

Definitions

- 5.1 *Candidate*: means an individual seeking enrolment for an award or under consideration for achievement of an award.
- 5.2 *Programme specification*: the definitive published programme documentation.
- 5.3 *Relevant committee*: the committee empowered for the purpose concerned by the Academic Board.
- 5.4 *Master of Research*: a type of postgraduate research degree comprising a taught component to enable research and a research component. The research component is undertaken independently and is larger in terms of student effort than any accompanying taught component.

General

- 5.5 The research degrees awarded by York St John University are set out in the [General Regulations for Awards](#).
- 5.6 Research degrees conform to requirements set out in the [Credit Framework for Awards](#) as approved by Academic Board. Additional requirements or variations are set out in the relevant [programme specification](#).
- 5.7 Other than where specified within these regulations, research degrees are subject to the application of the [General Regulations for Awards](#).
- 5.8 Programmes of study leading to research degrees may be offered on a full time or part time basis within the periods of enrolment specified in these regulations (see [Periods of Study](#) below).
- 5.9 Detailed information on Master of Research awards is set out in relevant [programme specifications](#) and other supporting documentation, including the [Master of Research Framework](#).

Admission

- 5.10 Entry requirements for research awards are set out in the [Admissions Policy](#) and supporting web-based information at the time of application.
- 5.11 Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate sufficient competence in English as specified by the University. Current English language requirements for research awards are set out in the [Admissions Policy](#) and supporting web-based information.
- 5.12 All formal offers of admission to the University are made by the University's Admissions teams. Offers of admission set out any conditions to be met. No other communication is regarded as a formal offer of admission.
- 5.13 A student who has previously been awarded a Master of Research will not be permitted to enrol on a programme with the same intended award.
- 5.14 Where a student's enrolment has been withdrawn due to academic failure, re-admission to the same subject as previously studied will not normally be permitted.
- 5.15 Where a student has a debt to the University, re-admission will not normally be permitted. This is also the case where a student's debt has previously been written off by the University on compassionate or similar grounds but where there is no evidence of ability to pay the necessary fees for a new enrolment.

Periods of study

5.16 The standard periods of study for Master of Research award are as follows:

Award	Mode of study	Minimum period of enrolment	Standard period of study	Normal maximum period of enrolment to submission
Master of Research	Full time	1 calendar year	1 calendar year	2 calendar years
	Part time	2 calendar years	2 calendar years	3 calendar years

Enrolment and engagement

- 5.17 An entrant for a Master of Research programme must enrol as a student at York St John University or approved partner institution, paying the prescribed fees. Students enrol for a specified programme of study and for all the associated modules as specified in the regulations for that programme. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are correctly enrolled for their programme of study.
- 5.18 Enrolment must normally take place no later than two weeks from the start of the programme. Enrolment after two weeks of teaching have passed will not normally be permitted.
- 5.19 During prescribed periods of study, students must attend regularly and participate in all activities and assessment prescribed for the programme of study as directed. Expectations of the time commitment required are as follows (this includes relevant professional activities including fieldwork and conferences, for example):
- Full time: a minimum of 40 hours per week for 45 weeks per year
 - Part time: a minimum of 20 hours per week for 30 weeks per year
- 5.20 Students must be in attendance at the University or approved partner institution throughout each taught module which is delivered on site. For programmes delivered on a part time or on a distance learning basis, students are required to attend or participate as set out in the individual programme regulations.
- 5.21 Appropriate contact with the University must be maintained whilst a student is undertaking their thesis. The supervisor and student will agree the details of the supervisory arrangement, which will include the frequency and mode of contact.
- 5.22 Students must undertake some study in all the semesters that they are enrolled for in order to satisfy programme registration and engagement requirements.
- 5.23 A Master of Research student may not be enrolled simultaneously for another programme of study either at York St John University or at another Higher Education provider, except with the express permission of the University Secretary and Registrar or their delegate.
- 5.24 Continued enrolment is conditional on satisfactory progress being maintained by the student within the time periods specified in these regulations. Persistent absence, failure to make satisfactory progress or failure to meet other specified requirements – such as those relating to academic integrity – may lead to enforced withdrawal of enrolment. Detailed information is set out in the [Programme Engagement Regulation](#) and the [Student Engagement Policy](#).

- 5.25 Students who are absent through illness must communicate their absence promptly, providing medical evidence as required. Exceptionally, the [Fitness to Study Policy](#) and procedure may be used by the University to seek a review of a student's continuing ability to remain enrolled for a programme of study on health grounds.
- 5.26 Regulations governing transfer from one programme of study to another programme of study are set out in the [Code of Practice for Assessment](#).

Assessment

- 5.27 Registration for assessment is through module enrolment. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are correctly enrolled for the modules prescribed for their programme of study.
- 5.28 Students for Master of Research must complete all assessments or examinations specified for the programme of study.
- 5.29 As specified by Academic Board, the results of assessments and examinations are considered by the University's Assessment Board and appropriately constituted School Assessment Boards. Results and awards will subsequently be ratified by the University's Research Degrees Committee.
- 5.30 Students must complete the assessment components for a module once enrolled for it, unless they have formally withdrawn from the module or have negotiated a formally deferred assessment using the [Exceptional Circumstances Policy](#) and procedure. Failure to submit for assessment components results in a mark of zero and/or a failure grade.
- 5.31 The University normally makes reassessment opportunities available for students who fail assessments or examinations. Normally no more than one reassessment opportunity is made available for each module assessment. The second attempt for assessment in a module is normally taken within the following resit period.
- 5.32 A student who successfully resits an assessment for a module is normally only eligible for the pass mark for the module.
- 5.33 Masters of Research includes modules focused on enabling research and a thesis, all of which are assessed.
- 5.34 The thesis is assessed independently by two internal examiners. There is no oral examination (viva voce) for the thesis.

Copyright and intellectual property

- 5.35 Intellectual property rights in relation to the thesis are addressed in the University's [Policy on Intellectual Property](#).

Progression

- 5.36 Students must make satisfactory progress during their programme of study. Students who are not making satisfactory progress (relating to engagement, the submission of assessed work or achievement in assessment) may be subject to the [Support to Study Policy](#). This may ultimately result in enforced withdrawal of enrolment from the programme of study.
- 5.37 A student who is not successful in the final attempt to meet the progression requirements or award requirements of a programme of study after all assessment opportunities have been exhausted will have their enrolment withdrawn due to academic failure.
- 5.38 Subject to the provisions of the relevant [programme specification](#), students who have not met the award requirements for a Master of Research may be deemed to be eligible for an exit award as defined within the programme specification, provided that they have met the requirements of that award. A student who has been granted an exit award in such circumstances and has exhausted all assessment opportunities as specified in the regulations is not normally permitted to progress to a further attempt at the higher award.
- 5.39 A student who has successfully met the requirements for a Master by Research at York St John University, completing all assessments as prescribed within the programme specification, may subsequently be permitted to progress to a higher-level postgraduate research award.

5.40 Progression requirements for Masters by Research are set out in the [programme specification](#) and the [Code of Practice for Assessment](#).

Availability of awards

- 5.41 Students who have passed the assessments for the specific programmes leading to a Master of Research and in conformity with the rules for award approved by Academic Board, and set out under the Eligibility for Awards section, may be awarded one as per the table below.
- 5.42 Detailed information relating to determining the classification of award is the same as for taught postgraduate degrees and is set out in the [Code of Practice for Assessment](#).
- 5.43 Classification is calculated based on a credit-weighted average of marks in the modules and thesis of the award. Both modules and the thesis are classified.
- 5.44 If a student's overall credit-weighted average falls within the threshold, the higher classification is awarded.

Award	Overall credit-weighted mark	Overall weighted mark for threshold
Master of Research <i>with distinction</i>	70 or above	69.50
Master of Research <i>with merit</i>	60-69	59.50
Master of Research	50-59	49.50
Fail	0-49	n/a

Eligibility for awards

- 5.45 Students are eligible for a Master of Research award when they have:
- a) Fulfilled specified enrolment requirements, including the payment of relevant fees; **and**
 - b) Fulfilled specified student visa conditions, where applicable; **and**
 - c) Attempted the assessment for all modules specified for the programme of study in the [programme specification](#); **and**
 - d) Been awarded the required credits at the appropriate level; **and**
 - e) Fulfilled any additional requirements as specified in the [programme specification](#), and in particular must have passed all modules designated as compulsory for award; **and**
 - f) Achieved a classification average, determined across all modules contributing to award calculated in accordance with the classification rules approved by the Academic Board, which is at least the pass mark specified for a Master of Research award.
- 5.46 Credits awarded or recognised by the University count only once for the purpose of progression and award. Work submitted for one module may not be submitted for another module.

Appeals

- 5.47 Students enrolled for a Master of Research award may appeal decisions relating to their enrolment status, progression or award. Full details and the procedure to be followed are set out in the [Appeals Policy](#).

Academic and research integrity

- 5.48 Students enrolled for a Masters of Research award must meet university requirements relating to academic integrity. The University's expectations of students and its policy and procedure for investigating allegations of academic misconduct are set out in the [Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

5.49 In addition, students enrolled for research degrees must ensure that their work meets the University's expectations relating to research integrity (set out in the [Code of Practice on Research Integrity](#)) and ethical approval (set out in the [Research Ethics Policy](#)). The University's expectations of students and its policy and procedure for investigating allegations of misconduct are set out in the [Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure](#).

Variations

5.50 Any change to these regulations needs the explicit approval of the Academic Board.

5.51 Any variation to these regulations for an individual student needs the prior express permission of the *relevant committee*.

Associated links:	https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/ https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/code-of-practice-for-assessment/ https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/programme-specifications/ https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/admissions/ https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/research/ethics-and-integrity/
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Version control statement

Document property	Detail
Version:	1
Document title:	Regulations for Master of Research Awards
Author role and department:	Academic Registrar, Registry
Approved date:	24 June 2026
Approved by:	Academic Board
Equality analysis undertaken:	Not yet undertaken

Amendments since approval

Version	Detail of revision:	Date of revision:	Revision approved by: