



SUMMARY OF CHANGES
TO RESEARCH DEGREE POLICIES
2016/17

**STUDENT REGULATIONS
AND POLICIES**

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Summary of Changes to Research Degree Policies

This document sets out a summary of the changes that have been made to the Research Student Academic Regulations and Student facing policies since the start of the last academic year in September 2015. These changes will take effect in the next academic year ie 2016/17 and will apply to students starting in 2016/17 or later.

It is very important that students familiarise themselves with these changes to the Academic Regulations and Student facing policies.

The full versions of the student policies can be viewed on the University's website at www.uclan.ac.uk/studentcontract

Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Degrees

Section A4.3.5

- There has been clarification regarding short-term absences of up to one month where the student is unable to study because of personal circumstances or ill-health. These will be processed as authorised leave, not as formal Interruptions to Study.

Section A4.3.9

- New Extensions policy has been included so that on an exceptional basis, research students can request to extend their period of registration where the progress of research is impeded through causes not associated with the student's ability to study.

Postgraduate Research Degrees Assessment Policies and Procedures Handbook

Title of Handbook

- This Handbook was previously known as the 'Assessment Handbook' and contained information for both taught and research awards. Information relating to Research Degrees has now been moved into the 'Postgraduate Research Degrees Assessment Policies and Procedures Handbook'.

Section 6.2.6

- Policy for short-term absences has been clarified (see Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Degrees, Section A4.3.5 above).

Section 6.3.3

- New Extensions policy added (see Academic Regulations for Postgraduate Research Degrees, Section A4.3.9 above).

Section 6.3.3 e)

- Grounds for Interrupting Study have been revised.

Section 6.3.8

- There has been clarification that research students will not be permitted to submit their thesis during an Interruption to Study period.

Section 11: Conflicts of Interest in Supervision, Examination, and Administration of Research Degrees

- Transfer Referees are permitted to be nominated as Internal Examiners if mitigating circumstances exist and a compelling case can be made.