



**Faculty of Medicine**  
**University of Colombo**

**REGULATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF  
HIGHER DEGREES BY RESEARCH  
D.M, M. Phil., and Ph. D.**

**(Effective from June 2011)**

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**Regulations for the Award of Higher Degrees by Research  
Faculty of Medicine - University of Colombo  
Degree of Doctor of Medicine (D. M.), Degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) and  
Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.)**

**General Regulations**

The Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo offers postgraduate research programmes leading to the award of degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.), Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D.) and Doctor of Medicine (D.M.). The programmes require conduct of research in selected areas of study.

**1. General Information**

**1.1. Classification of Candidates**

A candidate registering for M. Phil., Ph.D. or D.M. degree in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo shall be required to pursue his/her studies at a university, research institute or any other recognized institute under the guidance of a supervisor/s appointed by the Board of the Faculty of Medicine on the recommendation of the Research & Higher Degrees Committee (RHDC) of the Faculty.

**1.1.1 Full-time and Part-time candidates**

A full-time candidate shall be a person duly registered for a M. Phil., Ph.D. or D. M. degree programme, who is engaged in research and related activities during the entire regular working hours of the week. Hence, those who are employed are required to obtain leave of absence from their work places so as to be available for studies during the regular working hours to be eligible for registration under this category. A candidate engaged in teaching in a university department may be accepted as a full-time candidate provided that the total demand made on his/her time, including any work-related preparation time which may be required, does not exceed 6 hours a week. In such cases, certification by the Head of the relevant Department will be needed.

A part-time candidate shall be a person duly registered for a M. Phil., Ph.D. or D. M. degree programme, who devotes only a part of the total working hours of a week, acceptable to the Faculty Board for engaging in his/her research work.

**1.1.2 Internal and External candidates**

An internal candidate shall carry out a major part of his/her work in the University of Colombo and may be full-time or part-time. Such candidates should be attached to a Unit or a Department of the University of Colombo.

An external candidate shall be carrying out a major part of his/her work in an institution outside the University of Colombo and may be full-time or part-time. In the case of an external candidate, at least one supervisor must be from the University of Colombo.

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## 1.2. Application Procedure

- 1.2.1. Applications are entertained throughout the year. Application for enrolment must be made in the prescribed forms obtained from the Dean's office, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo.
- 1.2.2. The candidate is expected to link up with a potential supervisor/s, choose an appropriate topic and prepare a detailed research proposal and submit it together with the duly completed application forms, in triplicate, through the potential supervisor/s, Head of the relevant Department and the Dean to the RHDC. A Summary of the research proposal, of not more than 500 words, should also be submitted along with the application. A candidate who is unable to link up with a supervisor may write to the Dean requesting assistance.
- 1.2.3. The candidate should also obtain the approval of an Ethics Committee for the study prior to applying for registration. The Faculty may request the candidate to obtain the approval from the Ethics committee of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
- 1.2.4. The acceptance of the application will be determined on the basis of the particulars disclosed. The relevant academic and professional qualifications obtained by the candidate should be supported by transcripts and authenticated copies of degree/diploma certificates. A non-medical graduate should submit the course contents of the undergraduate degree highlighting the areas relevant to the research project, along with the application form.
- 1.2.5. In the event of any discrepancy between the name/s appearing in an applicant's academic/professional/birth certificates and the names given in the application form, an affidavit that the applicant is the one and the same person known by all such name/s or relevant certificates should be sent together with the application form.

## 1.3. Processing of Applications

The application shall be considered by the RHDC, Faculty Board and the Senate. The applicants shall be informed of their acceptance or non-acceptance for the particular programme. The decision of the Senate shall be final in the admission to any programme. The potential supervisor/s will also be approved by the RHDC, Faculty Board and Senate and thereafter they could function as supervisor/s.

## 1.4. Registration Procedure

- 1.4.1. **Registration:** An applicant who has been accepted as a postgraduate candidate shall be informed by the Dean, Faculty of Medicine to register to follow the particular programme. After such intimation, the candidate shall register by paying the registration and tuition fees as may be prescribed by the University.

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- 1.4.2. **Correspondence:** All correspondences should be forwarded to the Chairman/RHDC through the supervisor/s, Head of the respective Department and the Dean, Faculty of Medicine. External candidates shall forward the correspondence through the supervisors, Head of the Institution where the candidate is conducting the research and the Dean/Faculty of Medicine to the RHDC.
- 1.4.3. **Date of Registration:** No registration shall be valid until the prescribed registration fees have been paid, which should be done within one month of receipt of the letter approving the registration. Backdating of registration may be considered on an individual basis on the recommendation of the supervisors and the maximum period backdated will be 6 months.
- 1.4.4. **Maintenance of Registration:** It shall be obligatory for each candidate to renew the registration annually on the recommendation of the supervisor/s, with the payment of a fee specified by the University. Such renewal should be done annually until the completion of the programme of study.
- 1.4.5. **Simultaneous Registration:** The candidate is expected to discuss with the supervisor/s and get their approval if the candidate is seeking simultaneous registration for any other course/examination/diploma or degree. The candidate should inform the RHDC through the supervisor/s if such registration is undertaken. The current research data must not be submitted for any other higher or lower qualification.
- 1.4.6. **Withdrawal from a Programme:** A candidate wishing to withdraw from the programme for which the candidate is registered should do so in writing through the supervisor/s to the Dean, Faculty of Medicine. Fees paid until then shall not be refunded.
- 1.4.7. **Change of Registration:** Any change in the personal information as submitted at initial registration should be communicated at the earliest to the Dean's Office, Faculty of Medicine. A candidate who wishes to make changes in the registration, such as thesis topic/title or the candidate status should do so in writing to the Dean, Faculty of Medicine. All changes should receive the approval of the supervisor/s and the Head of the respective Department of study, the RHDC and the Faculty Board.
- 1.4.8. **Postponement of Registration:** A candidate who desires to postpone registration should do so in writing through the supervisor/s to the Dean, Faculty of Medicine giving reasons for, and the duration of such postponement. Each request shall be considered on its own merit by the RHDC.
- 1.4.9. **Beginning of the Research:** If a candidate does not begin the research within one calendar year from the date of registration, the original approval shall lapse and the candidate must apply again to the University if he/she still desires to proceed with the higher degree programme

- 1.4.10. **Cancellation of Registration:** A registration will be cancelled by the Faculty Board on the recommendation of the RHDC for the following reasons:
- i. Failure to complete the qualifying examination within the time period allowed (M. Phil. candidates only)
  - ii. Non- payment of prescribed fees (renewal fees) within the first six months of each year
  - iii. Non- adherence to Rules and Regulations of the University of Colombo.
- 1.4.11. **Leave of absence from the Programme:** Leave of absence from the programme (other than sick and casual leave) will not be granted under normal circumstances. However, leave may be considered under extenuating circumstances on a written request made by the candidate on the recommendation of the supervisor/s to the Dean, Faculty of Medicine. The candidate should maintain the continuity of registration by paying the relevant fees unless an exemption from payment of fees during a period of leave is granted by the Faculty Board. Approval for casual and sick leave has to be obtained from the supervisors. Maternity leave has to be intimated to the RDHC.
- 1.4.12. **Attending continuing education and other relevant activities:** It is essential that the candidate, whilst reading for the degree, should attend any courses of study, workshops, seminars, lectures and other continuing education activities in the university or other specified institutions and also undertake any seminars, presentations that his/her supervisor/s may require.

## 1.5. Field of Study, Place of Study, Progress Review and Supervisor/s

- 1.5.1. The proposed field of study, the research project, place of study and supervisor/s of each candidate must have prior approval of the RHDC and the Faculty Board.
- 1.5.2. If the supervisor/s is not a member of the academic staff of the University of Colombo, a co-supervisor/s will be appointed by the Faculty from the academic staff of the University of Colombo. When the major part of the research is carried out in an external institution, at least one of the supervisors should be from that institution.
- 1.5.3. Every candidate who has registered for a higher degree must submit progress reports in the recommended format at stipulated intervals (Refer guidelines of the RHDC for details).

## 1.6. Examination and Evaluation Procedure

On successful completion of the higher degree programme, the performance of each candidate shall be assessed on the basis of a thesis and an oral examination (thesis defence or *viva voce* examination). Additional assessments, such as written and/or practical examinations will be prescribed in relevant instances.

### 1.6.1 Entry for Examination

- 1.6.1.1 Every candidate must apply to the Dean to enter the examinations, on the prescribed form, *ie.* the Form of Entry. This must be returned duly completed with a bank receipt for the prescribed fee, not earlier than six months before the completion of the prescribed higher degree programme and not later than two months before the submission of the thesis. A candidate permitted to re-enter within a specified period should submit the new Form of Entry, bank receipt and thesis at the same time.
- 1.6.1.2 Every candidate must obtain from the supervisor/s concerned, a letter certifying that the candidate has satisfactorily conducted research and completed the higher degree programme for the prescribed period. They should also certify that the thesis reports original work and is of acceptable standard as required by the University of Colombo. This letter must be submitted before or at the same time as the initial submission of the thesis.
- 1.6.1.3 The thesis must be submitted through the supervisor/s on or before the approved last date of completion of the relevant higher degree programme.
- 1.6.1.4 Every candidate who is unsuccessful at the examination will be required on re-entry for the examination to comply with the regulations in force at the time of his/her entry.

### 1.6.2 The Thesis

- 1.6.2.1 A candidate must submit a thesis written in English, embodying the results of his/her research. The thesis must be a record of original work carried out by the candidate, under supervision, together with a critical exposition of current relevant knowledge. It must be prepared according to the guidelines given by the Faculty.
- 1.6.2.2 The work submitted should have been done after registration for the higher degree. Any exception would need to be reviewed and recommended by the RHDC and approved by the Faculty Board. If part of the material submitted for the thesis is collaborative work, the candidate should furnish a statement showing clearly his/her share of the work done. Such a statement must be certified by the supervisor/s and the collaborators.
- 1.6.2.3 A candidate may submit, as subsidiary material in support of his/her candidature, any printed contribution which is related to the field and to the advancement of his/her subject. Such subsidiary material may have been published independently by the candidate or jointly. In the case of any joint publications the candidate will be required to state clearly the extent of his/her own contribution. Such a statement must be certified by the supervisor/s and the collaborators.

The title on the original application is considered to be the title of the thesis, unless a written request is made by the applicant for any change of title. Such requests have to be forwarded with the recommendations of the supervisor/s at least 3 months prior to the tentative date of submission of the thesis for consideration and approval by the RHDC and the Faculty Board.

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Initial submission of thesis: Four identical copies of the thesis in temporary binding should be submitted by the candidate through the supervisor/s and the Head of the Department of study to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

### **1.6.3 Examinations**

#### 1.6.3.1 Thesis Examination

The thesis shall be examined by two external examiners recommended by the RHDC and approved by the Faculty Board and the Senate.

#### 1.6.3.2 Oral Examination

The oral examination will be conducted by a Board of Examiners. The Board will consist of the Dean (as chairperson) and the external examiners. The supervisors shall be observers. The Board of Examiners will submit a report on the suitability of the candidate for the award of the degree.

#### 1.6.3.3 Final submission of thesis

Four copies of the final thesis prepared according to the guidelines in permanently bound form together with one electronic copy in a compact disc or in an appropriate electronic storage medium should be submitted through the supervisor/s to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine within the specified period of time as recommended by the Board of Examiners at the oral examination. The supervisor/s (or the nominee decided by the Board of Examiners) should certify that corrections and revisions suggested by the examiners at the oral examination have been properly incorporated in the final thesis.

#### 1.6.3.4

Further details about the examination procedures for the M. Phil., Ph. D. and D.M. degrees are given in sections 2.5, 3.5 and 4.4 of this document respectively.

### **1.7. Effective Date of the Degree**

The effective date of the degree which should not precede the last date of the minimum duration of the given programme will be as follows:

- (i). First of the following month after the date of the oral examination

If the thesis is accepted without any corrections or

If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and corrections are carried out within the time period granted by the panel of examiners.

This is applicable where the oral examination is held within 3 months of the submission of the thesis.



- (ii). First date of the fifth month after submission of the thesis

If the thesis is accepted without any corrections or

If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections and corrections are carried out within the time period granted by the panel of examiners.

This is applicable where there has been delay of over 3 months for the oral examination to be held.

- (iii). First of the following month from the date on which the final bound form is submitted to the University

If the candidate had a re-evaluation or

If the thesis is accepted with minor corrections but are not carried out within the time period granted by the panel of examiners

- (iv). Any other date as decided by the Senate of the University, under special circumstances

## **2. Specific Regulations on the Degree of Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.)**

### **2.1. Admission Requirements**

A candidate must have obtained the degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery or a Bachelor's degree in the relevant field or other equivalent qualifications as may be recommended by the RHDC for approval by the Faculty Board.

### **2.2. Qualifying Examination**

A candidate may be required to appear for a Qualifying Examination on the recommendation of the RHDC/Faculty Board. The examination will assess the knowledge of the candidate in the fields relevant to the research. The format of the examination may take the form of conducting a literature search, laboratory work, written papers, oral examination, a combination of these or any other appropriate format which is approved by the RHDC. The Head of the academic Department where the research candidate is attached should be responsible for all aspects of the examination. For external candidates the Faculty Board will be appointing a suitable academic staff member to conduct this qualifying examination.

If an applicant successfully completes the qualifying examination within a period of one year from the date of recommendation by the RHDC/Faculty Board to appear for such an examination, he/she will be eligible to continue in the higher degree programme, with effect from the date of registration.

A candidate failing the qualifying examination prescribed for him/her by the University will not be permitted to proceed with his/her course or to enter again for the qualifying examination without the permission of the University.

### 2.3. Outline of the M. Phil. degree programme

The programme shall consist of,

- (i) Research in a specified field under the guidance of supervisor/s and
- (ii) Advanced studies under the guidance of supervisor/s in one or more subjects as specified by the supervisor/s.

### 2.4. Duration of Study

The candidate is required to pursue an approved programme of full- time research for a minimum period of 2 years after registration, up to a maximum period of 3 ½ years for completing all aspects of the M. Phil. Examination. The minimum period of study for a candidate engaging in part-time research is 3 years and the maximum period is 5 years. In special circumstances, if the candidate is unable to complete the programme of research within the stipulated period, an extension of one year at a time may be granted by the Senate on the recommendation of the RHDC and the Faculty Board, provided that not more than two such extensions are allowed. Those candidates who have availed of the two extensions must submit the thesis for examination at least 6 months before the period allowed expires.

### 2.5. Conduct of Examination

- 2.5.1. There shall be two external examiners whose names shall be recommended by the RHDC and the Faculty Board and be approved by the Senate.
- 2.5.2. Each examiner shall submit a report on the thesis on the prescribed Examiner's Report and it shall give,
  - i. The title of the thesis submitted by the candidate, and
  - ii. A concise statement of the grounds upon which the examiner bases his/her recommendations.
- 2.5.3. After the examiners have read the thesis, they may if they so decide, and without further examinations, recommend that the candidate's thesis be rejected.
- 2.5.4. Except as provided in section 2.5.3 the examiners after reading the thesis shall examine the candidate orally (*viva voce* examination), and at their discretion, by written papers and/or practical examinations on the subject of the thesis, and if they think suitable on subjects relevant thereto.
- 2.5.5. Candidates are required to present themselves for the oral and where necessary written and/or practical examinations at such time and place as the Faculty may direct. Only the recommended Board of Examiners will be present at the examination and the supervisor/s shall be an observer. The Dean will function as the Chairperson of the Board of Examiners.

- 2.5.6 After consideration of the reports of the examiners on the thesis and the performance of the candidate at the oral examination and other written or practical examination if they were held for the award of the M. Phil. degree, the Board of Examiners shall decide whether in its view,
- (a) the M.Phil. degree for which the candidate has submitted himself/herself for examination shall be awarded or
  - (b) the M.Phil. degree for which the candidate has submitted himself/herself for examination shall be awarded subject to such minor amendments/corrections to the thesis as may be specified by the Board of Examiners and submitted within a maximum period of 3 months with a certification from the supervisor/s (or nominee of the Board of Examiners) that the amendments have been made or
  - (c) the M.Phil. degree shall not be awarded and the candidate shall not be permitted to present himself/herself again for the award of the same degree or
  - (d) the M.Phil. degree shall not be awarded on the basis of the present evaluation but the candidate be recommended for a re-evaluation (see section 2.5.7).

### 2.5.7. Re-evaluation

2.5.7.1. If a thesis is of sufficient merit for the award of the M. Phil. degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the oral examination, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be permitted to present the same thesis again and submit to a further oral examination within a period not exceeding 12 months specified by them.

2.5.7.2. If a thesis is of sufficient merit for the award of the M. Phil. degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the written and/or practical examination, if such an examination was held in connection with it, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be exempted on re-entry from the presentation of a thesis but be permitted to submit him/herself to a further written and/or practical examination within a period not extending 12 months specified by them.

2.5.7.3. If a thesis in its present form, though not of sufficient merit for the award of the M. Phil. degree, shall be seen of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be permitted to present his/her thesis in a revised form within 12 months from the date of oral examination with regard thereto for re-evaluation. Examiners shall not, however, make such a recommendation without submitting the candidate to an oral examination.

When re-evaluation is done it is recommended that this be done by the same examiners as far as possible.

2.5.8. The decisions of the Board of Examiners shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation

## 2.6. Award of Degree

The M. Phil. degree may be awarded to a candidate,

- i. who has fulfilled the admission requirements given in under section 2.1, 2.2 and
- ii. been accepted by the Faculty Board as a candidate for the M. Phil. degree and
- iii. been duly registered and paid fees for the duration of the programme and
- iv. conducted the stipulated research satisfactorily and
- v. successfully completed the requirements given under sections 1.6 and 2.5 subject to conditions given under section 2.4. and
- vi. satisfied any other requirements of the University of Colombo

The name of the candidate will be forwarded to the Senate for confirmation of award only when all the requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

## 2.7. Transfer from M. Phil. to Ph.D.

A candidate who has been registered for an M. Phil. degree programme and who has made good progress may at his/her request and upon recommendation of the supervisor/s and the RHDC be permitted by the Faculty Board to transfer registration to that of a Ph.D. degree programme under the rules governed by such a programme. A candidate may apply for such a transfer only after completion of at least one year of the M.Phil. programme. Such candidates will be required to do a presentation before a panel appointed by the RHDC.

2.7.1 The RHDC will consider the following when deciding on allowing transfer from a M. Phil. to a Ph.D. programme:

- i. Performance at the presentation stated above
- ii. Work outlined in the original application for the higher degree
- iii. Progress of work so far
- iv. Any additional work planned or done (other than the work described in the original application)
- v. Reports of reviewer/s

2.7.2 The RHDC may or may not recommend transfer from a M. Phil. to Ph.D. In case where transfer is not recommended, the candidate may reapply considering the suggestions of the RHDC and/or inclusion of additional work in consultation with the supervisor/s after a period of time, but before the maximum period permitted for the M. Phil. lapses

2.7.3 If the transfer is recommended, upon registering for the Ph.D., his/her M. Phil. registration will lapse

### **3. Specific Regulations on the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

#### **3.1. Admission requirements**

The minimum requirements for registration are,

- (i) transfer from a M. Phil. programme conducted by the Faculty of Medicine, or
- (ii) a M. Phil. degree in the relevant discipline or
- (iii) any other equivalent qualification which has a component of at least 1 year of full time research and acceptable to the RHDC/Faculty Board

In the case of (ii) and (iii) the candidates may have to appear for a qualifying examination (see section 2.2)

#### **3.2. Outline of the PhD programme**

The programme shall consist of,

- i. Research in a specified field under the guidance of supervisor/s and
- ii. Advanced studies under the guidance of supervisor/s in one or more subject as specified by the supervisor/s.

#### **3.3. Duration of Study**

The candidate is required to pursue an approved programme of full-time research for a minimum period of 2 years 9 months after registration, up to a maximum period of 5 years for completing all aspects of the Ph.D. examination. The minimum period of study for a candidate engaging in part-time research is 3 years 9 months, up to a maximum period of 7 years. In special circumstances, if the candidate is unable to complete the programme of research within the stipulated period, an extension of one year at a time may be granted by the Senate on the recommendation of the RHDC and the Faculty Board provided that not more than two such extensions are allowed. Those candidates who have availed of the two extensions must submit the thesis for examination at least 6 months before the period allowed expires.

#### **3.4. Other requirements prior to Entry to Examination**

By the time the candidate applies to the Dean for Entry for Examination, the candidate must show evidence to the RHDC of acceptance of two research papers in indexed journals.

#### **3.5. Conduct of Examination**

- 3.5.1. There shall be two external examiners whose names shall be recommended by the RHDC and the Faculty Board and be approved by the Senate.

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- 3.5.2. Each examiner shall submit a report on the thesis on the prescribed Examiner's Report and it shall give,
- i. The title of the thesis submitted by the candidate, and
  - ii. A concise statement of the grounds upon which the examiner bases his/her recommendations.
- 3.5.3. After the examiners have read the thesis, they may if they so decide, and without further examinations, recommend that the candidate's thesis be rejected.
- 3.5.4. Except as provided in section 3.5.3, the examiners after reading the thesis shall examine the candidate orally (*viva voce* examination), and at their discretion, by written papers and/or practical examinations on the subject of the thesis, and if they think suitable on subjects relevant thereto.
- 3.5.5. Candidates are required to present themselves for the oral and where necessary written and/or practical examinations at such time and place as the Faculty may direct. Only the recommended Board of Examiners will be present at the examination and the supervisor/s shall be an observer. The Dean will function as the Chairperson of the Board of Examiners.
- 3.5.6. After consideration of the reports of the examiners on the thesis and the performance of the candidate at the oral examination and other written or practical examination if they were held for the award of the Ph.D. degree, the Board of Examiners shall decide whether in its view:
- (a) the Ph.D. degree for which the candidate has submitted himself/herself for examination shall be awarded or
  - (b) the Ph.D. degree for which the candidate has submitted himself/herself for examination shall be awarded subject to such minor amendments/corrections to the thesis as may be specified by the Board of Examiners and submitted within a maximum period of 3 months with a certification from the supervisors (or nominee of the Board of Examiners) that the corrections have been made or
  - (c) the Ph.D. degree shall not be awarded and the candidate shall not be permitted to present himself/herself again for the award of the same degree or
  - (d) the Ph.D. degree be not awarded on the basis of the present evaluation but the candidate be recommended for a re-evaluation (see SECTION 3.5.7) or
  - (e) the Ph.D. degree be not awarded but the candidate be awarded the M. Phil. degree instead.

### 3.5.7. Re-evaluation

- 3.5.7.1. If a thesis is of sufficient merit for the award of the Ph.D. degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the oral examination, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be permitted to present the same thesis again and submit to a further oral examination within a period not exceeding 12 months specified by them.
- 3.5.7.2. If a thesis is of sufficient merit for award of the Ph.D. degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the written and/or practical examination, if such an examination was held in connection with it, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be exempted on re-entry from the presentation of a thesis but be permitted to submit him/herself to a further written and/or practical examination within a period not exceeding 12 months as specified by them.
- 3.5.7.3. If a thesis in its present form, though not of sufficient merit for the award of the Ph.D. degree, shall be seen of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be permitted to present his/her thesis in a revised form within 12 months from the date of oral examination with regard thereto for re-evaluation. Examiners shall not, however, make such a recommendation without submitting the candidate to an oral examination. When re-evaluation is done it is recommended that this be done by the same examiners as far as possible.
- 3.5.8. The decisions of the Board of Examiners shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation

## 3.6. Award of Degree

The Ph.D. degree may be awarded to a candidate,

- i. who has fulfilled the admission requirements given under section 3.1  
and
- ii. been accepted by the Faculty Board as a candidate for the Ph.D. degree  
and
- iii. been duly registered and paid fees for the duration of his/her programme  
and
- iv. conducted the stipulated research satisfactorily  
and
- v. successfully completed the requirements given under sections 1.6, 3.4, 3.5 subject to conditions given under section 3.3  
and
- vi. satisfied any other requirements of the University of Colombo

The name of the candidate will be forwarded to the Senate for confirmation of results only when all the requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

### **3.7. Transfers from Ph.D. to M. Phil.**

A candidate registered for a Ph.D. who wishes to proceed instead to a M. Phil. must apply to the University through his/her supervisor/s for permission to do so. The length of further course, if any, which he/she will be required to pursue for the M. Phil. will be decided by the RHDC on an individual basis. On registering for the M. Phil. his/her Ph.D. registration will lapse.

## **4. Specific Regulations on the Degree of Doctor of Medicine (D.M.)**

### **4.1. Admission requirements**

A person may be a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, if he/she is a holder of a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery or other equivalent medical qualification and successfully completed internship training as may be recommended by the RHDC for approval by the Faculty Board. A candidate may be required to appear for a qualifying examination on the recommendation of the RHDC/Faculty Board.

### **4.2. Outline of the D.M. programme**

The programme should consist of,

- (i) Research in a specified field under the guidance of supervisor/s and
- (ii) Advanced studies under the guidance of the supervisor/s in one or more subjects as specified by the supervisor/s.

### **4.3. Duration of Study**

The candidate is required to pursue an approved programme of full-time research for a minimum period of 2 years after registration, up to a maximum period of 5 years for completing all aspects of the D.M. examination. The minimum period of study for a candidate engaging in part time research is 3 years and the maximum period is 7 years. In special circumstances, if the candidate is unable to complete the programme of research within the stipulated period, an extension of one year at a time may be granted by the Senate on the recommendation of the RHDC/FB, provided that not more than two such extensions are allowed. Those candidates who have availed of the two extensions must submit the thesis for examination at least 6 months before the period allowed expires.

### **4.4. Conduct of Examination**

4.4.1. There shall be two external examiners whose names shall be recommended by the RHDC, and by the Faculty Board and be approved by the Senate.

4.4.2. Each examiner shall submit a report on the thesis on the prescribed Examiner's Report and it shall give,

- i. The title of the thesis submitted by the candidate, and
- ii. A concise statement of the grounds upon which the examiner bases his/her recommendations.



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- 4.4.3. After the examiners have read the thesis, they may if they so decide and without further examinations recommend that the candidate's thesis be rejected.
- 4.4.4. Except as provided in section 4.4.3 the examiners after reading the thesis shall examine the candidate orally (*viva voce* examination), and at their discretion, by written papers and/or practical examinations on the subject of the thesis, and if they think suitable on subjects relevant thereto.
- 4.4.5. Candidates are required to present themselves for the oral and where necessary written and/or practical examinations at such time and place as the Faculty may direct. Only the recommended Board of Examiners will be present at the examination and the supervisor/s shall be an observer. The Dean will function as the Chairperson of the Board of Examiners.
- 4.4.6. After consideration of the reports of the examiners on the thesis and the performance of the candidate at the oral examination and any other written or practical examination if they were held for the award of the D. M. degree, the Board of Examiners shall decide whether in its view:
- (a) The D..M. degree for which the candidate has submitted himself/herself for examination shall be awarded or
  - (b) The D..M. degree for which the candidate has submitted himself/herself for examination shall be awarded subject to such minor amendments/corrections to the thesis as may be specified by the Board of Examiners and submitted within a maximum period of 3 months with a certification from the supervisor (or nominee of the Board of Examiners) that the corrections have been made or
  - (c) the D. .M. .degree shall not be awarded and the candidate shall not be permitted to present himself/herself again for the award of the same degree or
  - (d) the D..M. degree be not awarded on the basis of the present evaluation but the candidate be recommended for a re-evaluation (see section 4.4.7).

#### 4.4.7. **Re-evaluation**

- 4.4.7.1.If a thesis is of sufficient merit for the award of the D.M. degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the oral examination, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be permitted to present the same thesis again and submit to a further oral examination within a period not exceeding 12 months specified by them
- 4.4.7.2.If a thesis is of sufficient merit for award of the D.M. degree, but the candidate fails to satisfy the examiners at the written and/or practical examination, if such an examination was held in connection with it, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be exempted on re-entry from the presentation of a thesis and be permitted to submit him/herself to a further written and/or practical examination within a period not extending 12 months specified by them.

4.4.7.3. If a thesis in its present form, though not of sufficient merit for the award of the D.M. degree, shall be seen of sufficient merit to justify such action, the examiners may recommend to the Senate that the candidate be permitted to present his/her thesis in a revised form, within 12 months from the date of oral examination with regard thereto for re-evaluation. Examiners shall not, however, make such a recommendation without submitting the candidate to an oral examination.

When re-evaluation is done it is recommended that this be done by the same examiners as far as possible.

4.4.8. The decisions of the Board of Examiners shall be submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

#### **4.5. Award of Degree**

The D.M. degree may be awarded to a candidate

- i. who has fulfilled the admission requirements given under section 4.1  
and
- ii. been accepted by the Faculty Board as a candidate for the DM degree.  
and
- iii. been duly registered and paid fees for the duration of his/her programme  
and
- iv. conducted the stipulated research satisfactorily  
and
- v. successfully completed the requirements given under sections 1.6 and 4.4 subject to the conditions given under section 4.3.
- vi. and
- vii. satisfied any other requirements of the University of Colombo

The name of the candidate will be forwarded to the Senate for confirmation of results only when all the requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

If any issues arise which are not adequately addressed by these Regulations the RHDC and the Faculty Board will decide on them on a case by case basis. The Faculty Board may seek guidance from the Senate on such matters.

Prepared by the RHDC of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo

June, 2011

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