



DOCTORATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH (DrPH) MARKING SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

There are three assessed components that contribute to the award of the degree:

- A Taught Course component, which consists of two compulsory modules
- Research Study I: An Organizational and Policy Analysis (OPA) project
- Research Study II: A research based thesis

In order to pass the DrPH degree, a pass grade must be reached in each of these components.

MARKING SCHEME

1. TAUGHT COURSE COMPONENT

1.1 The DrPH Taught Course component consists of two compulsory modules delivered as part of the core DrPH programme. Additional (optional) modules taken from the MSc teaching programme do not count towards a DrPH degree and are not considered when determining whether or not a student has passed the DrPH Taught Course component.

1.2 Assessment of each DrPH taught module is based on graded written assignments. Each piece of work is blind double-marked and given an integer grade point between 0 and 5 based on the School's standard grading scale. Grades 2 and above are pass grades, whilst grades below 2 are fail grades. Standard descriptors for the level of work required to attain each grade are available in the [Assessment Handbook](#).

1.3 Candidates pass or fail the Taught Course component as follows:

(i) Pass

Candidates must obtain a pass grade for all required assignments. No compensation of grades between assignments is possible

(ii) Fail

Assignments graded as 0 or 1 are considered a fail. Candidates are required to re-sit any assignments that are graded below the required grade point of 2. A timetable for resubmission, including a specified deadline for submitting the revised assignment, should be agreed on a case-by-case basis by the DrPH Course Director, the student's supervisor and the relevant module organizer and approved by the Exam Board Chair. Only one re-sit is permitted for any individual assignment. Candidates who fail a resubmitted assignment (i.e. fail to obtain a grade point of 2 or better) will be ineligible for the award of DrPH and will be withdrawn from the programme. Where an assignment is re-sat its grade point will be capped at a maximum of 3. Only failed assignments may be re-sat.

2. RESEARCH STUDY I: ORGANISATIONAL AND/OR POLICY ANALYSIS (OPA) PROJECT

2.1 Organisation and/or Policy Analysis Projects are assessed by oral examination at the completion of the degree and the assessment criteria is outlined below:

There are five possible recommendations open to the OPA assessors. For students submitting under 2018 regulations, these are all provisional pending the formal examination at viva:

(i) Ready for submission



(ii) Not ready for submission / minor amendments and/or corrections

The candidate is required to make specified minor amendments to the markers' satisfaction within one month of receiving the markers' report and decision. The submitted report is then reviewed by one or both markers.

(iii) Not ready for submission / major amendments and/or corrections

The candidate is required to make significant revisions to the report in line with the markers' feedback, conducting additional fieldwork and/or analysis and to resubmit within three months. Candidates are also required to prepare a supplementary document detailing specific revisions made in response to marker feedback. This supplementary document should be reviewed by the candidate's supervisor/s before resubmission to the markers, together with the revised OPA report.

(iv) Fail

The candidate has resubmitted their OPA following feedback, has conducted additional fieldwork and/or made revisions to their OPA report, but the minimum standard has still not been met.

(v) Outright fail

The candidate has failed once, undertaken additional fieldwork and/or analysis, submitted a rewritten report and is again awarded a fail. The candidate is not able to continue with the programme following this outcome and will be withdrawn.

3. RESEARCH STUDY II: THESIS

3.1 The thesis will not exceed 60,000 words, excluding references and appendices.

3.2 The thesis cannot be submitted until Research Study I: the OPA project report has been submitted and the Taught Course component satisfactorily completed.

3.3 A third examiner may be appointed for the DrPH examination if this facilitates understanding of the different tasks required for RSI and RSII, or if additional, domain-specific expertise is required to assess the thesis.

3.4 There are six options open to examiners in determining the result of the examination as follows:

(i) Pass

If the thesis fulfils the criteria required for award and the candidate satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners will report that the candidate has satisfied them in the examination for the DrPH degree.

(ii) Pass with minor amendments

If the thesis otherwise fulfils the criteria but requires minor amendments and if the candidate satisfies the examiners in all other parts of the examination, the examiners may require the candidate to make within three months amendments specified by them. The amended thesis shall be submitted to the examiners, or one of their number nominated by them for confirmation that the amendments are satisfactory.

(iii) Not passed with major amendments (with or without further oral examination)

If the thesis, though inadequate shall seem of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to re-present their thesis in a revised form within 18 months. Examiners shall not, however, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to an oral examination. The examiners may at their discretion exempt from a further oral examination, on representation of their thesis, a candidate who under this regulation has been permitted to re-present it in a revised form.



(iv) **Not passed: requirement for further oral examination**

If the thesis satisfies the criteria for the degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the oral examination, the examiners may determine that the candidate be permitted to re-present the thesis, and submit to a further oral examination (on the same RSII thesis) within a period specified by them and not exceeding 18 months.

(v) **Fail**

The examiners may determine that the candidate has not satisfied them in the examination. The examiners shall not, however, save in very exceptional circumstances, make such a decision without submitting the candidate to an oral examination.

(vi) **Outright Fail**

Following resubmission, the examiners may determine that the candidate has not satisfied them in the examination and will not be permitted to re-enter for the examination of the DrPH degree.

4. REPORTING CANDIDATES RESULTS

- 4.1 Results for the taught course component must be agreed by the DrPH Board of Examiners and signed off by the Exam Board Chair and the External Examiner(s). The agreed results should then be submitted to the School's Examinations Officer. Candidates will be notified of their results by the Registry. All other components will be subject to the standard doctoral thesis examination process at the School.

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