doctorate awarded by the University on more than two occasions and no person may apply for re-examination within five years of the original submission unless this period is reduced by Academic Council on the recommendation of the examiners.

5.6 Two copies of a submission approved for the degree shall become the property of the University. If Academic Council decides that the degree be not awarded, only one copy of the statement and a record of the items submitted shall be retained.

6. FEES

A candidate shall pay such fees for examination for the degree as may be determined from time to time by the University. A candidate shall also meet the cost of the examiners' fees, which shall be set in line with the examination fees for the award of PhD.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

All applications shall be treated in strict confidence.