

Master by Research Programme:

MA by Research/ MSc by Applied Research

1. Context and Objectives

The MA by Research/ MSc by Applied Research is a tailor-made programme of demand-workbased research type-which emphasises independent study over taught components. Although not restricted to specific subject areas, it is customary at many universities to offer two distinct streams to students wishing to specialise in subject areas belonging to the fields of the Arts and Humanities (MA by Res) or Technology and Sciences (MSc by Applied Res) respectively.

The Master by Research is designed for degree holders who wish to acquire research skills and is therefore considered as a final degree providing professional research skills. The degree, therefore, straddles the line between more conventional taught and research qualifications.

The programme may also involve research projects which are technologically-oriented leading to a pathway for commercialisation purposes. The programme is designed to prepare students for careers in science or administration, business careers, careers that interact with technological or other sectors, and work where skills in observation, recording and analysis, and proficiency in knowledge and technology transfer are at a premium.

2. Exclusive Features of this Research Degree Programme:

- It will be essentially open to all those applicants who are *sponsored* by the specific industry or organization for which the research will be of significance;
- If self-financed, the applicant must ensure and provide evidence that the research is demand-driven in line with the need of a benefiting organization;
- It can also be a pathway for HRDC to sponsor tailor-made research, linking the UoM to the organization interested in that problem;
- The programme is not open to beneficiaries of postgraduate scholarships/fellowships from UoM, HEC or MRIC;
- It can also be open to employees in the public and private sectors who are sponsored to carry out the specific research for their organization;
- The programme will not be confined to science, technology and engineering but will also encompass the social sciences;

- Emphasis will be on Creativity and Innovative Ideas;
- Students who have completed the MA by Research/MSc by Applied Research may be eligible to enrol directly for a PhD degree, subject to recommendation by the HDC and approval by TRC.

3. Learning Outcomes

At the end of this programme, the research student should be able to:

- Display an understanding of the link between the workplace /research context or setting and applied research;
- Showcase the nature and potential of the research study;
- Demonstrate an ability to apply knowledge acquired through research to real world contexts;
- Use relevant academic research skills to eventually enter competitive specialities;
- Apply critical and analytical skills;
- Address challenges within the workplace/ research context, assess impact, analyse and develop/recommend viable solutions;
- Focus on research as a process of investigation leading to insights which are socially relevant; and
- Display the potential for effective research uptake at more advanced levels.

4. Learning methods

Students following this programme will be supervised by at least one Supervisor from the UoM and there may also be the possibility of an Industrial Supervisor or External Supervisor with expertise and experience in the field in question.

It is expected that an MA by Research/ MSc by Applied Research should include work of direct relevance to culture, society, industry and existing scholarship. Its eventual aim is the generation of ideas, images, performances and/or artefacts which capitalize on existing knowledge and lead to either new or improved insights at both the theoretical and empirical levels.

For the MA by Research/ MSc by Applied Research level, a work can be deemed as having research impact if it displays the potential of either having an effect on, changing or benefiting the economy, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, and quality of life amongst others.

In line with the above, students opting for this programme of study may need to fulfil one or more of the following:

- Follow training (as deemed necessary) in the paradigms and methodologies existing in the relevant field;
- Contribute to scholarship in the specific field through, for example, the creation and/or application of a novel theoretical approach or paradigm;
- Produce work having some form of research impact by, for instance, generating insights that can be of local and even international significance;
- Follow Online lectures and Video presentations;
- Present Case studies;
- Carry out Self-evaluation exercises;
- Carry out fieldwork;
- Attend Guest lectures;
- Undergo a Viva-voce (over Skype/ ZOOM/ Google Meet among others for international students);
- Give presentations among peers; and
- Undergo other forms of experiential Learning.

5. General Entry Requirements

Applicant should possess at least a Second Class **Honours** undergraduate degree in the relevant field or equivalent.

PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

Application for MA by Research and MSc by Applied Research programmes will be open throughout the year but registration will be conditional on proof of sponsorship and a case of support from the relevant organisation.

Applications will be online (as per available UoM guidelines) to the Admissions' Office through the potential Supervisor.

After the research proposal has been approved by the Faculty Research Committee, Faculty Board and any other relevant instances, the student will be informed. The latter may then proceed with the final registration formalities. The format of the research proposal will be a specific one.

Members in the relevant field may be co-opted at the level of the Faculty Research Committee during the consideration of the MA by Research/ MSc by Applied Research proposals.

The processing of the application is outlined in the flow chart (see Annex A).

6. Programme Duration

The Programme will be offered on a full time and part-time basis with two modules bearing 6 LCCS credits each taught in a blended mode of delivery, combining both face-to-face sessions and online sessions. The programme duration is as follows:

- 12-18 months Full-Time
- 24-30 months Part-Time

As a rough guide, for full time students, the greater part of literature survey and any technical knowledge required should be completed within first three (3) months. The next six months should be occupied by the experimental/implementation work. The final three (3) months should be taken up with analysing results and the write-up of the thesis for submission for evaluation process. The candidate must show clear evidence of independent thinking in the thesis which must be his or her own work.

7. Supervision

Academic Staff who do not have a PhD may also supervise the work of the applicant subject to the Supervisor having published in the area/field. Additional expertise from the Industry may also be considered.

8. Monitoring Mechanism:

Students will be required to submit a six-monthly Progress Report and the Student Progress Form (SPF) which will constitute the formal mechanism by which the research programme is monitored **akin to the procedures for MPhil, MPhil/PhD and PhD students in the Handbook of 'Rules, Regulations and Procedures governing MPhil/PhD programmes'**.

For the research project, the supervisor must be satisfied that the thesis shows competence in investigating the chosen topic and that the results have been presented in a scholarly manner.

The thesis should not exceed 100 pages and 25000 – 40000 words in length. A satisfactory viva with the External Examiner via Skype/Zoom/Google Meet among others is also required.

Thereafter the MA by Research or MSc by Applied Research is awarded in a specific field based on the title and content of thesis submitted.

AVAILABLE SUPPORTS:

- Potential student will be directed towards a supervisor with whom s/he will meet to discuss and draft a research project proposal.
- Upon registration, the student and the supervisor will meet regularly to discuss the research project and the writing of the thesis.
- Students will have access to all the general academic facilities of the University.
- Students are welcome to attend all seminars and workshops organised by the University.
- Students will be given the opportunity to audit one module in the relevant field of their research and present in at least one research seminar.
- UILO may facilitate in securing sponsorship for interested students

9. Assessment of the Thesis under Research Project:

The Assessment and the External Examiner's Report

The recommendation from the External Examiner [Form] shall be one of the following:

- (i) Satisfactory with no corrections;
- (ii) Satisfactory with minor typographical errors to be corrected to the satisfaction of the supervisor;
- (iii) Satisfactory with amendments to the text of the thesis being made to the satisfaction of the supervisor;
- (iv) For revision and resubmission;
- (v) Not satisfactory and no resubmission;

10. Board of Examiners

As per UoM Regulations.

Any recommendations by the External Examiner as per 9 above and the marks for the taught modules will be considered by the Board of Examiners, which will report to Faculty/CILL Board. In case the Faculty/CILL Board recommends either an "Award for MA by Research/ MSc by Applied Research" or a "No Award" its recommendations should be submitted to Senate. The decision of the Senate shall be communicated to the student.

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Membership of the Board of Examiners:

Dean/ OiC CILL

Chairperson

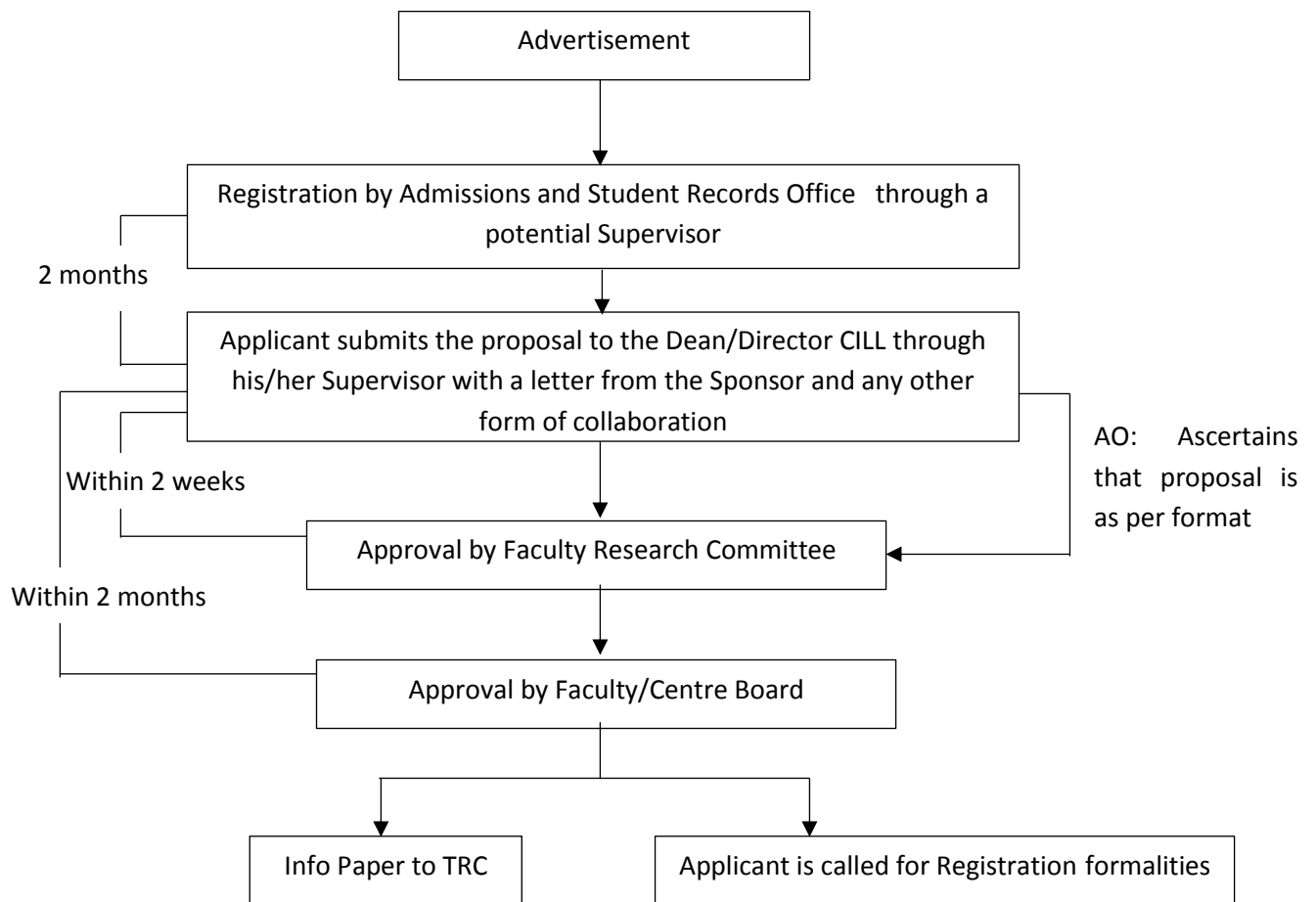
Head of Department

Two members of the Department (at least at Senior Lecturer level)

In Attendance

Administrative Officer

Approval Process for MA by Research/MSc by Applied Research Proposal



Footnote:

- *Withdrawal and Termination of Student's Registration from MA by Research/MSc by Applied Research needs to be approved by Faculty/Centre Board and Info paper to be submitted to TRC.*

Updated by QA on 9.12.2022.