



University of Essex



Principal Regulations for Higher Doctorates

2025 - 2026

Authors:	Postgraduate Research Education
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Principal Regulations for Higher Doctorates

4.86.

The degrees of Doctor of Letters (DLitt), Doctor of Science (DSc) and Doctor of Laws (LLD) may be conferred by the Senate of the University on candidates who have published work of distinction and merit constituting a substantial, important and original contribution to knowledge or scholarship.

4.87.

The following may become candidates for the degree of Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science or Doctor of Laws:

- a) graduates of the University of Essex of not less than ten years' standing following conferment of an appropriate Bachelor's degree or Master's degree or not less than seven years' standing following conferment of the degree of MPhil or PhD
- b) members of the academic staff, or honorary or visiting members of staff, of the University of Essex who have served for not less than three years and who are graduates of an approved institution of not less than ten years' standing following conferment of an appropriate Bachelor's degree or Master's degree, or not less than seven years' standing following conferment of the degree of MPhil or PhD

4.88.

A person who wishes to become a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science or Doctor of Laws must apply in writing to the Vice-Chancellor. The written application must include a full curriculum vitae and a list of the published work that they propose to submit for examination. The Vice-Chancellor, acting on behalf of the Senate and after consulting the appropriate Dean, shall decide whether or not a person be accepted as a candidate.

4.89.

A candidate for the degree of Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science or Doctor of Laws must submit in writing to the University:

- a) three copies of the published work submitted for examination and of a list of this work
- b) a 300 word summary, including a title for the collection of work
- c) the appropriate fee

- d) Candidates submitting work of which they are not the sole authors shall submit also a statement explaining the part which they have played in the work in such a way that it can be related to each publication included in the submission; the extent of the contribution of others will be taken into account by the examiners in assessing how far the candidate's work meets the criterion for award of the degree. Work that has not been published and appeared in print shall not be taken into account by the examiners.

4.90.

A candidate for the degree of Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science or Doctor of Laws shall be examined by three examiners appointed for the purpose by the Dean; not more than one examiner may be a member of the academic staff of the University of Essex, except in the case of candidates who are themselves members of the academic staff of the University of Essex who shall be examined by three external examiners. Candidates may be required by the examiners to present themselves for oral examination.

4.91.

The examiners shall recommend that the result of the examination shall be 'pass' or 'fail'. The Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Senate shall receive the report and recommendation of the examiners. The Vice-Chancellor determines the conferment, or otherwise, of the degree.

4.92.

One copy of the publications submitted by a successful candidate for the degree of Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Science or Doctor of Laws may be retained by the University Library and will in that event become the property of the University.

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