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**Policy on the modality of research degree final thesis *vivas***

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Research degree final *vivas* are expected to take place on-site and in person, but remote or hybrid *vivas* may be considered in the following circumstances:

- a) Where travel makes it difficult for external examiners or student to attend the examination.
- b) Where the appointment of an external examiner who is an international leading expert in the field would be of great benefit to the student and the Department, but there are considerable travel expenses and/or travel carbon emissions associated with the appointment.
- c) Where examiners or students have concerns about attending an in-person final thesis viva due to their own medical condition, or the medical condition of an individual they are living with or caring for.
- d) Where circumstances beyond the control of either the student or the examiners means that an in-person on-campus viva needs to be re-scheduled at short notice. Such examples may include natural events such as adverse weather, industrial action, or civil disturbances.

The positive consent of the student should be obtained to hold a remote or hybrid final thesis *viva* and must be approved by the Director of PG Studies.