

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG****REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPhil)**

(Applicable to students enrolled between 1 September 1999 and 31 August 2001)

**MPH1. Definition**

The degree of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is a research postgraduate degree. Such a degree shall be awarded to a candidate who, on the successful completion of formal coursework requirements, and on the completion of an approved scheme of research,

- (a) presents a successful thesis representing the result of the candidate's research which displays some originality and which demonstrates a sound understanding of the field of study and appropriate research methods; *and*
- (b) satisfies the examiners in an oral examination (and any other examination if required) in matters relevant to the subject of the thesis.

**MPH2. Admission requirements**

A candidate for registration

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
- (b) shall hold
  - (i) a Bachelor's degree with honours from this University; *or*
  - (ii) another qualification of equivalent standard from this University or from another university or comparable institution accepted for this purpose;

*and any additional qualifications laid down by the Faculty concerned; and*
- (c) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.

**MPH2A.** A candidate who does not hold a Bachelor's degree with honours from this University or another qualification of equivalent standard may in exceptional circumstances be permitted to register for the degree on demonstrating adequate preparation for research studies at this level, and satisfying the examiners in a qualifying examination.

**MPH3. Qualifying examination**

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidate's ability to pursue the research project proposed. A qualifying examination shall consist of one or more invigilated written examination papers; additionally, the invigilated written paper(s) may be supplemented by other forms of examination.
- (b) A candidate who is required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until all examination requirements are satisfied.

**MPH4. Registration**

- (a) A candidature shall commence upon registration, which is only on the first day of September or the first day of January of each year.
- (b) A candidate whose application is accepted shall first register *provisionally* and shall be subject to a probationary period of twelve months in the case of a full-time candidate or eighteen months in the case of a part-time candidate. By the end of this probationary period, the candidate is required to have demonstrated capability in research, to have submitted a detailed scheme of research, and to have completed the required proportion of coursework prescribed by the Policy Board of Postgraduate Education. A decision shall be made on whether the candidature shall be confirmed or terminated.

**MPH4A.** (a) A student may register as a *full-time* candidate when he or she holds

- (i) no employment; *or*
- (ii) part-time employment (whether inside or outside the University), provided that the employment entails not more than 150 hours of work per annum; *or*
- (iii) a University Research Assistantship, provided that the work undertaken in this capacity is focused on the topic of the holder's research degree study.

The status of the candidature must be affirmed in the form of a written declaration by the head of department, the supervisor(s) and the student.

- (b) A full-time candidate may hold a University postgraduate studentship or another postgraduate studentship or scholarship which is intended to enable him or her to study on a full-time basis.

**MPH5. Transfer of Candidature**

- (a) A candidate whose candidature has been confirmed and who has satisfactorily completed all coursework requirements may be permitted to transfer the

candidature to the degree of PhD, provided that such transfer is approved at least three months prior to the expiry of the MPhil candidature. Such transfer shall only be permitted on the first day of any month of the year.

- (b) A candidate may be permitted to transfer from full-time to part-time candidature for the same degree at any time during the period of study but such transfer shall only be permitted on the first day of any month of the year. A candidate may similarly be permitted to transfer from part-time to full-time candidature for the same degree, provided that the requisite coursework requirements can be completed before submission of the thesis.

#### **MPH6. Period of Study**

- (a) A candidate registered for the degree shall follow an approved course of study and research under at least one supervisor for a period of twenty-four months, in the case of a full-time candidate, and 36 months in the case of a part-time candidate; beginning on September 1 or January 1, that being the first day of provisional registration.
- (b) A candidate shall be required to spend the whole period of study in Hong Kong, unless leave of absence, provided for under Regulation MPH8 below, has been granted.
- (c) Any extra period allowed for revision or re-submission under Regulation MPH14A shall not count towards the period of study.

#### **MPH7. Coursework Requirements**

- (a) The approved course of study and research specified in Regulation MPH6(a) above shall include a coursework component, the objective of which is to aid research work and preparation for the writing of the thesis.
- (b) The formal requirements relating to such coursework which the candidate is required to satisfy shall be determined by the Policy Board of Postgraduate Education from time to time.
- (c) The requisite coursework requirements must be fulfilled before the candidate is permitted to submit the thesis.

#### **MPH8. Leave of absence**

A candidate who wishes to be absent from Hong Kong and/or the approved course of study and research or who proposes to take vacation leave shall be required to submit in writing an application for leave of absence. A full-time candidate is entitled to take up to one month of vacation leave in each twelve-month period. Any leave of absence granted for the purpose of study for the degree, or any period of vacation leave of up to one month in each period of twelve months to which a full-time candidate is entitled, shall be counted towards the period of study. Leave

of absence granted for any other reason shall result in the extension of the period of study by the period of absence. Leave of absence shall not be granted for any continuous period of more than twelve months, except in the case of a candidate undertaking research at an overseas partner institution with which the University has entered into a formal exchange agreement and in which case study leave of up to half of the period of study as defined in MPH6 may be granted.

**MPH9. Supervision and progress**

- (a) A candidate shall be required to submit a progress report at six-monthly intervals, and may be required to give one or more seminars on any part of his or her course of study and research.
- (b) A candidature may be discontinued if satisfactory progress in study is not being made.

**MPH10. Title of thesis**

A candidate shall submit for approval the title of the thesis at any time following the confirmation of the candidature but not later than three months before the submission of the thesis for examination. Thereafter no modification of title shall be made without further approval.

**MPH11. Submission of thesis**

- (a) At the end of the approved course of study and research the candidate shall submit four copies of the thesis for examination, typed or printed and bound in accordance with the regulations governing the format, binding, and presentation of theses, together with a written declaration that the thesis represents the candidate's own work, or, in the case of conjoint work, a statement, countersigned by the candidate's co-worker and the supervisor(s), describing the candidate's share of the work.
- (b) A candidate shall not submit work that has been previously included in a thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this University or to any other institution for a degree, diploma, or other qualification, but material which has been previously published may be included in the thesis subject to the provisions of Regulation MPH11(a).

**MPH12. Examinations**

- (a) A candidate shall be examined by examiners appointed for this purpose both on the thesis itself, and at an oral examination on the subject of the thesis and/or approved course of study and research. A candidate may also be examined by other means.
- (b) A candidate shall also be assessed by examiners appointed for the purpose of

the coursework requirements.

**MPH13. Coursework Examination Results**

- (a) Coursework shall be assessed on a pass/fail basis.
- (b) A candidate who has not satisfied the examiners in respect of the coursework requirements at the first attempt shall be re-examined in the same, or an equivalent, course to be specified. A candidate who has not satisfied the examiners in any course in a second attempt may be required to discontinue his or her studies.
- (c) A candidate who is unable due to illness to be present for any written examination may apply for permission to present himself or herself at a supplementary examination.

**MPH14. Thesis Examination Results**

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

**MPH14A.** 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, within a period not exceeding six months; *or*
- (d) may be deemed to have failed, without the option of resubmission.

**MPH15. Publication based on thesis**

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to the University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

7 January 1999

15 June 2007