

## Assessment & Award Regulations

<b>1. Course:</b> The Master of Research (MRes)
<b>2. Year:</b> Years 1 and 2
<b>3. Applicable to Academic Year:</b> For students commencing in 2018
<b>4. Aspects of course covered by Examination:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In course assessment, consisting of a statistics exam, poster abstract/presentation and a reflective essay.</li><li>• Dissertation of between 10,000 and 15,000 words.</li><li>• Oral examination (minimum of 45 minutes and normally not exceeding 90 minutes).</li></ul>
<b>5. Assessment:</b> <b>Course requirements to be completed before submission of the dissertation and oral examination:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project abstract and short oral presentation as part of the interim progress review.</li><li>• Completion of the statistics course for postgraduate research students and passing the associated statistics examination.</li><li>• Attendance at 50% of College internal seminars, a minimum of 6 of the College's research seminars and 6 other talks on topics relating to the field of study. Documentation of engagement, using the designated pro-forma.</li><li>• Critical review of three original research publications that are relevant to the research topic.</li><li>• Attendance at induction and skills training workshops (time management, project management, effective presentation skills, writing workshops 1 and 2, research with impact and the online research integrity training)</li><li>• Poster presentation at Postgraduate Research Day (includes submission of a poster abstract and impact statement)</li><li>• A short reflective essay (500 words) on effective engagement with a nominated research seminar.</li></ul>

## **6. Marking Criteria:**

Plagiarism software will be used for all written assignments

In-course assessment and dissertation - see the College's Common Marking Scheme

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-examiners-assessment>

Oral examination - see the College's marking scheme for Masters Research Project Oral Exams

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures#panel-examiners-assessment>

## **7. Allocation of marks and any additional requirements:**

- In course assessment (10%), Dissertation (70%); Oral (20%). The in-course assessment comprises: statistics examination (5%), poster abstract/presentation (3%) and reflective essay (2%).

## **8. Requirements to Pass the MRes:**

- A mark of 50% or more for the combined elements (in-course assessment, dissertation and oral examination).

## **9. Consequence of Failure:**

A candidate who fails the statistics examination will be required to resit at the earliest available opportunity (mark will be capped at 50%). Subsequent failure at the re-sit examination will require the student to meet with the College statistician to discuss the reasons for their poor performance and to identify ways of improving their understanding of statistical methods, which may require referral to the Student Performance and Development System (SPDS) and/or Advice Centre, if additional support (e.g. numeracy) is considered necessary. In addition, examiners will be informed of this result prior to the oral examination and asked to specifically question the candidate's understanding of the data analysis presented in the dissertation.

A candidate who fails overall at the first attempt shall have a right to resubmit the dissertation and to re-sit the oral examination. In terms of in-course assessment, the candidate can elect to carry forward their mark, but will be given the opportunity to re-sit the statistics exam (unless this was resat previously), reflective essay and/or poster abstract/presentation. A candidate who fails at the second attempt will be required to relinquish the course; s/he will have a right of appeal as described in College Regulations.

#### **10. Classification and Awards:**

Distinction: an aggregate score of 70% or more

Merit: an aggregate score between 65-70%

Pass: an aggregate score between 50-64%

A maximum mark of 50% will be awarded for a second attempt.

#### **11. Absence from summative assessments:**

Where a student has an *allowable* absence, they will be required to contact the Course Director to request an extension (in the case of in-course assessment and/or submission of the dissertation) or deferral (in the case of the oral examination).

An allowable absence is one that is for a significant unforeseeable event such as illness. Any other foreseeable absence will only be considered allowable if agreed by SPDS and this will only apply in very limited circumstances. A student absent for any other reason will be awarded 0 (zero).

#### **12. Late Submission of work:**

Dissertations submitted after the due deadline (the end of the eleventh month of study pro-rated for part-time students), without a Course Director-approved extension, will be subject to the late submission policy set out in the College's General Assessment Regulations, which can be found in the Examiners and Assessment section at the following link:

<http://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/academic-quality-regulations-procedures>