

## Reviews of Examination Results for Higher Degrees by Thesis

If the Senate accepts a recommendation from the Internal and External Examiners that a student should not be awarded the degree of PhD, MPhil by thesis, LLM by thesis, or a professional doctorate, the student will be notified of this decision and advised of its consequences. If the student has grounds for appealing their overall result, they may submit an appeal to the Senate Standing Committee on Examination Results (SSCER) in writing to the Student Appeals and Academic Misconduct Officer ([c.l.hall@reading.ac.uk](mailto:c.l.hall@reading.ac.uk)) within 14 days of the date of the letter from the Doctoral Examinations Officer confirming the result of the examination.

### Grounds for submitting an appeal of a result

An appeal of a result will only be considered under one or more of the following grounds:

1. If there has been a procedural irregularity;
2. If there has been bias;
3. If there has been a material defect in the delivery of training which has had a significant impact on the result;

Please be aware that section 8 of the Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students makes provision for students to raise concerns about the adequacy of their supervision or other arrangements during the period of study. It would normally be expected that a student has raised such concerns at the appropriate time. In consequence, appeals on the grounds that there has been a material defect in supervision will normally proceed to a hearing only in those cases where there is evidence that the student had made reasonable efforts to raise their concern at the appropriate time and before submission, in accordance with the procedures, and that the concern had not been satisfactorily resolved.

### Possible outcomes

If the appeal is upheld, SSCER can recommend one of the following outcomes for research students:

1. A recommendation that a candidate be deemed not to have submitted the student's thesis. In this case, the recommendation will be referred to the Senate for approval; OR
2. A recommendation that a candidate's examination be set aside. In this case, the recommendation will be referred to the Senate for approval; OR
3. Exceptionally, a recommendation that a specified higher degree be awarded. In this case, the recommendation will be referred to an Independent Assessor, appointed by Senate, who will submit a brief report to the Senate. If the Independent Assessor agrees with the recommendation of the Committee, the recommendation will be referred to the Senate

for approval. If the Independent Assessor disagrees with the recommendation of the Committee, the case will be referred to the Senate for resolution.

Any decision by the Committee will not affect the student's normal right to resubmit their thesis for re-examination.

### **Advice and support**

If a student has any questions about the procedure, they can contact the Student Appeals Officer - [studentappeals@reading.ac.uk](mailto:studentappeals@reading.ac.uk).

Students are encouraged to seek independent and confidential advice from the Advice Service in Reading University Students' Union. The professional staff of the Advice Service have knowledge and experience of the University's procedures and can attend the hearing as the student's 'friend' as defined in this procedure: [http://www.rusu.co.uk/advice/academic\\_advice/](http://www.rusu.co.uk/advice/academic_advice/).

### **Procedures**

Please read more about the procedures here:

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-appeal.aspx>

Version	Keeper	Reviewed	Approved by	Approval Date	Effective From
1	The Graduate School	Every year	UBTL		