



University of the  
West of England

## Graduate School

### MINIMUM CREDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR A POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES

In April 2003 the Academic Board of the University adopted a new framework for the definition of research degrees. This was produced in response to the increasing diversity in patterns of research degree provision across UK universities and indeed internationally.

As part of this framework all research degree programmes are now required to include the acquisition by the student of a minimum number of credits.

From 1 September 2013 the minimum credit requirements are:

<b>Master of Philosophy</b>	60 at level M
<b>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</b>	60-120 of which at least 60 at level M
<b>Professional Doctorate</b>	120 – 270 at level M. Please refer to individual awards for the exact requirements.
<b>D Phil (Doctorate by publication)</b>	60-120 of which at least 60 at level M

As part of the registration process the Director of Studies will identify the precise development needs of an individual student, undertaking a specific project. It is expected that the credits will address the broad areas of Researcher Development, Skills Development and could include subject specific knowledge.

This must be reviewed annually as part of the annual progress procedures as a student's development needs may develop during their studies: 60 credits is simply the minimum requirement.

An existing Masters qualification is not an automatic substitute for credits at doctoral level.

#### **Accredited Prior Learning (AL)**

The Director of Studies should make any claims for AL as part of the application for confirming registration (RD1). A full statement is required that will either explain how the students will meet their development needs, or in the case of a non-UWE module, will detail its comparison with a specified UWE module. Full supporting evidence such as degree certificates, academic transcripts and syllabus details and module specifications should be attached.