

ORDINANCE 54: Degree of Master of Laws by Research

1. The degree of Master of Laws by Research may be conferred, following report from the Board of Examiners, upon candidates who have fulfilled the requirements prescribed by this Ordinance and by the programme specification which shall set out the aims, learning outcomes, structure, and assessment requirements of the programme.
2. Applicants for registration for the course of study leading to the degree must either:
 - a) be graduates of this or another university or institution approved by the University who have attained a standard equivalent to second class Honours in the University; or
 - b) satisfy the Department of Law on the basis of experience, publications or other evidence (which may include a written examination) that their knowledge and ability are equivalent to those of a second class Honours graduate of this University.
3. Period of registration:

Maximum periods of registration include periods of reassessment and periods of suspension of studies. The maximum period for which a full-time student may be registered for the programme shall be three years. The maximum period for which a part-time student may be registered for the programme shall be six years. In exceptional circumstances the time allowed for submission of a thesis may be extended by approval of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education following a recommendation from the candidate's supervisor.
4. Candidates shall be assessed in accordance with the requirements set out in the programme specification and module specifications. Candidates who fail the taught modules may be re-assessed on one further occasion only, at the next re-assessment opportunity. A failed dissertation may also be re-assessed on one further occasion only. For full-time and part-time students the re-assessment of a dissertation must be within twelve months of the publication of the original results. Whenever an assessment is re-assessed the mark achieved in the re-assessment always supersedes any earlier mark, even when the earlier mark is higher. Marks achieved through re-assessment shall be capped at 50% for the purposes of calculating the overall average mark and determining the classification for an award. The provisions of the University's Framework for Postgraduate Modular Provision in determining the re-assessment requirements of the dissertation module shall apply.
5. The Degree may be awarded with a mark of Merit or Distinction in accordance with the following criteria:
 - To be awarded a **Merit** grade, candidates must achieve an overall average mark of at least 60% in taught modules and 60% in the dissertation module;
 - To be awarded a **Distinction** grade, candidates must achieve an overall average mark of at least 70% in taught modules and 70% in the dissertation module.
6. Students who fail to meet the requirements for the Master of Laws by Research shall not be eligible for an exit award.

7. Boards of Examiners shall be empowered to take into account extenuating circumstances affecting a candidate's performance in determining the conditions relating to re-assessment and their final award results, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Practice on Assessment and the Extenuating Circumstances Policy.

The Code of Practice on Assessment (including the Extenuating Circumstances Policy) can be found at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/aqsd/academic-codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-on-assessment/>

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE TO ORDINANCE 54

1. Original amended Ordinance approved on behalf of Senate and Council October/November 2015.
2. Amendments approved by Senate and Council June/July 2017. The programme is regulated in accordance with the terms for an MRes under the existing Appendix C of the Code of Practice on Assessment: the University Framework for Postgraduate Modular Provision.