

## Distance learning PGR students:

### 6.2 **Candidates studying at a distance overseas**

#### The current regulations for distance overseas students:

**6.2.1** The Research Degrees Team must be notified of all potential candidates for admissions to the part-time Distance learning MPhil/PhD programme in advance of the application being submitted via the University's Online application system. Where this is not possible, the Faculty must notify the Research Degrees Team as soon as they are aware of a potential application via this route, to ensure that all the necessary entry requirements can be considered in advance, and all system adjustments can be made to the online application, prior to the decision, and potential offer being made. .

6.2.2 The Research Degree Committee may approve an application from a candidate proposing to study at a distance outside the UK on the part-time Distance Learning MPhil/PhD programme, provided that:

- (a) In general, the candidate should spend no less than six weeks at the University though there are exceptions for certain courses. During the course of their attendance they will be required to do some, or all the following programme requirements as set out by their Director of Studies: carry out their research under supervision, attend training sessions, make presentations at seminars or conferences, complete the annual monitoring process, attend Registration and/or Transfer vivas, and undertake other forms of assessment as required;

**\*Please note the six weeks per year does not apply to any students who are studying for Doctorate in Coaching and Mentoring or MPhil/PhD through Distance Learning mode of study in Oxford Brookes Business School.**

- (b) the arrangements proposed for supervision must enable frequent and substantial contact between the candidate and the supervisor(s) based in the UK, including adequate face-to-face contact or online meetings with the supervisor(s);
- (c) appropriate support is available for the candidate whilst they are studying at a distance outside the UK through the appointment of a locally-based supervisor or adviser;
- (d) there is satisfactory evidence as to the facilities available for the research both in the University and abroad.

**6.2.3** For part-time and full-time study on the Distance Learning MPhil/PhD or Professional Doctorate programmes within the Business School. There is no requirement for a minimum attendance at the University in each academic year. However, to support their distance learning doctoral studies, OBBS PGR DL students will be able to attend on-campus intensive blocks covering some, or all of the following programme requirements as set out by their Director of Studies/ programme such as: carry out their research under supervision, attend doctoral training sessions, make presentations at seminars or conferences, complete the annual monitoring process, attend Registration and/or Transfer vivas, and undertake other forms of assessment as required.

## **Proposal to permit distance learning research students doing a MPhil to come to the UK for a short term period of study as set out in Appendix 1.**

### **Context:**

1.1 It has always been the case that part-time students working overseas could exceptionally be offered a place on the research degree programme under the rules outlined in Appendix 1. However, since Brexit, EU students have been under different immigration rules which has made this more difficult.

1.2 Currently International students, including EU students with no UK immigration permission, are permitted to visit the UK and undertake study under the Visitor visa route as long as they meet the following criteria:

- 1.2.1 Students have to be registered as distance learning, not part time
- 1.2.2 The period of study in the UK must not exceed 6 months at any one time
- 1.2.3 Students should not use frequent or repeat Visitor visas instead of using a Student route visa
- 1.2.4 Students must leave the UK at the end of the 6 months or before

Below are specific amendments to these previous regulations

1.3 Brookes will only be able to accept new students onto a distance learning research degree programme via the Visitor Visa route, if the MPhil/Doctoral programme is formally approved as a Distance Learning programme.

## **2. Proposed rules for the Distance Learning MPhil/PhD and other Doctorates :**

2.1 The following rules cover both University and UKVI regulations. When approved these rules will form the basis for managing part-time and full-time students enrolled on distance learning programmes.

2.2 The Research Degree Committee may approve an application from an overseas distance learning student (full or part-time) proposing to come to the UK for a short period of study, provided that:

(a) the candidate spends no less than one week and no more than 3 months at the University during their doctorate stay, with the candidate ideally spending no less than six weeks where possible.

Supervisors will let the Research Degrees team know the dates of study in the UK. Any requests to complete more than one period of study in each academic year will be undertaken on a case by case basis. For these cases, the Research Degrees team will check with the International Student Compliance Team to confirm that the additional Visitor visa applications would not be deemed as “frequent or repeat”.

(b) during the course of their attendance they will be required to do some, or all the following programme requirements as set out by their Director of Studies: carry out their research under supervision, attend

doctoral training sessions, make presentations at seminars or conferences, complete the annual monitoring process, attend Registration and/or Transfer vivas, and undertake other forms of assessment as required. Supervisors will let the Research Degrees team know the student's programme of study in the UK.

(c) the arrangements proposed for supervision must enable frequent and substantial contact between the candidate and the supervisor(s) based in the UK, including adequate synchronous contact with their supervisor(s);

(d) appropriate support is available for the candidate whilst they are studying at a distance outside the UK through the appointment of a locally-based supervisor or adviser

(e) there is satisfactory evidence as to the facilities available for the research both in the University and abroad. At application and interview those applying for the distance learning mode must demonstrate consideration of the resources they have available locally to support their doctoral studies at a distance from Oxford Brookes University.