Preparation, Submission and Examination of Theses

Preparation

The Graduate School has produced a booklet entitled *Preparing and Submitting your Thesis: a Guide for MPhil and PhD Students*. It can be downloaded at the Graduate School website at [http://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/publications-newsletters/other-publications](http://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/publications-newsletters/other-publications). You should read this booklet as soon as possible since it contains much useful advice. What follows is the briefest possible summary.

You are strongly advised that due care must be taken in the preparation of the thesis to ensure that the description is complete, the data are accurate, the references are correctly transcribed and the grammar, spelling and other minor details are properly attended to. It would affect the examiners’ impression of the thesis if the writing of the thesis is sloppily done no matter how well the research has been conducted. You must be satisfied that your thesis is near perfect before you submit it. You must allow sufficient time for this to be done.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that plagiarism is a serious academic misconduct. You are advised to visit the University’s website on plagiarism ([https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/](https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/)) to learn more about what is plagiarism and how to avoid it. You should also read the booklet “Plagiarism - A Guide for Research Postgraduate Students at The University of Hong Kong” at [https://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/publications-newsletters/other-publications](https://www.gradsch.hku.hk/gradsch/publications-newsletters/other-publications). This *Handbook* also contains some useful sections on the offence of plagiarism. You should consult your supervisor(s) or the Departmental Research Postgraduate Committee if you have doubts as to whether certain acts constitute plagiarism.

All MPhil and PhD theses are required to go through a compulsory plagiarism check via the software *Turnitin* for self-checking, and refinement where appropriate, in consultation with supervisor(s) if necessary, before a formal submission for examination.

Submission

When you submit your thesis for examination, you are required to deliver to the Faculty Secretary sufficient copies of your thesis in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Format, Binding and Presentation of Theses (see *Appendix IX*).

Each copy of the thesis submitted for examination, with its abstract preceding the title pages, shall be bound in one or more volumes either in the manner described
Note that the University permits candidates to present their theses in a temporary binding and this is strongly recommended since it means that, after the examination process is complete, those pages which require no modification can be used again in the corrected, final copies of the thesis including the one that shall be submitted to the University Library. Taking advantage of this provision may save you time, effort and money especially for those pages which have illustrations mounted upon them and which do not need to be changed.

One copy of the final, corrected and approved version of the thesis of each successful candidate shall be submitted to the University Library for cataloguing and then assessed by University Archive. This copy shall be bound, in one or more volumes as determined by the Librarian, with its abstract preceding the title page, between boards faced with green cloth with the title, name of author, degree and date to be stamped on the front cover and spine in accordance with the standard layout approved by the Librarian. The title of theses written in Chinese shall be lettered on the cover in Chinese and in English.

Students on successful completion of study shall additionally be required to deposit a soft copy of the thesis with the Libraries. Detailed specifications regarding the format of electronic theses will be provided by the Librarian from time to time (please refer to the booklet ‘Preparing and Submitting Your Thesis: a Guide for MPhil and PhD Students’). The Libraries have undertaken to provide technical advice to students in this respect.

Students who register on September 1, 2017 and thereafter are required to upload their bibliography when submitting their finalized theses online. Details on electronic theses are available on the website of the University Libraries.

**Examination**

You can expect to have two to three specialist examiners who “shall read the thesis and submit separate written reports to the Faculty Secretary.” The procedures for appointing examiners are extensive and are explained in the procedures (see *Appendices X & XI*).

The external and internal examiners are given a maximum period of 6 weeks in which to submit their reports and the Faculty Secretary is empowered to issue reminders of this fact during this period. When all the reports of your examiners are received, upon the recommendation of the Thesis Examining Committee, the Faculty Secretary will organize the oral and any written examinations required. Those who must be present at oral examinations are specified (see *Appendix XXVI*). All oral examinations have a Chairperson, who is also the Chairperson of the Thesis Examining Committee, appointed by the Faculty. The examiners
present at the oral examination, for the conduct of which there are formal
guidelines (see again Appendix XXVI), make a formal report to the Faculty.

The Faculty considers the written reports on your thesis, the reports on your oral
examination, and the result of any written examination required, and makes a
formal recommendation on the result of your examination to the Dean of the
Graduate School.

The Dean of the Graduate School determines the result of your examination on
behalf of the Senate.

**MPhil**

*A candidate who has satisfied the examiners shall be recommended for the
conferment of the degree of Master of Philosophy.*

*A candidate who has not satisfied the examiners*

a. *may be required to resubmit the thesis after making corrections and
amendments as required by the Board of Examiners, without a new
examination; or*

b. *may be required to revise and resubmit the thesis for a new examination
within a specified period, and may also be required to satisfy the examiners
at an oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate, on the
subject of the revised thesis and/or the approved course of study and
research; or*

c. *may be required to attend a new oral examination, or any other examination
as appropriate; or*

d. *may be deemed to have failed, without the option of resubmission.*

*Regulations for the degree of MPhil MPH16/16A,
Thesis Examination Results (Appendix XVII)*

**PhD**

*A candidate who has satisfied the examiners shall be recommended for the
conferment of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.*

*A candidate who has not satisfied the examiners*

a. *may be required to resubmit the thesis after making corrections and
amendments as required by the Board of Examiners, without a new
examination; or*
b. may be required to revise and resubmit the thesis for a new examination within a specified period, and may also be required to satisfy the examiners at a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate, on the subject of the revised thesis and/or the approved course of study and research; or

c. may be required to attend a new oral examination, or any other examination as appropriate; or

d. may be deemed to have failed, without the option of resubmission.

Regulations for the degree of PhD PHD16/16A, Thesis Examination Results (Appendix XVIII)

Successful candidates recommended for the conferment of the degree sought will be informed of the decision by the Dean of the Graduate School. Unsuccessful candidates will be informed of what further requirements they need to meet, if any, by their Faculty Secretary.