

UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

Rule VII

MASTER'S DEGREE BY RESEARCH PROGRAMME

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

IN exercise of the powers conferred by Part IV of the Constitution of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, the President, on the advice of the Senate, makes the following Rule:

1. This Rule may be cited as the Master's Degree by Research Programme Rule and shall come into force as from the date of incorporation of the University.

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

2. In this Rule, unless otherwise stated:

- (a) 'the University' means Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR);
- (b) 'the Senate' means the Senate of Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman;
- (c) 'the Faculty/Institute' has the meaning assigned thereto in the Faculties Statute of the University;
- (d) 'the Head of Department' means the Head of a department of the Faculty/Institute;
- (e) words importing the masculine gender only shall include feminine gender and words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number, and vice versa;
- (f) ~~deleted~~;
- (g) ~~deleted~~;
- (h) 'Research programme' refers to postgraduate programme where candidates are required to contribute to original research in a research environment.

*Amended on
12 Oct 2010*

*Amended on
12 Oct 2010*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

*Amended on
14 May 2013*

3. The following provisions shall apply to both the full-time and part-time candidates, unless the text expressly states a contrary intention.

*Amended on
12 Oct 2010*

4. The Board of a Faculty/Institute (hereinafter referred to as "the Faculty/Institute Board") may propose the introduction of degree programmes at the Master's level through research. Upon a review of such proposal, the Senate may approve the introduction of the programmes by the Faculty/Institute.

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

*Amended on
12 Oct 2010*

5. ~~deleted~~.

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

- 5A. A candidate admitted into a Master's Degree by Research Programme shall normally possess the qualifications as stated in **Regulation I (Entry Requirements for Programmes of the University)**.

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014
and
1 Aug 2023*

6. *deleted.* *Amended on
1 Aug 2023*
7. The acceptance of a candidate shall be at the discretion of the Senate, whose decision shall be final.
8. The Faculty/Institute Board may require a candidate to follow any undergraduate/postgraduate taught courses if the Faculty/Institute Board is of the opinion that the course is required for the candidate to complete his study successfully. *Amended on
12 Oct 2010
and
7 June 2016*
9. Upon admission into an UTAR Master's degree programme, a candidate shall not pursue any other postgraduate degree programme in the same discipline in UTAR or any other Institutions of Higher Learning. Prior written approval must be obtained from the University if he intends to pursue other academic programme in UTAR or any other Institutions of Higher Learning during the period of his candidature. *Amended on
10 Nov 2009*
10. A candidate for the Master's degree by research shall be governed by the following provisions:
- (a) Upon admission, a candidate for the degree shall pursue a programme of study and research in the University under the direction and supervision of a Supervisor and Co-Supervisor(s) appointed by the Senate upon the recommendation of the Faculty/Institute Board. *Amended on
10 Nov 2009,
5 Sep 2012,
11 Feb 2014
and
7 June 2016*
- (b) *deleted.* *Amended on
11 Feb 2014*
- (bb) Upon the recommendation of the Board of Faculty/Institute, the Senate may appoint an External Consultant / External Co-Supervisor for a candidate for a Master's degree by research. *Amended on
5 Sep 2012
and
11 Feb 2014*
- (c) *deleted.* *Amended on
11 Feb 2014*
- (d) (i) A full-time employee of the University shall be admitted as a part-time candidate.
- (ii) Notwithstanding the above, full-time Tutors and full-time Research Officers may be registered as full-time candidates upon the recommendation of the Faculty/Institute Board. *Amended on
12 Oct 2010*
- 10A (aa) (i) A full-time candidate shall register and be on campus for the whole duration of the candidature while a part-time candidate shall register and be on campus at least 15 working days a year for the duration of candidature. *Amended on
4 April 2017*

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| <p>(ii) A candidate is subject to sub-section 10A(aa) above unless approval from Senate is obtained to conduct the research in another institution/organization either locally or overseas.</p> | <p><i>Amended on
4 April 2017</i></p> |
| <p>(a) The minimum duration of a Master's degree by research candidature for a full-time candidate or a part-time candidate shall be as stated in Schedule VII(a). A candidate may apply through the Faculty/Institute Board to change his candidature and the Senate may, upon recommendation of the Faculty/Institute Board, approve the same.</p> | <p><i>Amended on
11 Feb 2014</i></p> |
| <p>(b) Upon the recommendation of the Supervisor, through the Faculty/Institute Board, the Senate may allow a candidate to submit his dissertation for examination earlier than the minimum duration as specified in Schedule VII(a).</p> | |
| <p>(bb) Notwithstanding sub-section 10A(a) above, candidate registered from July 2015 onwards, the normal duration of study of a Master's degree by research candidature for a full-time candidate or a part-time candidate shall be as stated in Schedule VII(b). A candidate may apply through the Faculty/Institute Board to change his candidature and the Senate may, upon recommendation of the Faculty/Institute Board, approve the same.</p> | <p><i>Amended on
9 June 2015</i></p> |
| <p>(bbb) Notwithstanding the normal duration of study in sub-section 10A(bb) above, upon the recommendation of the Supervisor, through the Faculty/Institute Board, the Senate may allow a candidate who registered from July 2015 onwards to submit his dissertation earlier than the normal duration.</p> | <p><i>Amended on
9 June 2015</i></p> |
| <p>(c) A candidate shall be required to complete the programme for the degree and submit his dissertation for examination not later than the maximum duration for full-time study or part-time study respectively as stated in Schedule VII(a) and Schedule VII(b) from the date of initial registration.</p> | <p><i>Amended on
9 June 2015</i></p> |
| <p>(d) Notwithstanding sub-section 10A(c) above, the Senate may, on the recommendation of the Faculty/Institute Board, extend the period of candidature beyond the maximum duration. Such extension, if granted, shall not exceed one year in any one case and shall be subject to such conditions as may be determined by the Senate.</p> | <p><i>Amended on
9 June 2015</i></p> |
| <p>11. A candidate shall be required to submit a progress report every six (6) months on the progress of his research to the Faculty/Institute.</p> | <p><i>Amended on
10 Nov 2009
and
12 Oct 2010</i></p> |

12. (1) A candidate shall be required to present and defend his research proposal before a committee established by the relevant Faculty/Institute. This research proposal defense must be done within six (6) months from the date of registration as a Master's degree full-time candidate and within twelve (12) months for a part-time candidate. A candidate would be graded as "Satisfactory" or "Not Satisfactory". In order to proceed with the programme, a candidate shall have to attain a "Satisfactory" grade for the proposal defense. A candidate shall be allowed a maximum of three (3) times for proposal defence within twelve (12) months for a full-time candidate and within eighteen (18) months for a part-time candidate.
- Amended on
14 Apr 2009
and
12 Oct 2010*
- (2) The grade for the proposal defence shall be determined by a committee comprising the following:
- Amended on
14 Apr 2009
and
10 Nov 2009*
- (a) Two experts approved by the Faculty and one of them shall be appointed the Chairman;
- Amended on
14 Apr 2009
and
9 June 2015*
- (b) The Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor(s) / External Co-Supervisor(s) (if appointed) of the candidate; and
- Amended on
7 Aug 2012
and
5 Sept 2012*
- (c) A member of the Faculty/Institute R&D and Postgraduate Committee
- Amended on
12 Oct 2010*
13. Upon completion of the programme of study and research, a candidate shall be required to present his research results in a work completion seminar before he shall be allowed to submit his dissertation. The work completion seminar shall be arranged by the relevant Faculty/Institute. The seminar shall be evaluated by a Panel of Assessors comprising of the following:
- Amended on
14 Apr 2009,
12 Oct 2010,
14 May 2013
and
7 Jun 2016*
- (a) Two experts approved by the Faculty and one of them shall be appointed the Chairman,
- Amended on
14 Apr 2009
and
9 June 2015*
- (b) The Supervisor and the Co-Supervisor(s) / External Co-Supervisor(s) (if appointed) of the candidate; and
- Amended on
7 Aug 2012
and
5 Sep 2012*
- (c) A member of the Faculty/Institute R&D and Postgraduate Committee
- Amended on
12 Oct 2010*
14. Upon satisfactory presentation of his research results at the work completion seminar and completion of any further work required, the candidate shall submit a dissertation together with an abstract thereof and shall satisfy the examiners that:
- Amended on
14 May 2013*
- (a) the dissertation contains original work or critical exposition worthy of publication; and
- (b) the dissertation is of sufficient standard and merit to qualify for the degree of Master's.
15. *deleted.*
- Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

16. The examiners for a Master's dissertation shall be appointed by the Senate and shall comprise:
- (a) one (1) External Examiner; and
 - (b) one (1) Internal Examiner.
- In the event that there is no suitable internal examiner, the Senate may appoint another external examiner for the dissertation.
- Amended on
14 May 2013*
17. The Board of Examiners for a Master's dissertation shall comprise:
- (a) the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research (IPSR) or in his absence, the Director of IPSR's representative, who shall be the Chairman;
 - (b) the External Examiner (or his report in lieu of);
 - (c) the Internal Examiner; and
 - (d) two (2) representatives of the Faculty/Institute.
- The Board of Examiners shall invite the Supervisor / Co-Supervisor(s) / External Co-Supervisor(s) (if appointed) and may invite the Dean of the Faculty/Institute / Head of Department to attend the Board of Examiners meeting as invited members.
- Amended on
14 Apr 2009,
12 Oct 2010,
7 Aug 2012
and
5 Sep 2012*
- 17A. A "viva voce" shall be conducted for a candidate. If required by the Board of Examiners, the candidate shall present himself for a written and/or practical examination on the subject matter of the dissertation or related subjects, and in this event the candidate shall be required to satisfy the Board in the examination(s) as well as in the "viva voce" and the dissertation.
- Amended on
11 Feb 2014
and
3 March 2015*
- 17B. If the Board of Examiners is not satisfied that a sufficient standard has been reached in the "viva voce", the candidate shall be required to repeat the "viva voce". A candidate is allowed a maximum of two (2) attempts to obtain a "satisfactory" grade for his "viva voce".
- Amended on
3 March 2015*
18. If the Board of Examiners is not satisfied that a sufficient standard has been reached in the dissertation and "viva voce" (after a maximum of two (2) attempts) for the award of the degree of Masters, the Board shall either:
- (a) report that the candidate has failed; or
 - (b) recommend that the candidate be required to pursue a further scheme of work over a period to be specified by the Board of Examiners, at the end of which the candidate may resubmit his dissertation for re-examination.
- Amended on
10 Nov 2009,
14 May 2013
and 3 March
2015*
- Amended on
14 May 2013*

18A. If a candidate is required by the Board of Examiners to resubmit his dissertation for re-examination, he is automatically required to repeat the “viva voce”. A candidate is allowed only one (1) resubmission of dissertation for re-examination.

*Amended on
3 March 2015*

19. The candidature of a candidate for a Master’s degree by Research shall be terminated if the candidate:

*Amended on
10 Nov 2009*

- (a) does not comply with the requirement under the provisions of Section 9 above;
- (b) does not attain a “Satisfactory” grade for the defence of his research proposal as required under the provisions of Section 12 above;
- (c) has not passed the compulsory module(s) as required by the programme after three (3) attempts;
- (d) has been given three (3) consecutive warnings for failing to obtain a “Satisfactory” grade for the progress in his research work or non-submission of the research progress reports on time;
- (e) does not complete and formally submit his dissertation within the maximum duration as stated in Schedule VII(a) from the date of initial registration; or
- (f) conducts himself in a manner which contravenes any provisions of the Laws of the University.

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014
and
1 Aug 2023*

19A. A candidate shall be awarded a Master’s degree by Research if he has:

*Amended on
7 Aug 2012
and
14 May 2013*

- (a) passed all the compulsory modules and the dissertation;
- (b) fulfilled all the requirements of the Laws of the University and paid all the outstanding fees to the University.

19B. Aegrotat and Posthumous Degree

*Amended on
5 April 2021*

- (1) For the purpose of this clause:

An Aegrotat Degree is an award, without classification, made to a candidate who is prevented from completing his programme of study due to medical reason, permanent loss of ability or other reasons accepted by the Senate based on the evidence that the candidate would have fulfilled all the degree requirements should he had been able to continue his study. The award title conferred shall contain “Aegrotat”.

A Posthumous Degree is an award, without classification, made to a deceased candidate who did not complete his programme of study but had completed sufficient work to be awarded a degree. The award title conferred shall contain “Posthumous”.

- (2) For the award of Aegrotat Degree, a candidate must complete and submit his dissertation/ thesis upon satisfactory presentation of his research results at the work completion seminar.
- (3) Application for Aegrotat Degree must be made by the candidate (where possible) or candidate's guardian/ next of kin in writing to the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research. The written application must include:
 - (i) a signed statement from the candidate (where possible) or candidate's guardian/ next of kin that he or the guardian/ next of kin is willing to accept the aegrotat award and thus, agreeing to waive the candidate's right to any further assessment/re-assessment should the application is approved; and
 - (ii) a medical report issued by a certified doctor in the case of illness or other appropriate documents for other cases that can establish the facts of the candidate's case.
- (4) For the award for Posthumous Degree, a student must complete and submit his dissertation/ thesis upon satisfactory presentation of his research results at the work completion seminar.
- (5) Application for Posthumous Degree must be made by the deceased candidate's guardian/ next of kin, in writing to the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research. The written application must be accompanied by the death certificate of the deceased student.
- (6) The Senate may, upon the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and upon such conditions as it shall think fit, award an Aegrotat Degree or Posthumous Degree to the student concerned.

20. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

21. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

22. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

23. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

24. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

25. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

25A. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

26. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

26A. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

27. *deleted.*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

Appeal

28. (1) A candidate, whose candidature has been terminated under Section 19 above, may appeal to the President of the University for reinstatement of his candidature. The decision of the President shall be final;

*Amended on
10 Nov 2009
and
11 Feb 2014*

(2) A candidate who failed under Section 18 may appeal to the President of the University for re-examination of the dissertation. The decision of the President shall be final.

*Amended on
14 May 2013
and
11 Feb 2014*

29. The appeal to the President shall be in writing and submitted to the Director of Institute of Postgraduate Studies and Research together with payment of a prescribed appeal fee within two (2) weeks from the date of receipt of the termination notice or notification of result. Appeals submitted after the lapse of the said period shall not be entertained.

*Amended on
10 Nov 2009
and
11 Feb 2014*

Schedule VII(a) - Duration of Study for Full-time & Part-time Master's Degree by Research Programmes in UTAR as Approved by MOHE/MQA

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014,
3 March 2015
and
4 April 2017*

Programme Name / MQA Registration No.	Mode of Study	Faculty	Date of MOHE Approval	Full-time		Part-time	
				Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
Master of Philosophy (A10031)	By Research	FAM	18.05.2009	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Arts (Chinese Studies) (A6337)	By Research	ICS	27.08.2010	1.5 years	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Communication (By Research) / Master of Arts (Communication) (MQA/FA0473)	By Research	FCI	16.03.2011 / 08.01.2013	1.5 years	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Science (A6918/R/440/7/0004)	By Research	FES	29.03.2011	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Engineering Science (A6919)	By Research	FES	29.03.2011	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Medical Sciences (MQA/PA1390)	By Research	FMHS	22.11.2011	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Science (A11039)	By Research	FSc	01.04.2010	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Engineering Science (A11098)	By Research	FEGT	21.07.2010	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Computer Science / Master of Science (Computer Science) (A11054)	By Research	FICT	25.01.2010 / 28.06.2013	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Philosophy (A10012)	By Research	FBF	18.05.2009	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years
Master of Philosophy (Social Science) (A9923)	By Research	FAS	13.07.2009	1 year	4 years	2 years	6 years

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

*Amended on
11 Feb 2014*

Schedule VII(b) - Duration of Study for Full-time & Part-time Master's Degree by Research Programmes in UTAR as Approved by MOHE/MQA
(For candidate registered from July 2015 onwards)

*Amended on
9 June 2015
and
4 April 2017*

Programme Name / MQA Registration No.	Mode of Study	Faculty	Date of MOHE Approval	Full-time		Part-time	
				Normal Duration	Maximum Duration	Normal Duration	Maximum Duration
Master of Philosophy (A10031)	By Research	FAM	18.05.2009	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Arts (Chinese Studies) (A11666)	By Research	ICS	27.08.2010	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Arts (Communication) (MQA/FA0473)	By Research	FCI	16.03.2011	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Science (A6918)	By Research	LKC FES	29.03.2011	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Engineering Science (A6919)	By Research	LKC FES	29.03.2011	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Medical Sciences/ Master of Medical Science (MQA/PA1390)	By Research	FMHS	22.11.2011	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Science (A11039)	By Research	FSc	01.04.2010	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Engineering Science (A11098)	By Research	FEGT	21.07.2010	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Science (Computer Science) (A11054)	By Research	FICT	25.01.2010	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Philosophy (A10012)	By Research	FBF	18.05.2009	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Philosophy (Social Science) (A9923)	By Research	FAS	13.07.2009	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Science in Chinese Medicine (MQA/PA5352)	By Research	FMHS	13.08.2015	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Science (Mathematics) (MQA/PSA15743)	By Research	FSc	01.08.2023	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years
Master of Science in Biological Science (MQA/PSA16058)	By Research	FSc	05.10.2023	2 year	4 years	3 years	6 years

*Amended on
4 April 2017*

*Amended on
4 April 2017
and
1 Aug 2023*

