

### **External Research Degrees (PhD and MPhil)**

Applications for research in an external place of employment are submitted and processed in the same way as noted in 11.4 and 11.5 of the Quality Handbook. This includes the careful consideration of the academic suitability of the applicant, feasibility of the project, adequacy of research facilities and of supervisory arrangements. The University must be satisfied that adequate contact between the (prospective) student and the supervisor will be maintained throughout the period of study, and that the proposed study has the full co-operation of the student's employer to ensure that, amongst other matters, the student's conditions of employment do not alter during the period of study. The Head of the Graduate School must also be satisfied with the local supervisory arrangements at the student's place of work. Each of these requirements must be met in order that an offer of a place can be made.

Applications for external research should include a written statement of support from the applicant's employer. In addition, the applicant's employer will be required to consent with the Head of the relevant academic department that the research work will be undertaken under the supervision and direction of a supervisory team. The control of the topic of research and of all conditions governing the candidature shall at all times remain with the Head of the relevant academic department and shall be subject to the approval of the Faculty concerned. The supervisory team will be nominated by the Head of the Department, with specific duties assigned. The supervisory team will have the right to contact the student in their place of employment, and to have access to their work as necessary.

Contact between the student and the supervisory team must be maintained throughout the period of research. It is recommended that supervisory teams of external research students provide a clear statement of the supervisory arrangements, including the scheduled frequency of face-to-face contact, and that a written record is made of each supervisory meeting. These arrangements should also apply to any research student undertaking an extended period of research away from Aberystwyth. As with all research students, research monitoring exercises will be undertaken at regular intervals, with appropriate follow up as required.

External research students must immediately notify the Head of the relevant academic department of any changes to their employment or conditions of employment during the course of their studies. On receipt of such notifications, the University will review the circumstances and determine whether or not it is appropriate for the student's registration to continue.