

Transfer/Mphil-PhD upgrade and Viva Guidelines

Below are several guideline examples from differing institutions for their PhDs by practice. It is not intended to be exhaustive, but is simply to provide some contemporary examples.

Goldsmiths College PhD in Visual Anthropology

A PhD in Visual Anthropology differs from the standard PhD in requiring a dissertation of no more than 80,000 words (as opposed to 100,000) and the production of a film of up to an hour in length or a photographic portfolio of up to 150 images. To be eligible for the programme, you must first have completed an MA in Visual Anthropology or be able to demonstrate comparable production qualifications. As with other PhD. students, you spend a training year in the Department (research methods, specialist theory courses) followed by a year's field research and a year or more back in the department writing-up.

All research students pursuing PhDs are initially registered as M Res. or MPhil candidates. Upgrading to PhD status follows successful submission of a detailed thesis outline, chapters and visual material (edited video footage or photographs).

Source: <http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/departments/anthropology/visual-anthropology/research.php>

University of Manchester PhD in Social Anthropology with Visual Media

Students accepted on this programme must have completed the MA in Visual Anthropology (or equivalent training) or the MA in Social Anthropology. Although written text should continue to be of 'paramount importance', films and other visual media may be included as an 'important and integral' aspect of the materials submitted by a doctoral candidate. In consideration of the importance of the visual material, it is recognized that the text may be shorter than that of a normal doctoral thesis.

Students are expected to carry out an original research project during a minimum 12-month period of fieldwork. In order to transfer to full doctoral status, they have to present a 10-12,000 word research proposal which must be defended in a viva with two internal examiners.

Students will normally submit a thesis of 60,000 words accompanied by a film of 40 minutes duration, although requirements will vary according to the nature of the project,

which might involve a multi-media presentation on CD-ROM. This programme demands that the visual component of the project be more than a simple visual accompaniment to the text.

Source:

http://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/socialanthropology/postgraduate/courses/phd_socanth_vismedia.htm

University of Middlesex MA/MSc (by research), MPhil and PhD in Creative Subjects

You may undertake a programme of research in which your own creative work forms, as a point of origin or reference, a significant part of the intellectual enquiry. In such cases, the presentation and submission may be partly in non-written form, and the length of the thesis reduced accordingly. The work is always undertaken as part of the registered research programme, and the standards are the same as those applied where the work is totally by thesis.

Such creative works may be in any field including:

- Architecture
- Creative writing
- Dance
- Design
- Engineering, Technology or Computing Science
- Film
- Fine Art
- Musical composition
- Performance

Source: <http://www.middlesex.ac.uk/research/degrees/alternative.htm>

Royal College of Art

Mphil and PhD by Theory/Studio Practice

Transfer takes place between March and May as part of the annual Interim examination by the Department. Students must have completed a "substantial" amount of written/studio work. The Research Proposal and department advice should be taken into account before completing the form. A new or revised aspect of study may mean a change to the supervisory team. Transfer applicants should show a "high level of competence in the development and implementation of their research methodology", should "present a case that the research has progressed to a greater depth and focus" and should "have

formulated an hypothesis for further research which would, in the opinion of staff and external experts, be likely to produce an original contribution to knowledge". The Interim examination panel for Transfer includes the head of department, a tutor or senior tutor from the department, the supervisor(s) and "an additional member of academic staff with research supervision experience".

MPhil Theory only thesis: 30/40000 words.
MPhil by Studio practice: 5/20000 words.
PhD Theory only thesis: 60/80000 words.
PhD by Studio practice: 25/40000 words.

TRANSFER FORM SUMMARY

In part one of the transfer form, circulated a week before the Interim Exam, the student explains their research question, argument or hypothesis, and their methodology. They show how the research makes an original contribution to knowledge and understanding, how it relates to the wider context of their discipline, and who else's work might be relevant to the project. They must explain how they will reflect upon or critically analyse the project. Finally, they describe the programme of work, identifying stages and content with estimated duration and completion dates of each phase, with a list of resources they will need and a full bibliography.

In part two of the form, the department must show that the project demonstrates the criteria for a PhD by systematic inquiry and critical awareness, an appropriate methodology, a knowledge of existing work in the field or area of research, and by innovation and communicability. It must show that "the project makes a significant creative or intellectual intervention into its disciplinary domain which represents a significant original contribution to knowledge and/or understanding". The department must be confident that the project will be completed on time, that it is within its departmental remit and Research Strategy, that it has appropriate supervisors and resources, and that funding is secured.

Sources: RCA Regulations; RCA Research Student Handbook.

University of Westminster

PhD by Practice

The timing and submission of the **Application to Transfer** shall be:

For full-time students – 12-24 months from registration
For part-time students – 24-48 months from registration

For transfer it is stipulated student needs to satisfy the Research Committee that sufficient progress in the work has been achieved, providing evidence of the following:

- Work already undertaken
- Development of focus, direction and method of research
- Appropriate technical skills
- Literature review
- Bibliography
- Statement of further work to be undertaken
- Details of the original contribution to knowledge, which is likely to emerge
- Training and personal development activities undertaken

In support of the application the candidate needs to submit a 3,000 word progress report including:

- a) a brief review and discussion by the candidate of the work already undertaken, with supporting evidence, and
- b) a statement of the intended further work, including details of the original contribution to knowledge, which is likely to emerge.

The timing and submission of **PhD Registration** (completion) shall be:

For full-time students – 33-48 months

For part-time students – 45-96 months

Viva submission particular for AVPhD is assessed on a **50/50 AV-product/thesis** weighting. With the thesis being 40,000 words.

Source: Uni of Westminster “Regulations for the Award of Degrees” handbook

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