Code of Practice for Partnership Research Degrees: PhD in the Political Economy of Development





Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Definitions	2
Application and Arrival Procedures	3
Modes of Study and Attendance	3
Supervision and Training	4
Research Ethics	5
Record Keeping	5
Interruption of Study	5
Doctoral Candidates – Upgrade to PhD	6
MPhil Programme Candidates - Progression to PhD	6
Annual Progression Review	7
Fieldwork	7
Writing-up	8
Entry to Examination	S
Joint Responsibilities of Supervisor and Supervisee	10
Responsibilities of the First Supervisor	11
Responsibilities of the Second Supervisor	13
Responsibilities of the Candidate	13
Responsibilities of the Director of Doctoral Studies or equivalent	14
Responsibilities of Head of Department or Equivalent	14
Further Reading	15
Version Control	15



Introduction

- 1. The purpose of this Code is to provide guidelines for academic staff involved in research supervision, and for MPhil and PhD candidates, for research degrees run jointly by SOAS and a partner institution. It is intended to ensure that research candidates are fully and effectively supervised and that every effort is made for research degrees to be completed within the prescribed period of study as outlined in the Joint Academic Regulations for PhD in the Political Economy of Development.
- 2. The aim of this Code to establish a set of standard procedures for the University, and for our partners, based upon common structures and a definition of specific responsibilities on the part of all those principally concerned. Supervision of research candidates is, however, influenced by many factors including the nature of the individuals involved, the type of research undertaken, and the character and requirements of the discipline pursued. Some variation is therefore reasonable, but local or individual arrangements should supplement this Code, and must not deviate substantially from its aims and provisions.
- 3. Any discipline specific variations to the provisions in the Code of Practice will be outlined on the relevant programme web pages and programme specifications. Discipline specific variations normally relate to training (including attendance at mandatory courses and/or seminars) or the type of upgrade materials required in particular disciplines.
- 4. It is the responsibility of new and continuing candidates and supervisors to be aware of the regulations and procedures applicable to their degree registration. Candidates who are registered for research degrees with SOAS and a partner institution will have regulations specific to their partner programme, hereafter referred to as 'the Regulations'.

All regulations are available online at:

https://www.soas.ac.uk/about/governance/policies-and-procedures/regulations-and-quality-assurance/degree-regulations

Definitions

- 5. **Partnership research programmes** describes those research programmes that SOAS runs together with a partnership institution, where students will have the benefit of learning and/or supervision from both institutions.
- 6. **Doctoral candidates** are those students who are admitted to a research-only degree, with the aim of completing a PhD. All new doctoral candidates initially enrol as an MPhil/PhD student, until their transfer to PhD status has been confirmed by a progression review.



- 7. **MPhil research candidates** are those students following a research-only degree with the aim of completing an MPhil, whether by choice or by a progression decision.
- 8. **MPhil programme candidates** are those students admitted to a programme leading to the award of an MPhil carrying a programme title. These MPhil programmes include a structured research training element, followed by a thesis. All students admitted to a named MPhil programme will remain enrolled on the MPhil to completion, but may apply in the second year of study to undertake a PhD programme after completion of the MPhil.
- 9. **PhD programme candidates** are those students who are admitted to complete a PhD programme, following successful completion of an MPhil programme, as outlined above.
- 10. **Home institution** is the institution to which a student on a partnership programme is admitted. The home institution will be the main base for their research, and the first point of contact for various processes outlined below.

Application and Arrival Procedures

- 11. In order to be fully considered for admission, applicants need to submit a formal application as indicated on the programme web pages, and ensure that it is complete (all documentation and acceptable references received) by the relevant deadline. Applications deemed incomplete will not be evaluated academically until they are complete. While informal discussion between potential supervisor and applicant is welcomed, decisions on admissions should be communicated to prospective supervisees only by formal offer letter.
- 12. All applicants are required to meet the specified standards for proficiency in English. If, after enrolment, it becomes evident that the candidate's knowledge and use of English is inadequate for the purpose of a research degree, they may be required to undertake English language tuition and a timetable for this should be agreed between the supervisor and candidate.
- 13. For candidates requiring a visa to study at SOAS, or with a partner institution, it is the candidate's responsibility to ensure they obtain a visa or visas appropriate for study on the programme for which they have been accepted.

Modes of Study and Attendance

- 14. Candidates following partnership programmes will normally enrol on full-time basis. Part-time study will be possible only where explicitly permitted in the Regulations for the partnership.
- 15. If the candidate's intended programme allows for part-time study, candidates should note that part-time study equates to half of full-time, and the expected attendance/engagement will be on that basis, even if the student attends methodological or other courses alongside full-time students in the first year.



- 16. Students on research programmes offered with a partner institution may have an opportunity, or a requirement, to undertake part of their research away from their usual home institution.
- 17. In the first year, MPhil programme students will study modules, which may be delivered in person or online. These modules will follow specified semester dates, and students are expected to participate fully in learning and assessment. All other research programmes are year-long, and do not follow semester dates.
- 18. MPhil programme students in the first year will be expected to fully engage with all learning opportunities. Where a student is absent from more than one third of scheduled classes, or fails to complete any assessment by the due date, they will be required to meet with the Programme Leader to agree a plan to re-engage fully with the programme. If a student is required to meet with the Programme Leader for a second time, and cannot satisfy them that they will adequately re-engage with their studies, a Fitness to Study Panel will be convened.
- 19. All research students are entitled to 30 days of annual leave per year. This can be taken in agreement with the Principal supervisor. It is recommended that periods of annual leave should not be longer than 4 weeks.

Supervision and Training

- 20. During the first six weeks following registration, all doctoral candidates, MPhil research candidates, and PhD programme candidates should be assigned a Supervisory Committee of two academic members.
- 21. For MPhil programme candidates, the thesis supervisor(s) will be allocated during the first year of study, when the thesis topic has been confirmed and approved.
- 22. Each candidate will be assigned a first supervisor, who is a member of the academic department that hosts the doctoral programme on which they are registered. The first supervisor may be based at SOAS or at the partner institution. The first supervisor holds primary academic responsibility for the candidate, but it is expected that all members of the Supervisory Committee area actively involved in aspects of supervision. For doctoral candidates, a third supervisor may be appointed in exceptional circumstances to provide advice in a niche area of expertise.
- 23. Unless formally exempted on the grounds of previous qualifications, all doctoral and MPhil research candidates are required to participate in a research training programme. Training requirements vary by discipline, but there are two SOAS common core modules for new first year research candidates which address essential research skills that all MPhil/PhD candidates need to develop regardless of their disciplines.
- 24. MPhil Programme candidates will follow a defined programme of taught modules in their first year of study, that must be passed in order to progress to the thesis.



25. All candidates should use the annual Training Needs Analysis on the student record system, in discussion with their supervisor, to identify courses from the Doctoral Skills Development Programme and any modules delivered by SOAS, or the partner institution, that they may wish to audit. Research candidates should note that some Departmental provision may be mandatory.

Research Ethics

- 26. The SOAS Research Ethics Policy can be found at https://www.soas.ac.uk/research/research-and-knowledge-exchange/research-ethics and sets out the ethical principles which staff, candidates and researchers are expected to follow when conducting research under the auspices of SOAS and defines unacceptable behaviour, which will be treated as research misconduct.
- 27. Ethical approval must be obtained in line with any policies and regulations as appropriate.

Record Keeping

- 28. Use of SOAS' online student record system is mandatory for all research degree candidates (other than those in year 1 of an MPhil programme) and their supervisors. All candidates must update the student record system with an appropriate qualitative account of their supervisory meetings; this may vary in detail according to the discussion that took place. Supervisors are responsible for assuring that the occurrence of supervision and its form (whether face to face or not) are noted. They should also review the supervisee's written accounts of supervision.
- 29. All required forms for upgrade, fieldwork, change requests and examination must be completed via the student record system.
- 30. It is the responsibility of the research candidates to maintain and update the student record system for their own long-term benefit.

Interruption of Study

- 31. Candidates and supervisors are expected to familiarise themselves with the Regulations relating to interruption of study, and to comply with the relevant regulations and procedures.
- 32. Research programmes are intended to be continuous. To meet the requirements for award research students are expected to demonstrate the ability to devise and manage a research project within the constraints of the degree requirements and deadlines. In some cases students may not be able to continue with their normal registration and an interruption of study may be sought through submission of an Application for Interruption of Study Form via the student record system. Applications for interruption must include supporting documentation, and must be



- supported by the supervisor. The maximum period of interruption allowed in any research degree programme is one year.
- 33. Doctoral candidates wishing to interrupt their studies for a period of maternity or paternity leave should consult the Maternity and Paternity Policy.
- Where research candidates are receiving funding, they should first check with their funding body if their scholarship allows for a period of interruption.
- 35. Candidates granted interruption status are not actively enrolled and do not have access to supervision during the period of interruption. They are encouraged to remain in contact with their supervisors in order to plan their return to study.
- 36. Interruption of study can neither be applied for, nor conferred, retrospectively.

Doctoral Candidates – Upgrade to PhD

- 37. Doctoral candidates are initially registered as MPhil/PhD and, subject to satisfactory progress, subsequently transferred to PhD status.
- 38. The process for consideration of upgrade is set out in the Regulations. A progression review will take place after nine months' study to make a recommendation. Candidates may not leave for overseas fieldwork unless they have completed the consideration for upgrade and submitted the Fieldwork Application Form via the student record system.
- 39. The review panel will consider the candidate's progress in meeting the requirements of the MPhil training programme, in preparing written work (including draft chapters), and in making oral presentations (including seminars) to a suitable standard. The candidate may be asked to give an oral presentation to the panel.
- 40. Decisions available to review panels are set out in the Regulations. Where the review panel recommends that the candidate should be transferred to PhD status, their report should clearly indicate that the research is in accordance with the Ethics Policy.

MPhil Programme Candidates - Progression to PhD

41. MPhil programme candidates wishing to be considered for progression to PhD should apply using the process set out in the Regulations for their programme, noting the criteria for progression. Successful applicants will receive a formal offer of PhD admission, with a specified start date. Transfer from a named MPhil to a PhD programme, without first having successfully completed the MPhil, is not permitted.



Annual Progression Review

- 42. MPhil programme candidates in their first year will be considered by an Assessment Board, in line with the Regulations.
- 43. All other candidates enrolled on a research degree are assessed by an Annual Progression Review to be completed by both supervisor and student.
- 44. Candidates will not be permitted to progress and re-enrol for the following academic session without confirmation of satisfactory progression and expected completion within the maximum period of study.
- 45. Failure to submit the Annual Progression Review may lead to the candidate being withdrawn from study.

Fieldwork

- 46. Fieldwork, in the context of a partnership research programme, is defined as periods in which the candidate is undertaking research away from their home institution. This includes any practical research activity performed in places where neither SOAS nor the partner has control, but where SOAS and the partner institution retain responsibility for the candidate. Specific activities covered might include, but not be limited to: participant observation, mass observation, interviewing, holding focus groups, archival research, conducting surveys, collecting samples, recording performances. Candidates and their supervisors should note that approval of fieldwork plans is not guaranteed and they should provide ample time for the processes through which application must be approved by the department and Research Ethics Panel (as necessary).
- 47. Some shorter trips of less than one month, particularly within the country of the home institution, would not require the student to be enrolled on fieldwork status. The supervisor and supervisee must ensure that a clear record is kept of such arrangements and that any absence of over one calendar month is logged on the student record system in advance by submitting a Fieldwork Application form.
- 48. A maximum of one year's overseas fieldwork is normally permitted in a full-time PhD Programme. In many cases a research proposal will plan a period of extended fieldwork during the second year of full-time registration. Any longer periods require the permission of the relevant Director of Doctoral Studies who will approve cases only where clear academic grounds have been presented by (or through) the supervisor and has been demonstrated that extended or late fieldwork will not affect completion of research within the deadlines for the degree. No doctoral candidate will be permitted to proceed to overseas fieldwork until transferred to PhD status and their fieldwork has been approved.
- 49. A Fieldwork Application Form must be completed on the student record system well in advance for each period of overseas fieldwork requested or for any amendments to previously agreed arrangements. This form must be submitted at least two months before departing for the fieldwork. Non-standard fieldwork



- applications will need the approval of the Director of Doctoral Studies or their equivalent at the partner institution.
- Any ethical issues arising during the fieldwork which were not anticipated during the process of ethical approval at upgrade must be referred to the Director of Doctoral Studies or their equivalent at the partner institution, who may potentially refer them to the Research Ethics Panel for review.
- 51. Before overseas fieldwork is approved the candidate and supervisor should discuss in some detail, and well in advance, the nature and purpose of the fieldwork. The following information will be required for the fieldwork application form:
 - the nature, location and duration of the research
 - the need for additional research funds (and any applications that need to made as a result),
 - what visas, letters of recommendation and other documents need to be obtained before the fieldwork begins
 - what health measures may be necessary
 - a risk assessment of the proposed fieldwork
 - how (and how often) contact between student and supervisor is to be maintained
- A risk assessment of the proposed fieldwork must be made. It is the candidate's responsibility to assess the risk, to discuss this, as necessary, with the supervisor and others and to make sure that they take out appropriate insurance. Candidates are advised to consult UK Foreign Office guidance, or the equivalent in their home country, and NOT to travel to countries or areas contrary to official advice. Confirmation that a risk assessment has been undertaken must be given on the Fieldwork Application Form.
- 53. At least monthly contact with the supervisor, by telephone or e-mail, is expected while the candidate is engaged in fieldwork. The student record system must continue to be completed during periods of overseas fieldwork. It is important for supervisees to contact the supervisor if fieldwork plans change.
- 54. On return, supervisors may expect a written report on the progress made during the fieldwork period.
- 55. Candidates returning from overseas fieldwork/research must complete reenrolment requirements as required on return to their home institution.

Writing-up

The third year of the PhD (or part-time equivalent) is normally devoted to drafting and re- drafting the chapters. A complete draft of the thesis is required by the end of year three. Subject to satisfactory annual progression review at the end of year three (or part-time equivalent) doctoral researchers may enrol for a maximum of one further year on Extension of Writing-up (Continuation) status.



- 57. For MPhil research candidates, and PhD programme candidates, a completed draft thesis is required by the end of year two (or part-time equivalent) and transfer to Extension of Writing-up (Continuation) status may be considered for candidates with a satisfactory annual progress review at the end of year 2.
- 58. Extension of Writing-up (continuation) is not available to MPhil programme candidates.
- 59. Under Extension of Writing-up (continuation) status, candidates will continue to have access to facilities at SOAS and the partner institution.
- 60. Extension of Writing-up enrolment is at a reduced fee from full-time or part-time enrolment and is available on the understanding that
 - a) The candidate is at an advanced stage of writing-up; the thesis is substantially complete in conception and requires limited supervision; the level of supervision anticipated will normally be one meeting every two months.
 - b) The candidate will complete writing-up and submit the thesis for examination within one year, or by their thesis submission deadline, whichever is sooner.

Entry to Examination

- 61. The candidate for doctoral examination must fill in the appropriate examination entry form for submitting the thesis. This form should be completed via the student record system two months before the intended date of submission to avoid delays in appointment of examiners and arrangement of the examination.
- 62. It is the responsibility of the supervisor to recommend examiners. At least one of the examiners will be external to both SOAS and the partner institution, and a Chair as set out in the Regulations.
- 63. Only the following people are permitted to be in attendance at the viva:
 - a) the candidate
 - b) the nominated examiners
 - c) a supervisor; and
 - d) a nominated Independent Chair
- 64. It is the responsibility of the candidate to see that the thesis is prepared in the approved format. It is especially important to comply with the specified maximum thesis length MPhil programme 25,000 words; MPhil research, 60,000 words; and PhD, 100,000 words. The bibliography is excluded from the word count; footnotes are included within the word count; appendices are excluded from the word count and should only include material which examiners are not required to read in order to examine the thesis, but to which they may refer if they wish.
- 65. For both MPhil and PhD degrees candidates are required both to submit a thesis of the required standard and to defend their work to the satisfaction of the examiners in a viva (oral examination).



At examination, examiners assessing a PhD or MPhil thesis are required to reach a unanimous decision on the outcome as specified in the Regulations.

Joint Responsibilities of Supervisor and Supervisee

- 67. It is a fundamental requirement that there should be regular meetings between the supervisee and their supervisor. These should normally be of at least one hour's duration. As a general guideline, full-time candidates and their supervisors should consider meeting fortnightly during the first year of research, and monthly during subsequent years of enrolment (or part-time equivalent). It is understood that variations may be required to this suggested timeframe and we expect appropriate arrangements to be maintained accordingly. It is important that arrangements are agreed for periods outside of teaching semesters, to reflect that research degrees involve year round enrolment, study and academic support.
- 68. As far as possible, supervisor and supervisee should agree an agenda for future meetings. They should update the student record system with a record of when meetings are held, the nature of (and deadlines for) any work to be completed or submitted, and the date and time of the next meeting. They are also advised to keep note of the main issues and problems discussed.
- 69. The supervisor and doctoral candidate should work together to draw up a research plan and a timetable for the research, including any periods of fieldwork. This will happen towards the end of year 1 for MPhil programme candidates, and as early as possible for all other candidates. The plan should clearly mark out the stage by which the candidate is expected to have completed milestones in the research, must take into account the restraints of time and resources, and should allow for completion of active research and submission of draft thesis by the expected completion date set out in the regulations.
- 70. All PhD candidates, and MPhil research candidates, must attend a research training programme and fulfil any other stated requirements of their course. A Training Needs Analysis should be made with the supervisor at the start of the first year, and reviewed annually bearing in mind the demands of the project and the reasonable requirements of Early Career Researcher training. This should be recorded via the student record system and matched against courses available. Where necessary the advice of the Doctoral Training Advisor, or their equivalent at the partner institution, may be sought.
- 71. A supervisor should respond to any written work, either orally or in writing, within one month of it being submitted. If, because of the length or complexity of the written work, or because of ill health, or pressing demands on their time, the supervisor is unable to respond within one month, they should inform the supervisee of this at the time the work is submitted, or as soon as possible thereafter, and clearly indicate when a response will be given.
- 72. If a supervisor expects to be absent from SOAS or the partner institution for a period of more than one calendar month, they should inform the supervisee and



departmental Director of Doctoral Studies, or equivalent at the partner institution, accordingly. Where necessary, alternative arrangements must be made to maintain active contact (e.g. by e-mail or through the Supervisory Committee). A candidate expecting to be absent for more than one month (other than agreed periods of fieldwork) must inform the supervisor and make alternative arrangements for supervision.

- 73. It is the responsibility of both the supervisee and their supervisor to maintain cordial and constructive relations with a view to ensuring effective supervision and satisfactory completion of the thesis. However, in situations where, in the view of the supervisee and/or supervisor, relations between them have broken down, either party should contact the Department Director of Doctoral Studies and/or Head of the Doctoral School or their equivalents at the partner institution. Initially a review will be undertaken to confirm whether the relationship can be restored, potentially utilising mediation. Where this is not possible, an alternative supervisor may be allocated.
- 74. Particular attention must be given by the Departmental Director of Doctoral Studies, their equivalent at the partner institution, and the Supervisory Committee to impending events that could affect supervision, such as retirement, resignation, role change or research leave on the part of an existing supervisor. It is the responsibility of the Director of Doctoral Studies and Head of Department, or their equivalents at the partner institution, to ensure that arrangements are made well in advance, in consultation with the supervisee, concerning a replacement supervisor.
- 75. Both supervisor and supervisee must ensure understanding of, and adherence to, relevant ethical standards and research expectations for the academic discipline.

Responsibilities of the First Supervisor

- 76. The responsibilities of the first supervisor are:
 - a) to agree with the doctoral candidate a suitable topic for research that can be completed and written up within the prescribed period of study set out in the Regulations.
 - b) to assist the supervisee in making full use of the facilities provided by the University and the partner institution and to encourage the supervisee to play a full part in the intellectual and social life of both institutions;
 - c) to assist the Director of Doctoral Studies, or their equivalent at the partner institution, to appoint a full Supervisory Committee, normally within six weeks of the student's enrolment on the degree;
 - d) to establish a timetable of regular meetings with the candidate at which all matters relating to, or affecting, the research are discussed. These meetings are normally held fortnightly during the first year and monthly during subsequent years of full-time enrolment or part-time equivalent;
 - e) to oversee the supervisee's maintenance of supervisory records on the student record system and assuring that supervisory meetings are logged;



- f) no later than six weeks after registration (or at the end of year 1 for an MPhil programme candidate) to agree with the candidate the subject and basic structure of the research project, an appropriate research method, and a realistic plan of work, and to advise on any additional skills required;
- g) to ensure that a training needs analysis (TNA) is undertaken annually at the start of each academic session and that the needs identified are subsequently matched to provision;
- h) to agree with the supervisee a realistic timetable for completion of the research and writing-up of the thesis. This must allow for completion of active research and a draft thesis by the expected completion date set out in the Regulations.
- i) to monitor progress of the research in accordance with the agreed schedule and to advise the Director of Doctoral Studies, or their equivalent at the partner institution, of any issues as they arise;
- j) to arrange (in consultation with the Supervisory Committee and the Director of Doctoral Studies or their equivalent at the partner institution) for a replacement supervisor in the event of any absence in excess of one calendar month;
- k) to maintain supervision during periods of research leave or to arrange for assumption of supervision by another member of the Supervisory Committee for the period of leave if continuing supervision is not feasible;
- l) to ensure that the project is progressed in accordance with the relevant Regulations and procedures for the partnership programme;
- m) to inform doctoral candidates about requirements for, and procedures relating to transfer to PhD, and to initiate the transfer process at the appropriate time;
- n) to maintain awareness of any requirements of the supervisee's funding body, report promptly on the supervisee's progress when required to do so by either institution or external funding bodies, and ensure, as far as possible, that the research is completed within the prescribed period;
- o) to advise the supervisee on correct research procedures, including the dangers of plagiarism, and to report to the Director of Doctoral Studies, or equivalent at the partner institution, any persistent research misconduct, including plagiarism;
- p) at an appropriate point, in accordance with the Regulations, to make recommendations for the appointment of internal and external examiners, and ensure that the candidate applies for entry to examination in good time (at least two months before submission) and submits the thesis before the deadline; and
- q) to advise the examination candidate on Regulations about research theses and procedures relating to research degree vivas and their outcomes.



Responsibilities of the Second Supervisor

- 77. The responsibilities of the second member of the Supervisory Committee are:
 - a) to enhance or augment the supervision of the candidate by contributing additional guidance and expertise;
 - to maintain an active involvement with the general progress of the supervisee's work and to participate in decisions relating to their progression;
 and
 - c) to act on behalf of the supervisor during unforeseen periods of absence.

Responsibilities of the Candidate

- 78. The responsibilities of the candidate are:
 - a) to attend meetings with their supervisor as and when arranged, to meet agreed deadlines for work, to agree an agenda for future meetings and bring to supervision meetings topics or research material for discussion, and to inform the supervisor and update the student record system of any likely absence of more than one calendar month (apart from approved periods of fieldwork);
 - b) to carry out their research effectively, to an approved standard, and within the prescribed period of study and deadlines.
 - c) to participate in, and satisfy the requirements of their training programme and personal training needs analysis (TNA) assessment;
 - d) to agree and abide by a timetable for regular meetings with the supervisor, to submit written work (allowing sufficient time for the supervisor to read and comment on the work) and to make such oral or seminar presentations as may be required by the supervisor, Director of Doctoral Studies, or their equivalent at the partner institution;
 - e) to be aware of the Regulations and procedures in respect of research degrees and to ensure that enrolment and registration requirements are completed correctly;
 - f) for doctoral candidates, to follow the procedures with respect to transfer to PhD;
 - g) to complete such reports and returns as are required via the student record system:
 - h) to maintain the student record system with details of supervisory meetings, research training, research progress and issues arising. It must be updated for every supervisory meeting; an agreed record of the number and nature of supervision meetings will be particularly valuable in order for both the supervisor and supervisee to complete the required annual report forms, and as an agreed record in the event of any appeals procedure.
 - i) to contact the other members of the Supervisory Committee as appropriate;
 - to pursue research actively while based at SOAS University of London or at any partner institution, except during periods of approved interruption or overseas fieldwork.



- k) to remain in contact by appropriate and agreed means with the supervisor during periods of fieldwork;
- to bring any complaints or problems (including health issues that could affect the research) to the attention of the supervisor, and to inform them of any problems seriously affecting the progress of research and writing;
- m) to consult in confidence with the Director of Doctoral Studies, or their equivalent at the partner institution, if it is felt that a change of supervisor is necessary; and
- n) to follow the requirements of the Regulations with respect to the submission and examination of research theses.

Responsibilities of the Director of Doctoral Studies or equivalent

- 79. The main responsibilities of the Director of Doctoral Studies, or their equivalent at the partner institution are:
 - a) to oversee the selection and admission of new MPhil/PhD degree candidates, and the allocation, and notification to those concerned, of supervisors and Supervisory Committees, except where a Research Admissions Tutor has been appointed to undertake this responsibility;
 - b) to organise (and, where appropriate, run) a training programme for MPhil/PhD students:
 - c) to ensure the distribution and the prompt completion and return of annual report forms and other reports concerning candidates, whose progression is dependent on receipt of a satisfactory annual report. Enrolment for the next year of the programme will not be permitted unless this requirement is met;
 - d) to ensure effective knowledge and operation of procedures for doctoral candidates' transfer from MPhil to PhD status:
 - e) to ensure effective monitoring of the progress of doctoral researchers on Extension of Writing-up status;

Responsibilities of Head of Department or Equivalent

- 80. The responsibilities of the Head of Department, or their equivalent at the partner institution, are as follows:
 - a) to exercise overall responsibility for the welfare, academic progress and support facilities of postgraduate researchers in the department;
 - b) to ensure that the requirements set out in this Code of Practice are followed and in particular to ensure that the procedures for effective supervision and progress monitoring of postgraduate researchers are fully implemented; and
 - c) to delegate, where appropriate, responsibility for day-to-day organisation of postgraduate training and supervision in the department to a departmental Director of Doctoral Studies (or equivalent), and to assist them in ensuring the maintenance of satisfactory submission, completion and success rates.



Further Reading

Regulations can be found here: https://www.soas.ac.uk/about/governance/policies-and-procedures/regulations-and-quality-assurance/degree-regulations

Further information about research at SOAS, and the SOAS Doctoral School, can be found here:

- http://www.soas.ac.uk/research
- http://www.soas.ac.uk/doctoralschool

Version Control

Code of Practice for Partnership Research Degrees – PhD in the Political Economy of				
Development				
Document type:	Code of Practice			
Document number:	REG-276	Version:	01	
Department:	Registry			
Approved by:	Senate	Date approved:	02/07/2025	
Effective from:	01/08/2025	Review date:	02/07/2028	
Publication:	SOAS website			
Related documents:	See section 4			
Documents replaced:	N/A			

Note: All policies must be read in conjunction with all other SOAS policy, procedure and guidance documents. Printed copies of policies may not be the most up to date, therefore please refer to the policy pages on the SOAS external website or intranet for the latest version.