

Kelly Roe <kroe031@gmail.com>

**Re: MPhil**

1 message

Fri, Jul 26, 2019 at 6:08 AM

Kelly Roe <email@kellyroe.org>
To: Kirstine Moffat <kirstine.moffat@waikato.ac.nz>

Hi Kirstine Moffat,

I would like to draw your attention to the Tertiary Education Commission guidelines on how 120 points of study is 34 weeks including examination.

I did not know that.

It is your job to know that?

I suppose you don't think that it is your job to know that -- but you do think it is your job to make pronouncements on what constitutes 'truncated' enrollment?

Why couldn't you have been *helpful* in the interests of *increasing productivity*?

I don't understand why the University of Waikato thinks it is somehow admirable or aspirational or ideal to prevent and prohibit the timely production of research output.

'But it's rubbish!' I hear someone say.

But, of course, that's for the EXAMINERS to decide.

Kelly Roe.

On Fri, May 18, 2018 at 10:11 AM Kirstine Moffat <kirstine.moffat@waikato.ac.nz> wrote:

Dear Kelly,

I appreciate all the time and effort you have put into thinking about the MPhil and your desired timeline to completion of an MPhil this year.

As I outlined in my previous email, I have consulted extensively about your proposed time-frame of completion (which would essentially only allow for just over 4 months of enrollment before submission to allow sufficient time for the examination process) - including with the Acting Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Professor Allison Kirkman.

I reiterate that while we welcome you as a student and are happy for you to enroll in the MPhil, we cannot approve this truncated enrollment. The MPhil is a significant piece of work (with a maximum word count of 50,000 words) that requires a considerable investment of time, both in the research and writing, but also in thinking, reflecting and processing and in the refining of ideas and words through regular meetings with and feedback from supervisors.

This decision is final.

Kind regards,

Kirstine

On Mon, May 14, 2018 at 7:13 PM, roeke375@student.otago.ac.nz <kroe031@gmail.com> wrote:

I apologise for having taken so long with this work.

1) I have included a breakdown of the typical undergraduate (and honours level) work distribution. A full years work (120 points) is distributed across an enrolment period of 34 weeks.

2) My work distribution involves 32 weeks. I appreciate that this is shorter than usual -- but it is only 2 weeks shorter than usual, so I am hoping very much, that people will allow it.

3) I have time budgeted in the fact that I am doing two stage one course work papers this semester. I have asterisked the date of my first semester examinations. In all honesty, I will allocate more time towards those papers until their examinations are done -- at which point I will allocate more time towards my MPhil. Basically... I will allocate all the time there is towards my MPhil (allowing for a couple hours each day on the UMAT prep -- which is also marked down there).

4) I have a couple alternative futures with respect to getting work to external examiners 8 weeks prior to my deadline and 12 weeks prior to my deadline. The Auckland District Health Board (at least) believes that somewhere between those deadlines actually provides a junior doctor with 'aspirational' working hours (haha -- I know). But I am hoping this will help people to allow it.

5) In response to other students who may query how it is I got the work done in time: 1) I did a timeline which showed I could make it work if I was prepared to work weekends and prepared to work overtime. I don't believe my timeline is unreasonable -- I have allocated myself one day off per week because I know in actuality I will need at least 2 half days off for my sanity.

6) I have also included a template. It is very provisional -- but it shows I have some understanding of breaking it down into manageable chunks and then getting on to writing them.

7) A huge part of why I believe I can do this is because of my previous experience with a high quality Masters and also with lots (more than a dozen) 5,000 word papers / seminar presentations that I have written. I would expect that other students coming in with my background could similarly complete such work if they had similar motivation to do so.

8) Just so everything is crystal clear: Auckland needs to hear that I have completed the qualification. I am interpreting that as saying that I have heard from an external examiner that my thesis is accepted in fulfillment of the degree regulation will be sufficient. They need to hear this by December 07 because that is when they decide who will be offered an interview. If I don't have this information by that time then I will not be eligible for interview / selection into Medicine. Despite my UMAT score, my previous grades etc.

Kelly Roe.

On 9 May 2018 at 21:27, roeke375@student.otago.ac.nz <kroe031@gmail.com> wrote:

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10388858

There we go. 'Not so hard'.
And back... To stats...

On 9 May 2018 at 21:03, roeke375@student.otago.ac.nz <kroe031@gmail.com> wrote:

P.S..
This semester I am studying 2 first year papers at Otago (both coursework and no research - so no conflict with MPhil). I need to factor their remaining hours into my workload, also.

I do understand the desire to:

- 1) Maintain the integrity of the degree (that is certainly in my interests, as well)
- 2) Be fair to myself and other students undertaking the degree -- with respect to the amount of work that is involved in the degree
- 3) Be fair to external examiners and internal examiners / supervisors with respect of giving them adequate opportunity to provide input to genuinely help make the work better

From my perspective:

I have been very disappointed with how other universities (Otago and Auckland) have regarded (actually disregarded) my previous study (and grades) from Waikato University.

I do understand that the MPhil Degree is typically undertaken by people who: 1) Have been demoted from PhD because their work was not of high enough quality / they did not produce enough work. Or 2) People who did not have sufficient grades for entry (and / or scholarship funding) for PhD. I was heartened by the fact that the MPhil was promoted for other reasons, too. My purpose in undertaking the MPhil (I made it quite clear on application) was to complete the program in 1 year because this is what is required of me for application to Medicine with Auckland for 2019.

I am angry with Auckland, already, that they saw fit to fail me for POPLHTL101 by giving me a D grade. I attended ALL lectures, completed ALL readings and genuinely worked on their assignments to the best of my ability. When I requested that the university appoint independent examiners to look at my work they declined to do so. I believe that I (and a number of other candidates) were set up to fail by the University. The university was more interested in collecting 3 years worth of fees from students with poor self-esteem than on rewarding genuine merit.

I need to prove to Auckland that I can do public health (I've applied for the scholarship with the DHB).

I also need to prove to Auckland that I can suck it up and work as a Junior Doctor for a number of years with some DHB or other.

I'm genuinely hoping that that DHB would be Waikato.

But they need to see me hauling some ass this year because they are only too quick to write me off in favor of the newer (and more naive) generation.

Kelly Roe.

On 9 May 2018 at 20:19, roeke375@student.otago.ac.nz <kroe031@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi,

It is a 120 point paper which translates to 1200 hours of work.

I'm not sure whether you are aware of the number of hours worked per week by a Junior Doctor near you -- but they don't get weekends or holidays and there are no government regulations to prevent the District Health Boards allowing (no, actually *requiring*) them to work such hours.

I haven't done the math yet -- but I am fairly confident that 1200 hours of work can be done over the next 4-ish months.

Especially when you consider that a 3 month external examination might involve 1 month of it sitting on the shelf while the supervisor does their 1st or 2nd or 3rd year or honours coursework grading before they get the chance to look at things like Masters or MPhil theses.

I will do the math in the Very Near Future but have been struggling (perhaps more than a little bit) with my Stats this week.

Best Wishes,

Kelly Roe.

On 9 May 2018 at 19:27, Kirstine Moffat <kirstine.moffat@waikato.ac.nz> wrote:

Dear Kelly,

I have now had an opportunity to consult with relevant colleagues in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and am emailing you with an answer to the question you raised about the time-frame of the MPhil in your correspondence with the School of Graduate Research.

Firstly, let me clarify that the Faculty was (and continues to be) supportive of your application to do an MPhil, with your application being approved and resulting in an offer of place. What I am emailing to clarify is the matter that was referred to me by Professor Kay Weaver: that of whether it was possible to do an MPhil in a shorter time frame than the year that is stipulated in the regulations. The relevant regulation is Regulation 10:

Applicants approved to enrol in the MPhil by the Dean of the School of Graduate Research must enrol in the relevant Faculty and, subject to progress which meets expectations, pursue their research for

- (a) one year, if they are enrolled on a full-time basis, or
- (b) two years, if they are enrolled on a part-time basis or
- (c) a term approved by the Dean of the School of Graduate Research which represents a combination of full-time and part-time study.

The full regulations can be found at this link: <https://calendar.waikato.ac.nz/regulations/higher/mphil.html>

Professor Weaver has briefed me about your desire to complete your MPhil by 7/12/2018. Essentially, with the need to allow sufficient time for the examination process (which can take up to three months) we would be looking at a submission date of early September, which is only 4 months away. As this is significantly less than the one year stipulated in the regulations, this matter was referred to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

I have consulted with the School of Graduate Research, your proposed supervisors, and the Acting Dean of the Faculty, Professor Allison Kirkman. The result of this consultation is that the Faculty cannot approve a truncated enrollment in the MPhil. The MPhil is a significant piece of work (with a maximum word count of 50,000 words) that requires a considerable investment of time, both in the research and writing, but also in the refining of ideas and words through regular meetings with and feedback from supervisors. Truncating the time period, as you have requested, would not only put you under inordinate pressure but would also place an unreasonable burden on your supervisors.

I am aware that this is not the answer you were hoping for, but we have a responsibility to safeguard our students and our staff.

Kind regards,

Kirstine

On Thu, May 3, 2018 at 6:57 PM, roeke375@student.otago.ac.nz <kroe031@gmail.com> wrote:

Dr Moffat,

After discussion with Professor Weaver I thought issues were largely resolved, which was why I returned my acceptance of offer with the May start date.

- Over this weekend I produce a proposed timeline to completion. This way people can see my workload (as an average number of hours per day over however many weeks).

- I was informed that the external examination process can take up to 3 months. I would like to try and see whether it can be arranged to be done in two months - so long as my supervisors are able to approve my work as being acceptable for me to get it to external examiners. I was hoping that any revise and resubmit or oral defence could be done in the timeframe (if required). I would, of course, hope it would go through with only very minor alterations.

Best,

Kelly Roe.

On 3 May 2018 at 17:52, Kirstine Moffat <kirstine.moffat@waikato.ac.nz> wrote:

Dear Kelly,

I am the Associate Dean Postgraduate in FASS. Your MPhil enrollment has been referred to me by Professor Weaver from the School of Graduate Research. I have to consult with relevant colleagues in the Faculty and will be in touch with you in the next few days with some clarification an answers on the matters you have raised about the timeframe of completing the MPhil.

Kind regards,

Kirstine

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