

5. TRANSFER OF REGISTRATION FROM MPhil TO PhD

5.1 Introduction

The procedures described in this section apply to MPhil/PhD programmes of study. They should be read in conjunction with the University Regulations for Higher Degrees.

A student initially registered for the MPhil degree who wishes to be transferred to PhD programme can apply for transfer of registration; consult Table 1.2 for the time frame when the application for transfer of registration can be made.

In order to demonstrate that sufficient progress has been made to provide evidence of the development to PhD, a student is required to submit a substantive transfer report (the so-called MPhil Transfer Report) for external assessment. The report should contain (a) a concise account of the research work already conducted and (b) it should also demonstrate that the student has:

- understood the problem and is aware of relevant literature;
- demonstrated capacity to conduct research of PhD standard;
- established a realistic research plan and schedule for the duration of study.

5.2 Procedures for the Submission of Transfer Reports

- (i) A student will be eligible to submit his/her MPhil Transfer Report if he/she has satisfactorily completed the following two modules of the MRes programme: RM 5010 *Research at University of Mauritius: Processes & Methodology* and RM 5011 *Research Seminar Series*.
- (ii) The student is required to notify the Dean of Faculty/Director of Centre with the approval of his/her supervisor(s) of his/her intention to submit a transfer report by filling a Notification for transfer from MPhil to PhD form (RDT1) three months prior to the proposed date of submission of the transfer report. A *Transfer Report/Thesis Declaration Form* (RDCC) will have to be filled in and submitted together with the RDT1 form.
- (iii) Students must submit a two-page abstract at the time of notification of submission of the RDT1 Form which will be sent to potential External Assessors.
- (iv) If a student intends to submit his/her MPhil Transfer Report or has submitted the MPhil Transfer Report, but does not obtain the supervisor's approval, the case shall be normally referred to the FRC/LLCRC. The latter will investigate and make appropriate recommendations normally to the Chairperson of Faculty/LLC Board.
- (v) Students who are on the ACU Split-Site Doctoral Scholarships intending to submit their MPhil Transfer Report at the host institution will have to adhere to conditions as (approved under Statute 25(16) by the Vice-Chancellor on 18 August 2006 and Senate informed at its 486th (Ordinary) meeting held on 06.09.06) with the following proposed amendment (underlined):
 - a. The MPhil Transfer Report will be assessed by an Internal and an External Assessor as per the UoM existing Form RDT2 at the host institution. The External Assessor shall be a Professor and the other shall be at least at an Associate Professor level or equivalent.
- (vi) The transfer report shall be submitted to the AO's Office at the Faculty/Centre in three copies (spiral bound) in the format specified by the University Specifications for MPhil Transfer Reports.

5.3 Procedures for Assessment of Transfer Reports

- (i) Upon receipt of the [RDT1] Form, the Faculty/LLC Research Committee shall approve at least four External Assessors in order of priority from:
 - (a) Up to five names of External Assessors submitted by the supervisor(s) within one week after student's notification; and
 - (b) One External Assessor identified by the Faculty/LLC Research Committee.

In case the supervisor(s) does/do not submit up to five names of External Assessors by the given deadline, the Faculty/LLC Research Committee shall identify and approve at least four External Assessors in order of priority.

External Assessors should normally be required to meet the following criteria:

- (a) One External Assessor shall be a Professor and the other shall be at least at an Associate Professor level or equivalent.
- (b) The Assessor should have recent experience of either supervising or examining PhD students in the relevant subject area.
- (c) The appointment of an External Assessor at Senior Lecturer level can also be considered for moderating an MPhil Transfer Report subject to the Department concerned submitting strong justifications for such appointment. One of the two External Assessors should be at Professorial level.

It is recognised that in some cases, the most suitable person to act as an External Assessor for a particular student may be someone outside academia but who has recent experience of examining research degrees in the relevant field.

- (ii) Upon approval by the Faculty/LLC Research Committee, the Faculty/Centre Administrative Officer shall send an email to the approved External Assessors regarding:
 - (a) whether potential conflict(s) of interest is/are likely to occur as a result of examining a candidate's MPhil Transfer report and if so disclose it to the University; and
 - (b) IPR issues, in case the research work has IPR with potential for commercialisation.

Examples of 'potential conflict of interest' include:

- closely connected with or to the student to be examined, the supervisor or the internal examiner (e.g. relative, friend, someone in regular correspondence with the student about his/her work, former tutor of the student etc);
- someone who has been a staff member at the University of Mauritius within the last five years.

- (iii) If any of the approved External Assessors express any conflict of interest, the Faculty/LLC Research Committee shall identify and approve another External Assessor for the MPhil Transfer Report.
- (iv) If no conflict of interest is expressed by the approved External Assessor(s), the Faculty/LLC Research Committee shall recommend the External Assessors in order of priority to Faculty/LLC Board. Once approved by the Faculty/LLC Board, approval shall be sought from the Academic Management Committee and Senate will be informed accordingly.

- (v) Further to the appointment, the Faculty/Centre Administrative Officer shall send the Transfer Reports to the first two External Assessors requesting the submission of the completed RDT2 (A) and (B) Forms, within two months and informing them of the terms and conditions of their appointment and their role as External Assessors.
- (vi) Within one month following submission of the Transfer Report to the External Assessors, in case the list of External Assessors is exhausted, the Faculty/Centre shall start procedures for the appointment of new External Assessor(s) as per Section 5.3(i) of the existing regulations.
- (vii) If the External Assessor(s) has/have not submitted the completed forms (A) and (B) at the end of the second month, the Faculty/Centre Administrative Officer shall send the Transfer Report(s) to the next External Assessor(s) in the list of External Assessors appointed in order of priority.

However, if in the meantime the External Assessors have responded, their reports will be considered by the Board of Examiners and the new External Assessor(s) will still assess the thesis and he/she/they will be paid the usual honorarium.

5.4 The External Assessors' Reports

- (i) The recommendation from the External Assessor [Form RDT2 (A)] shall be one of the following:
 - Transfer to PhD.
 - Revision and re-submission for a transfer to PhD to the satisfaction of the Supervisor.
 - Revision and re-submission for a transfer to PhD to the satisfaction of External Assessor.
 - Revision and re-submission for an MPhil degree only to the satisfaction of the Supervisor.
 - Revision and re-submission for an MPhil degree only to the satisfaction of the External Assessor.
- (ii) The BOE will deliberate on the first positive recommendation received from the External Assessor(s).
- (iii) Any amendments proposed by the External Assessor(s) must be communicated in *toto* by the Chair of the Board of Examiners to the student through the supervisor(s). The Full External Assessor Report(s) [Form RDT2 (B)] must not be disclosed to non-BOE members.

5.5 Board of Examiners

- (i) The Board of Examiners shall make appropriate recommendations to the Faculty/LLC Board; *BOE will deliberate on the first positive recommendation received from the External Assessor for upgrading and on both recommendations for MPhil Degree.*
- (ii) Any recommendation by the External Assessor(s) as per 5.4(i) will have to be considered by the Board of Examiners, which will report to Faculty/LLC Board.
- (iii) In case the Faculty/LLC Board recommends a "Transfer to PhD" then its recommendations shall be submitted to the Academic Management Committee and Senate will be informed accordingly. The decision of the Academic Management Committee shall be communicated to the student through the Supervisor.

- (iv) In case the Faculty/LLC Board recommends an “Award for MPhil Degree”, then its recommendations are submitted to Senate. The decision of Senate shall be communicated to the student through the Supervisor.

5.6 Research Seminar Series - RM5011

Students who have been upgraded to PhD will be required to present a research seminar under the Research Seminar Series RM5011 of the MRes programme within one month of their upgrade.

Students who have been awarded an MPhil or PhD degree will also be invited to present a research seminar under the Research Seminar Series RM5011 of the MRes programme within one month of their award.

Members of academic/administrative staff of the University of Mauritius who have been awarded an MPhil or PhD degree will be required to present a research seminar under the Research Seminar Series RM5011 of the MRes programme within one month of their award.

5.7 Appeals

There shall be no appeal on academic grounds. However, if the student feels that there has been a procedural irregularity, he/she may appeal against Senate’s decision on receipt of a formal letter from the Registrar. Any appeal with necessary justification(s) shall be lodged in writing to the Registrar within four weeks from the date a student is informed of Senate’s decision.

All cases of appeal shall be dealt with as per the existing University Regulations.