Temporary Note
This version of Regulation 38 Master of Philosophy is available to currently enrolled students until 31 December 2015.

REGULATION 38  MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Approved by Council:  27 June 2012
Revised by Council:  None

38.1  Admission and Enrolment

38.1.1  A person may apply to the Academic Board [the Board] to be admitted as a probationary candidate for the degree of Master of Philosophy if he or she has obtained, or is qualified to obtain, a four year Bachelor with Honours degree or equivalent in an appropriate discipline, as determined by the Board, with at least Distinction level honours or equivalent, or a graduate diploma including a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%, and has a suitably qualified faculty member at the University of Divinity who is willing to act as supervisor.

38.1.2  Permission may be given to enrol only where the Board is able to provide adequate supervision, and that it is satisfied that the candidate will have access to adequate libraries.

38.1.3  Each candidate must be attached to a College of the University for the whole period of candidature. The Board may permit a candidate to attend another institution for part of the period of candidature.

38.1.4  Each candidate must have a Principal Supervisor (Supervisor) appointed by the Board. An Associate Supervisor may also be appointed by the Board. The Associate Supervisor is to meet regularly with the Supervisor to discuss the progress of the candidate’s work.

38.1.5  Where the Principal Supervisor appointed by the Board is not a member of staff of an RTI, the Board must, on the recommendation of the Research Coordinator of the candidate’s RTI, appoint such a member of staff as the Associate Supervisor.

38.1.6  Where a candidate intends to undertake the Master of Philosophy using flexible delivery arrangements, the Board must be satisfied as to the candidate’s capacity to fulfil the requirements of the degree through these arrangements.

38.1.7  Notwithstanding any other provision in these regulations the Board may require each applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations as the Board may determine.

38.1.8  Unless the Board determines otherwise, the minimum length of candidature for the Master of Philosophy is 12 months full-time, and the maximum length of candidature is
18 months full-time, or 3 years part-time. One extension of 6 months may be granted to full-time candidates, and one extension of 12 months may be granted to part-time candidates. Any extension of time is to be granted only on a certificate from the Supervisor that the work is progressing satisfactorily.

38.1.9 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

38.2 Course of Studies

38.2.1 Each candidate is to proceed on such terms and in conformity with such procedures as are determined from time to time by the Board, in addition to those specified in this Regulation. General determinations made by the Board are to be published by the University; specific determinations applying to a particular candidate are to be communicated to him or her.

38.2.2 Every candidate is first admitted to probationary candidature, until such time as the candidate’s project proposal has been approved by the Board, on the advice of an Approval Panel.

38.2.3 Each applicant for approval of candidature must submit a research proposal, including written work of 5,000 words completed during probationary candidature and a detailed bibliography, together with the written support of the Supervisor.

38.2.4 The Board will appoint members of the Approval Panel who will determine whether or not the criteria for approval determined by the Board have been met.

38.2.5 Each candidate for the Master of Philosophy by Major Thesis must have their project proposal assessed by an Approval Panel no later than 3 months following admission for full-time candidates, or 6 months following admission for part-time candidates.

38.2.6 Each candidate for the Master of Philosophy by Minor Thesis must have their project proposal assessed by an Approval Panel no later than 6 months following admission for full-time candidates, or 12 months following admission for part-time candidates.

38.2.7 If submission of a research proposal is not made in due time, or if the Board declines to approve the proposal, the probationary candidature may be terminated by the Board.

38.2.8 Each Thesis proposal, once approved by the Board, must be submitted to the University’s Human Research Ethics Committee, as established by Regulation 2.5.

38.2.9 Each candidate for the degree of Master of Philosophy by Minor Thesis must complete, at a standard determined by the Board, the equivalent of 45 points of post-graduate study as approved by the Board, and write a Thesis of not more than 25,000 words on a topic approved by the Board, and at a standard determined by the Board.

38.2.10 Each candidate for the degree of Master of Philosophy by Major Thesis must write, at a standard determined by the Board, a Thesis of not more than 40,000 words on a topic approved by the Board.

38.2.11 A candidate for the degree of Master of Philosophy may seek approval from the Board to submit his or her research findings in a format other than a single thesis as established by Regulation 26.1.7.
38.2.12 Every candidate for the degree of Master of Philosophy must undertake a postgraduate unit in research methodology approved by the Board, unless exempted by the Board.

38.2.13 The Thesis is to be examined in accordance with Regulation 26.

38.3 **Awarding of Degree**

38.3.1 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Master of Philosophy, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree be awarded, and at what standard of Honours.

38.3.2 A candidate upon whom the degree of Master of Philosophy has been conferred is entitled to use the letters ‘MPhil’ as a suffix to their name.
38.1.1 In this Regulation, ‘appropriate discipline’ refers to any discipline in theology, divinity or related fields of study, including the humanities, that is deemed by the Board to provide sufficient academic grounding for the proposed research project.

University of Divinity equivalents to the four year Bachelor with Honours degree are determined by the Board to be:

a) The Master of Theological Studies from the University, with a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%, and a 75% average across the coursework components of the degree

b) The Master of Divinity from the University with a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%, and a 75% average across the coursework components of the degree

c) The MA (Theol) from the University, with a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%

d) The Graduate Diploma in Theology from the University, entered under the provisions of Reg.20.2.1.1, including a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%, and a 75% average across the coursework components of the degree.

38.2.1 The Board determines that satisfactory progress in the Master of Theology requires each candidate:

a) To make at least one presentation at a seminar, conference, or other event related to the thesis, during the course of candidature

b) To submit annual report forms in September of each year of candidature

c) To apply for ethical clearance, or for exemption from requiring ethical clearance, and if ethical clearance is granted, to submit annual progress reports to the Human Research Ethics Committee.