

Changes to Academic Regulations 2026/2027 (Research)

This document provides details of the substantive changes that have been made to the university's academic regulations for research programmes (PhD, MPhil, MD[Res], EngD) for 2026/2027. If further information is required, please contact the Quality Assurance and Enhancement team at quality@imperial.ac.uk.

Previous versions of the Academic Regulations can be found on the [archive page](#). Please note that it would be expected that students liaise with their programme team in the first instance if they have questions regarding the regulatory framework.

1. General Regulations

No changes have been made to these regulations for 2026/2027.

Academic Regulations

2. Doctor in Engineering (EngD)

The following EngD regulations have been rescinded:

- Doctor in Engineering (EngD) in Non-Destructive Evaluations
- Doctor in Engineering (EngD) in Nuclear Engineering
- Doctor in Engineering (EngD) in Water Engineering

The Doctor in Engineering (EngD) in Quantitative Non-Destructive Evaluation regulations remain current and no changes have been made for 2026/2027.

It was agreed to develop a new framework for EngD programmes which will be incorporated into the *Regulations for Research Programmes of Study*, in due course (see below).

3. Regulations for Research Programmes of Study (PhD/MPhil/MD[Res])

It was agreed to combine the previous regulatory documents for MPhil/PhD and for MD[Res]. Except for students that have entered their final examination prior 1 September 2026, the resulting regulations will govern all students on these programmes from that date onwards.

Where it was appropriate, the sections in the previous regulatory documents areas and/or requirements have been streamlined when it was combined. The following main points should be noted

Para No.	Change/comment	Notes
n/a	Glossary added	If there are additional terms that readers feel would be useful to add to the glossary, please email quality@imperial.ac.uk

Para No.	Change/comment	Notes
16	Additional regulation regarding continued registration for MD[Res].	Where a student's eligibility to complete an MD[Res] changes during their studies, the university will review their continued registration on a case-by-case basis.
29	Re-sit opportunity at transfer examinations	Confirmation that a re-sit opportunity is available for students seeking to transfer from MPhil to PhD
38	Clarity regarding remaining period of study required for external transfers into the university.	Students must complete a minimum of 12 months full time or 24 months part time active research at Imperial. Any milestone or training courses required will be agreed on a case-by-case basis.
42	Note that attendance requirement on PRI schemes does not apply after entering writing up	PRI students are expected to attend Imperial for 2 months of each calendar year during their active research period.
43	Note that in person at Imperial attendance requirement for Split PhD schemes applies to the active research period	In person attendance (12 months) must be completed prior to entering writing up.
57	Addition of requirement to complete <i>Research Security e-training</i> course by ESA	Requirement applies to students that commence from 1 September 2026 onwards.
109	MD[Res] viva outcomes timelines for resubmission <i>N.B. these changes will take effect for any student that takes their initial examination after 1 September 2026.</i>	Changes bring the MD[Res] to closer alignment with PhD regulations. Typographical amendments - 1 month (new) Minor amendments – 6 months (from 3 months) New viva with no change to thesis – 6 months (from 18 months) Major amendments - 18 months
110b	MPhil viva timelines for resubmission <i>N.B. this change will take effect for any student that takes their initial examination after 1 September 2026.</i>	Changes to being MPhil in alignment with PhD/MD[Res] as appropriate Minor amendments – 6 months (from 3 months)
111-112	Clarity with regards withdrawal from the university if deadlines for resubmission	In line with the approved changes to related policies, students that do not submit within the deadlines, and for which no extension has been granted, may be withdrawn from the university.
118	Clarity with regards to DIC eligibility	All students awarded PhD, MD[Res] or MPhil will be awarded the Diploma of Imperial College (DIC), including in the case of MPhil this was not their original award registration.