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# Senate

**Subject:** Award of Posthumous Research Degrees

**Origin:** Dr Brigette Vale, Research Student Office

**Action Required**: On the recommendation of Research Committee Senate is requested to consider the proposed addition to Regulation XXVI to enable the award of posthumous research degrees for introduction with immediate effect.

Research Committee has considered and recommended proposed amendments to Regulation XXVI necessary to enable the award of a research degree posthumously. The new procedure has been written taking into account practice at a number of Russell Group and 1994 Universities. There is no QAA guidance available in this area.

Add new paragraph 13 and renumber all subsequent paragraphs

Posthumous Research Degree Award

The purpose of this regulation is to provide for the posthumous conferral of a research degree award.

1 Where a students has died prior to the completion and submission of a research thesis-

Eligibility

A submission for an award may be made subject to the following conditions:

1. The candidate was a student at the time of death( registered or on approved leave of absence)
2. There is a reasonable expectation that the candidate would have completed the requirements for the award, had they lived to complete the degree. A preliminary academic assessment to this effect shall be made by the candidate’s Supervisor and Director of Research Degree Programme and shall be based on evidence such as draft chapters, publications, progress reports and any other tangible outputs and results.
3. Following the preliminary assessment an application for the award shall be made by the candidate’s supervisor and Associate Dean Research of the School to the Research Student Office. The School will notify the candidate’s family that the application is being made at this stage.
4. The candidate shall normally have completed 3 years full time study or 5 years’ part time study

Examination

The submitted work will be sent to the Examiners, who shall be two External Examiners and one Internal Examiner nominated by the student’s supervisor and approved by the Associate Dean Research and the Dean of the Graduate School.

The submission shall consist of material which best represents the student’s own research and may consist of publications, draft chapters or progress review reports or other examinable outputs. The Supervisor shall be responsible for compiling the material for the submission and arranging for it to be bound in a suitable format.

The Supervisor will be requested to submit additional supporting information to aid the Examiners’ understanding of the student’s contribution to the research.

The Examiners will be informed of the circumstances surrounding the examination and will be asked to confirm whether there is sufficient evidence to suggest that, had the student lived, they would have satisfied the requirements for the award of the degree. Since the material is likely to be incomplete the requirements may not be met in full, but there should be sufficient evidence to suggest that the candidate would have successfully done so.

The Examiners would normally be required to meet to consider their recommendation and submit a joint report. The Examiners may recommend either a pass or fail outcome only.

An award will be made on the unanimous recommendation of the Examiners.

The submission will not normally be deposited in the University Library.

2. Where a student has died after the submission of a thesis but prior to an oral examination being conducted-

i) the Dean of the School shall contact the candidate’s family to confirm that they wish the process to continue

ii) the examination will be conducted in accordance with paragraph 10.2 of Regulation XXVI

iii) the Examiners may recommend either a pass or fail outcome only