# The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD – 360 points)

These Regulations must be read in conjunction with the General Regulations for the University.

### 1. Version

These Regulations came into force on 1 January 2025.

### 2. Variations

The Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may vary these Regulations where special or unusual circumstances warrant.

### 3. The structure of the qualification

To qualify for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy a student must have successfully completed a thesis and oral examination having a minimum total value of 360 points. The thesis must:

(a) include original research (and may include scholarly creative practice) that makes a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the relevant field; and
(b) demonstrate advanced knowledge and expertise in the relevant discipline and an ability to carry out independent research, including exercising critical and analytical judgement; and
(c) be undertaken under qualified supervision during the period of enrolment in the PhD programme, and in accordance with the Research Conduct Policy; and
(d) meet recognised international standards for PhD research in the relevant discipline; and
(e) be satisfactory in its method, quality and coherence of expression, and in scholarly presentation; and
(f) be written in English or te reo Māori; and
(g) include any required amendments specified from the oral examination; and
(h) not exceed 100,000 words, excluding appendices.

### 4. Admission to the qualification

(a) To be eligible to enrol for the degree a student must be approved by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research. The Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research must be satisfied that the student has:
    i. Met the requirements for Admission to the University; and
    ii. Either:
        a. qualified for an Aotearoa New Zealand equivalent of a four-year bachelor's degree with First or Second Class Honours (Division I), or a research master's degree with Distinction or Merit, or a research master's degree with First or Second Class (Division I) Honours in a relevant field; or
        b. qualified for a degree of equivalent standing to those in Regulation 4(a)(ii)(a); and
    iii. Appropriate research experience and the ability to undertake research in the area of proposed study; and
    iv. A research proposal which the relevant Department/School is able to provide adequate supervision and resources for.
(b) In exceptional circumstances, the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may approve the enrolment of a student who has met the requirements of Regulations 4(a)(i); 4(a)(iii) and 4(a)(iv) but who does not hold one of the qualifications specified in Regulation 4(a)(ii). The student must have produced evidence, to the satisfaction of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research, that they have adequate skills, knowledge and experience to proceed with the proposed research.
(c) A student may not enrol in other degrees, certificates or diplomas from any institution while completing their PhD, without written permission of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research.
(d) The following conditions apply to a student wishing to transfer to the University from a PhD programme at another tertiary institution:
    i. The student must meet the requirements for enrolment set out in this Regulation and must have demonstrated satisfactory progress at their prior institution; and
    ii. The student must have the approval of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research to transfer. The Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may impose additional conditions considered to be necessary in regard to the enrolment of the transferring student; and

iii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, a student will not be accepted for transfer if they have been enrolled in a PhD programme at the other institution for more than the equivalent of one year of full time enrolment.

### 5. Subjects

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy must be taken in one of the subject areas set out in Schedule S. With the permission of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research, and in consultation with the supervisory team, the Degree may be awarded in a second subject listed in Schedule S.

### 6. Time limits

(a) A student must enrol full-time unless permitted by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research to enrol part-time at either 0.65 EFTS or 0.35 EFTS per annum.
(b) A student can accumulate no more than 12 months in total of part-time enrolment at 0.35 EFTS across the duration of their studies.
(c) The minimum and maximum accumulated periods of enrolment are the equivalent of 3.0 EFTS and 4.0 EFTS, respectively. The Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may vary these time limits if extenuating circumstances are demonstrated.
(d) A student may be permitted by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research to suspend their enrolment. The minimum period of suspension is one month. A student will not be permitted to suspend their enrolment for more than 12 months in total across the duration of their studies.
(e) Except for any period of suspension, students are required to be enrolled continuously throughout the entire period of the degree.

### 7. Transfers of credit, substitutions and cross-credits

(a) The Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may approve the transfer of a student to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy from a research master's degree at the University if the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research is satisfied that:
    i. The Tumuaki Tari/Kura | Head of Department/School and the relevant Amo Matua | Executive Dean support the transfer; and
    ii. The student has satisfactorily completed any course work required of a student enrolling for a PhD; and
    iii. The student has undertaken research towards a master's thesis for greater than the 90 points of thesis research study; and
    iv. The student has successfully met all milestones associated with the master's thesis.
(b) For a student enrolled for a PhD under this Regulation, the date of enrolment in the PhD will be backdated to the date at which the master's research commenced.

### 8. Supervision

(a) The formal supervisory team must comprise at least two, and no more than four, members.
(b) Every supervisory team must include a Senior Supervisor who is a continuing member of the University's academic staff. The Senior Supervisor must hold a doctorate or have an established and relevant research record.
(c) The formal supervisory team must be named in the Doctoral Supervisory Agreement.
(d) The appointment of, and any changes to, the supervisory team are subject to the approval of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research.
(e) Students are required to maintain contact with their supervisory team throughout the entire period of the enrolment in the degree.

### 9. Coursework during PhD Candidature

(a) A student may be required by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research to enrol in specific courses concurrent with their PhD enrolment, in which case:
    i. The student will not be charged additional enrolment fees for those courses; and
    ii. Completion of courses to a minimum grade specified by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research will be required for continued enrolment in the PhD.
(b) With the prior permission of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research, a student may elect to enrol, concurrent with their PhD enrolment, in courses not required by Amo Rangahau | Dean of

Postgraduate Research. In which case:
   i. the student will be charged fees for these courses; and
   ii. completion of the courses will have no bearing on continuation of the PhD.

(c) A student is restricted to one elective or required course per semester, to a maximum of 30 points, and a total of 60 points during their PhD candidature.

### 10. Progression

(a) A student must lodge a research proposal that has been approved by the Senior Supervisor and Tumuaki Tari/Kura | Head of Department/School, with Te Kura Tāura | Graduate School, within six months of enrolment in the PhD.

(b) A student must submit a Doctoral Supervisory Agreement for approval of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research within six months of enrolment in the PhD.

(c) A student enrolled full-time in the degree must complete the PhD Confirmation Process, as described in the Confirmation Process Procedures, within 12 months of enrolment in the PhD. A student enrolled part-time in the degree must complete the PhD Confirmation Process within 18 months of enrolment. A student must be enrolled when they undertake the Confirmation Process.

(d) Following the Confirmation Process, the Confirmation Chair will make a recommendation to the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research, who will decide on the outcome of the Confirmation Process. This may be to:
   i. Confirm the student's enrolment; or
   ii. Extend the student's enrolment for up to six months; or
   iii. Transfer the student's enrolment to a relevant master's degree (with the student's agreement); or
   iv. Cancel the student's enrolment in the PhD.

Where a student's research is dependent on the approval of the University's Ethics committee(s), or any other committee or organisation, appropriate approvals should be obtained prior to undertaking PhD confirmation process.

(e) A student must submit Progress Reports for consideration by their supervisory team and the Tumuaki Tari/Kura | Head of Department/School, and approval of the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research, at six monthly intervals after the date at which Confirmation is approved by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research. If a Progress Report states that the student has not made satisfactory progress, this may result in the student being subject to the Unsatisfactory Progress Process as described in the Unsatisfactory Progress Procedures. A failure to meet any conditions imposed by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research under the Unsatisfactory Progress Process may result in a student's enrolment being cancelled under Regulation 14.

(f) Where there are special or unusual circumstances, the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may impose additional conditions concerning a student's enrolment or progression in the degree. A failure to meet any conditions imposed by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research under this Regulation may result in the student's enrolment being cancelled under Regulation 14.

(g) Thesis submission
   i. A student must be enrolled at the time of thesis submission.
   ii. Submissions must be accompanied by a certificate from the Senior Supervisor stating that the work submitted was carried out under the immediate supervision of the supervisory team.

(h) A student must not submit a thesis which has previously been submitted for another degree.

### 11. Examination

(a) The examination of the thesis and oral examination must be conducted in accordance with the process described in the Thesis Examination Procedures.

(b) Examination of the thesis is conducted by two Independent Examiners supported by a neutral Examination Chair. At least one of the Independent Examiners must be based outside Aotearoa New Zealand.

(c) The Independent Examiners and Examination Chair must be nominated by the Tumuaki Tari/Kura | Head of Department/School and approved by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research.

(d) Each Independent Examiner must submit an independent thesis report and recommendation to the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research. The Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research will review the Examiners' reports and recommendations and will decide whether the student should

progress to oral examination. If the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research decides that the student will not proceed to oral examination, the student may instead:
   i. Be invited to revise and resubmit their thesis; or
   ii. Be awarded a relevant Master's degree; or
   iii. Not be awarded a degree.

(e) Following the oral examination, the Examination Chair will make a recommendation to the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research, who will decide the outcome of the examination process. This may be to:
   i. Award the PhD; or
   ii. Award the PhD subject to completion of specified amendments; or
   iii. Revise and resubmit the thesis (unless a revise and resubmission process occurred prior to the oral examination); or
   iv. Award a relevant Master's degree; or
   v. Award no degree.

(f) If the student is invited to revise and resubmit their thesis:
   i. The resubmission of the thesis for re-examination must occur within a timeframe determined by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research, but must not exceed 12 months.
   ii. A student must be enrolled during the time that revisions are taking place.
   iii. The revision and resubmission process can only be exercised once.

### 12. Exit and Upgrade Pathways to other Qualifications

A student who has not fulfilled the requirements of the PhD or who wishes to transfer, may apply to the relevant Amo Matua | Executive Dean and Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research to transfer to an appropriate Master's degree.

### 13. Withdrawal

A student may withdraw from the degree at any time by notifying the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research in writing. Retraction of the withdrawal is not permitted once it has been accepted by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research. Any refund of tuition fees will be calculated in accordance with the Fees and Fines Regulations.

### 14. Discontinuation

(a) The Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research may cancel a student's enrolment in the degree for any one or more of the following reasons:
   i. Failure to submit a satisfactory Research Proposal within six months of enrolment;
   ii. Failure to submit a satisfactory Doctoral Supervisory Agreement within six months of enrolment;
   iii. Failure to successfully complete the Confirmation Process within the time limit required by Regulation 10(c);
   iv. Failure to submit Progress Reports to Te Kura Tāura | Graduate School at the times required under Regulation 10(e);
   v. Failure to satisfy any conditions imposed by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research under the Unsatisfactory Progress Process referred to in Regulation 10(f);
   vi. Failure to complete any coursework required by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research under Regulation 9(a), or failure to achieve the minimum grades specified under Regulation 9(a)(ii);
   vii. Failure to satisfy any other condition imposed by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research under the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Regulations;
   viii. Failure to maintain enrolment throughout the entire period of the degree, as required by Regulation 6(e);
   ix. Failure to satisfactorily complete any required revisions to the thesis within the timeframe determined under Regulation 11(e)(ii) or 11(f)(i);
   x. Failure to satisfactorily complete any required revisions to the thesis within the timeframes;
   xi. Any other breach of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Regulations.

(b) Before the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research makes a decision under Regulation 14(a), the student will be notified that a decision to cancel their enrolment is being considered. The student will be given 15 working days to make a submission to the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research

in regard to the decision. If the student makes a submission, the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research must take the submission into consideration before reaching a decision. Late submissions will not be accepted.

**15. Place of research and study**

(a) Research is expected to be conducted at Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury.
(b) If a student wishes to undertake research away from Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury, they must first obtain approval from the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research. Before making a decision, the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research will consult the Senior Supervisor and Tumuaki Tari/Kura | Head of Department/School, and will take into account any matters specified in the General Conditions for Credit Regulations.
(c) The maximum period for conducting research away from Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury would not normally exceed twelve months in total across the duration of PhD studies.

**16. Appeals**

A student may appeal against any decision made by the Amo Rangahau | Dean of Postgraduate Research under these Regulations as stipulated in the General Regulations for the University.

## Schedule S: Subjects for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Accounting;
Antarctic Studies;
Anthropology;
Art History;
Art Theory;
Astronomy;
Audiology;
Biochemistry;
Bioengineering;
Biological Sciences;
Biotechnology;
Cellular and Molecular Biology;
Chemical and Process Engineering;
Chemistry;
Chinese;
Civil Engineering;
Classics;
Computational and Applied Mathematical Sciences;
Computer Science;
Creative Practice;
Criminal Justice;
Cultural Studies;
Data Science;
Disaster Risk and Resilience;
Earthquake Engineering;
Ecology;
Economics;
Education;
Electrical and Electronic Engineering;
Engineering Geology;
Engineering Management;
English;
Environmental Science;
European Studies;
Finance;
Fire Engineering;
Forest Engineering;
Forestry;
French;
Geography;
Geology;
German;
Health Sciences;
Higher Education;
History;
Human-Animal Studies;
Human Interface Technology;
Human Services;
Industrial and Organisational Psychology;
Information Systems;

Japanese;
Journalism;
Law;
Linguistics;
Management;
Māori and Indigenous Studies;
Marketing;
Mathematical Physics;
Mathematics;
Mathematics and Philosophy;
Mechanical Engineering;
Media and Communication;
Medical Physics;
Medical Physics (Clinical);
Microbiology;
Music;
Pacific Studies;
Philosophy;
Physics;
Political Science and International Relations;
Product Design;
Psychology;
Renewable Energy Engineering;
Russian;
Science Education;
Social Work;
Sociology;
Spanish;
Speech and Language Sciences;
Statistics;
Taxation;
Translation and Interpreting;
Transportation Engineering;
Te Reo Māori;
Water Resource Management.