



## ***Guide for Applicants: PhD Degree under Special Regulations***

1. The University of Cambridge may award the PhD Degree under the Special Regulations to a graduate of the University who is eligible to apply for the Degree and who has submitted published work which, in the opinion of the Examiners, gives clear proof of a significant contribution to learning, for example through the discovery of new knowledge, the connection of previously unrelated facts, the development of new theory, or the revision of older views. The standard required for the PhD Degree under the Special Regulations is the same for the PhD Degree awarded to a Postgraduate Student on the submission of a thesis embodying the results of three years of research. A candidate for the PhD Degree under the Special Regulations must also satisfy the Examiners at an oral examination.
2. Regulation 5 of the [Special Regulations](#) for proceeding to the Degree of Philosophy requires a candidate for this degree to state in their application the Faculty or other approved institution with a Degree Committee with which they consider that the subject of their contribution to scholarship is most nearly connected. If the candidate wishes to discuss a proposed application before submission, this should be done informally with a person of suitable standing in the University. A list of the Faculties and Departments of the University can be found at the end of this Guide.
3. The evidence submitted in support of an application for the PhD Degree under these Regulations should comprise of a list of the published works submitted; two copies of those published works; and a short introductory summary of between 1,000 and 5,000 words summarising the rationale behind the work submitted, the extent to which the works constitute a consistent body of research and the original contribution to knowledge they make.
4. It is open to the candidate to submit such published works as they think appropriate in support of the application, and consideration of the application will be restricted to the copies of the works that the candidate decides to submit. Additional works submitted after the candidate has been notified that the application is complete and has been forwarded to the appropriate Degree Committee for consideration will not be accepted.
5. When a candidate submits work published jointly with others, they should use the introductory statement to elaborate on their own contribution to such work. An Examiner may ask the Secretary of the Degree Committee to invite a candidate to submit further evidence as to the extent of the candidate's contribution to such works.
6. The following documentation is not acceptable: works not yet published, including proofs of papers not yet published; references to works, whether published or not

published, of which copies are not submitted; reviews of the candidate's publications;  
a c.v.

7. For the purpose of the Special Regulations for the PhD Degree, the Postgraduate Committee normally regard work as published only if it is traceable in ordinary catalogues, and only if copies of it are obtainable at the time of application, or were obtainable at some previous time, by members of the general public through normal channels. Memoranda and reports of Government Departments and the like are not submissible unless they have actually been published, in the sense of the Committee's interpretation of the word, however wide circulation they may otherwise have had. Work published electronically is submissible, provided it does not fall within the categories of work indicated as insubmissible in this and the previous paragraph, and provided also that hard copies of the material are supplied.
8. A candidate is required by the Regulations to submit two complete sets of the works on which their claim to the Degree is based and two copies of the introductory statement made by the candidate in support of the application. The works should be numbered, and summarised in a list. Candidates considering the submission of published work in the form of separate papers, such as reports, are requested not to have these separate papers bound together. Materials should be submitted to:  
Degree Congregations (Student Registry)  
Student Services Centre  
New Museums Site  
Cambridge CB2 3PT  
Email: [degreecongregations@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:degreecongregations@admin.cam.ac.uk)
9. Eligibility will be checked upon submission, and if the candidate is eligible their application will be forwarded to the relevant Degree Committee. Candidates who are not eligible will be notified and their works returned.
10. Candidates who wish to disclose a disability are invited to complete the [voluntary disclosure form](#) and return it with their application. The information provided will be used by the Degree Committee, in consultation with the University's Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre, to make any access arrangements for an oral examination. The examiners do not take into account any disability when judging the merit of the work submitted.
11. The Degree Committee will appoint an assessor to determine whether there is, *prima facie*, a case for further examination of the candidate's work. If so, an oral examination will take place with at least two examiners appointed by the Degree Committee.
12. The examiners are asked to complete an individual report prior to the oral examination. Following the oral examination, examiners are asked to make one of two recommendations to the Degree Committee: either that the degree is awarded or it is not. The reports and recommendation of the Examiners will be considered by the Degree Committee. If further opinion is required, the Degree Committee may appoint a further examiner(s).

13. Candidates will receive confirmation of the official result, and copies of their examination reports, by email from Student Registry shortly after the Degree Committee makes its decision.
14. Candidates should note that consideration of an application for the PhD Degree under Special Regulations may take as long as a year and, possibly, longer.

The following table shows how Departments and Institutions are affiliated to Degree Committees

<b>Degree Committees</b>	<b>Departments and Institutions for which the Degree Committee is responsible</b>
Archaeology, Anthropology and Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Archaeology</li> <li>• MacDonald Institute for Archaeological Research</li> <li>• Social Anthropology</li> <li>• Sociology</li> </ul>
Architecture and History of Art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Architecture</li> <li>• History of Art</li> </ul>
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian and Middle Eastern Studies</li> </ul>
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babraham Institute</li> <li>• Biochemistry</li> <li>• Genetics</li> <li>• MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology</li> <li>• MRC Toxicology Unit</li> <li>• Pathology</li> <li>• Pharmacology</li> <li>• Physiology, Development &amp; Neuroscience</li> <li>• Plant Sciences</li> <li>• Psychology</li> <li>• Wellcome/Cancer Research UK Gurdon Institute</li> <li>• Wellcome-MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute</li> <li>• Wellcome Sanger Institute</li> <li>• Zoology</li> </ul>
Business and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge Business School</li> </ul>
Classics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classics</li> </ul>
Clinical Medicine and Veterinary Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridge Institute for Medical Research</li> <li>• Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute</li> <li>• Clinical Biochemistry</li> <li>• Clinical Neurosciences</li> <li>• Haematology</li> <li>• Medical Genetics</li> <li>• Medicine</li> <li>• MRC Biostatistics Unit</li> <li>• MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit</li> <li>• MRC Epidemiology Unit</li> <li>• MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit</li> <li>• Obstetrics and Gynaecology</li> <li>• Oncology</li> <li>• Paediatrics</li> <li>• Psychiatry</li> <li>• Public Health and Primary Care</li> <li>• Radiology</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surgery</li> <li>• Veterinary Medicine</li> </ul>
Computer Science and Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer Science and Technology</li> </ul>
Divinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divinity</li> </ul>
Earth Sciences and Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• British Antarctic Survey</li> <li>• Earth Sciences</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• Scott Polar Research Institute</li> </ul>
Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economics</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> </ul>
Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology</li> <li>• Engineering</li> </ul>
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic</li> <li>• Cambridge Digital Humanities</li> <li>• English</li> </ul>
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History</li> </ul>
History and Philosophy of Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History and Philosophy of Science</li> </ul>
Land Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Economy</li> </ul>
Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute of Criminology</li> <li>• Law</li> </ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics</li> <li>• Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics</li> </ul>
Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French</li> <li>• German</li> <li>• Italian</li> <li>• Modern and Medieval Languages</li> <li>• Modern Greek</li> <li>• Slavonic Studies</li> <li>• Spanish and Portuguese</li> <li>• Theoretical and Applied Linguistics</li> </ul>
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music</li> </ul>
Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Philosophy</li> </ul>
Physics and Chemistry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridge Crystallography Data Centre</li> <li>• Chemistry</li> <li>• Institute of Astronomy</li> <li>• Materials Science and Metallurgy</li> <li>• Physics</li> </ul>
Politics and International Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centre for African Studies</li> <li>• Centre for Development Studies</li> <li>• Centre for Gender Studies</li> <li>• Centre for Latin American Studies</li> <li>• Centre for South Asian Studies</li> <li>• Politics and International Studies</li> </ul>