

## 3A - Standard Admissions Regulations: Postgraduate Research Degrees

### 1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 These regulations outline the requirements for applicants to be admitted to Bournemouth University postgraduate research programmes, including Master's by Research, Master of Philosophy, Doctor of Philosophy and a portfolio of Professional Doctorates.
- 1.2 These regulations will inform all admissions decisions including the setting of entry requirements for new programmes.

### 2. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The Doctoral College, with reference to Admissions and Academic Quality will review the Admissions Regulations periodically.

### 3. ACCESSING OTHER RELEVANT BU DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 All documents can be accessed here: [BU Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures](#).
- 3.2 Other documents with direct relevance to this are:
  - 8A - Code of Practice for Research Degrees

## Regulations

### 4. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 Applicants for a research degree must confirm their ability to fulfil the demands of the following programmes by presenting certificated evidence as specified below:

#### **Master's by Research (MRes):**

- A first or second class (2.1) honours UK Bachelor's degree or overseas equivalent in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research.

#### **Master of Philosophy (MPhil):**

- A first or second class (2.1) honours UK Bachelor's degree or overseas equivalent in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research.

#### **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):**

- A first or second class (2.1) honours UK Bachelor's degree or overseas equivalent in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research;  
or
- A UK Master's degree or equivalent in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research.

#### **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Publication:**

- A first or second class (2.1) UK Bachelor's degree or overseas equivalent or in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research;  
or
- a UK Master's degree or overseas equivalent in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research, awarded, normally, not less than five years before the date of application.  
In addition, normally the applicant must be a member of university staff, , of not less than two years' standing, or a graduate of Bournemouth University, with a first class honours or higher degree awarded, normally not less than 5 years before the date of application.

#### **Professional Doctorates (DProf, EngD, EdD, DBA):**

- A first or second class (2.1) honours UK Bachelor's degree or overseas equivalent in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research, plus a minimum of 5 years related and continuous work experience;  
or
- A UK Master's degree or overseas equivalent in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed research plus a minimum of 3 years related and continuous work experience.  
Any specific requirements above the minimum evidence outlined above will be outlined in the relevant Professional Doctorate Programme Specification.

- 4.2 Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to demonstrate competency in the four components of English: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, normally by means of a recognised qualification, such as IELTS, or completion of the University's Pre-sessional English for University Study Programme.

Normally, applicants for research degree programmes will be required to provide evidence of IELTS (Academic) 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each of the four component scores) or equivalent. It should be noted that the language requirement may be higher for some research degree programmes, in particular those which require a high level of communication skills.

- 4.3 Applicants must provide at least two referees (both of whom should normally be academic) who will be asked to provide a judgement of the applicant's experience, skills and ability in relation to the proposed area of research.
- 4.4 Applicants should be able to demonstrate the interest, capacity and skills required to carry out the research. Experience of the relevant research or vocational area in closely related fields will normally be an advantage and may be required.

- 4.5 Eligible applicants will be required to attend an interview (either in person or online) with the potential Supervisory Team before any offer can be made to assess their interest and motivation.
- 4.6 Applicants will only be accepted where the University can provide support, learning resources and a research environment appropriate for the nature and subject of the proposed research.

## General

### 5. REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION

- 5.1 Doctoral College, Talbot Campus, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset, BH12 5BB  
Tel: + 44 (0) 1202 968255  
Email: [doctoralcollege@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralcollege@bournemouth.ac.uk)
- 5.2 This policy was reviewed according to the University's [Equality Analysis Procedure](#) (BU Equality Analysis Procedure) in February 2025.