SAM examination process

Examinations for PhD, Professional Doctorates, MPhil, MRes and PhD by Existing Published Works are all managed through SAM.

This guide gives an outline of what happens at each stage, please note processes can be slightly different for each award. MRes students don't have a viva as a rule.

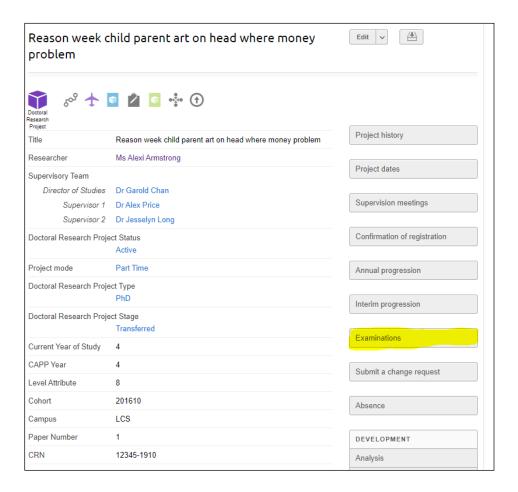
Please see the information in the Research Student Handbook for more details and useful information about the examination process: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/the-graduate-school/documents-and-forms/

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Introduction

A new tab has been added to the PGR Project Page, called examinations. This is where all the information about a PGR's examination journey is kept in SAM.



Overview of Examination Stages

Please note that all timeframes are approximate and may vary

Stage	Who	Why	When
Examination Arrangements	Supervisory	To appoint the exam team	At least 6 months prior to
	team		the PGR's expected
			submission date
	Graduate School	To take the request to the	The next available
		URDSC	committee meeting
	Chair	To agree to chair the viva	As soon as possible after receipt
Intention to submit	PGR	To notify the Grad School	Around 1 month before the
		and the supervisory team	expected submission date
		that a submission is	
		imminent	
	Supervisory team	To confirm the request	As soon as possible after receipt
Thesis submission	PGR	To send the e-thesis in to	By the expected submission
		the Graduate school ready	date
		for circulation	
	Supervisory	To confirm the submission	By the expected submission
	team		date
	Grad school	To carry out fee and	Around 2-3 weeks
		enrolment checks, then	
		send the e-thesis to the	
		examination team once all	
		is clear	
Viva arrangements	Graduate School	To liaise with the	This can take up to 6 weeks
		examination team to find a	and is subject to the
		suitable date for the viva.	availability of the
		To confirm the details to	examiners.
		the PGR, supervisory team, exam team via SAM	
Preliminary Reports	Examiners	To read the thesis and	- 7 to 14 Days before viva
rreminiary neports	LAGITITIETS	complete their preliminary	date
		report which is then	- for MRes within 4 weeks
		circulated to the	of receiving thesis
		examination team.	or receiving cresis
Examination outcomes	Independent	To give the PGR the	- On the day of the viva
	Chair	outcome of the	- For MRes within 1 week of
		examination; to put	Graduate school receiving
		together the outcome	confirmed reports from the
		report for the Graduate	exam team
		school	
	Graduate School	To send the formal	As soon as possible, within
		outcome of the	7 days of receipt from the
		examination to the PGR	Chair
		and supervisory team	
Amendments - submission	PGR	To submit the amended	By the amendments
		thesis	deadline date
	Supervisory	To confirm submission of	By the amendments
A 1	team	the PGR's amended thesis	deadline date
Amendments – review	Examiners	To review the amended	8 to 10 weeks on average,
		thesis and submit the	this is at the Examiner's
	Ch - i -	Amendments report	discretion
	Chair	To review the Examiner's	As soon as possible after
		decision and edit the Chair	receipt of the decision
		confirmation form	

	Grad School	To send the formal	As soon as possible, within
		outcome of the	7 days of receipt of the
		examination to the PGR	Chair's confirmation form
		and supervisory team	
Resubmission – thesis	PGR	To send the e-thesis to the	By the expected
submission		Graduate school ready for	resubmission date
		circulation	
	Supervisory	To confirm the submission	By the expected
	team		resubmission date
	Grad school	To carry out enrolment	Around 1-2 weeks
		checks, then send the e-	
		thesis to the examination	
		team once all is clear. No	
		Fee checks here	
Resubmission – viva	Graduate School	To liaise with the	This can take up to 6 weeks
arrangements (if needed)		examination team to find a	and is subject to the
		suitable date for the viva.	availability of the
		To confirm the details to	examiners.
		the PGR, supervisory team,	
		exam team via SAM	
Resubmission - Preliminary	Examiners	To read the thesis and	- 7 to 14 Days before viva
Reports		complete their preliminary	date
		report which is then	- for MRes within 4 weeks
		circulated to the	of receiving thesis
		examination team.	
Resubmission -	Independent	To give the PGR the	-On the day of the viva
Examination outcomes	Chair	outcome of the	-For MRes within 1 week of
		examination; to put	Graduate school receiving
		together the outcome	confirmed reports from the
		report for the Graduate	exam team
		school	
	Graduate School	To send the formal	As soon as possible, within
		outcome of the	7 days of receipt of the
		examination to the PGR	Chair's confirmation form
		and supervisory team	

Pre-examination:

- Examination Arrangements
- Intention to Submit

The examination process can be started either by the PGR submitting their thesis or by the supervisory team putting in the appointment of examiners request.

Examination Arrangements (all awards).

Stage	Who	Why	When
Examination	Supervisory team	To appoint the	At least 6 months prior to the PGR's
Arrangements		exam team	expected submission date
	Chair	To agree to chair	As soon as possible after receipt
		the viva	
	Graduate School	To take the	The next available committee meeting
		request to the	
		URDSC	

The examination arrangements should be submitted and approved prior to the PGR's intention to submit and/or the PGR's registration end date. It is the responsibility of the supervisory team to do so and the PGR should not be involved.

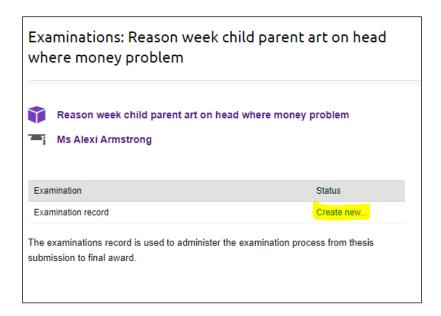
The supervisory team should identify suitable examiners, one internal and one external (two for staff), plus an Independent Chair. The proposed team should be approached and CVs requested which will then go, via SAM, to the University Research Degrees Sub Committee (URDSC) for approval. The form in SAM will ask you to provide specific information from examiners in order for the URDSC to make an informed decision. You can use the template here if you wish.

When liaising with proposed examiners, especially External examiners, please make it clear that SAM will be used throughout the examination process. Once approved, External Examiners will have access to the record for the PGR they are examining and will receive a 'welcome to SAM' email advising them how to access the system.

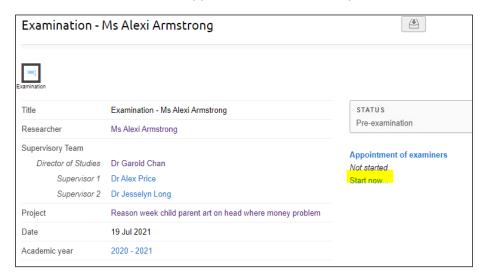
For MRes PGRs, the same process should be followed but no Independent Chair is needed.

To start the Appointment of Examiners process on SAM:

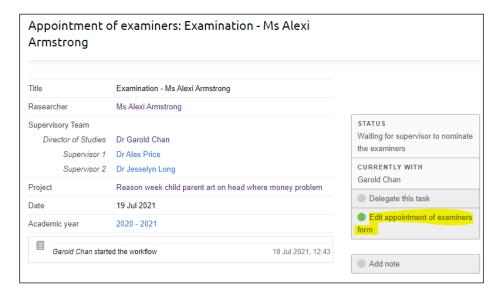
Click into the exam tab from the PGR's project page, click create new to start a new exam process.

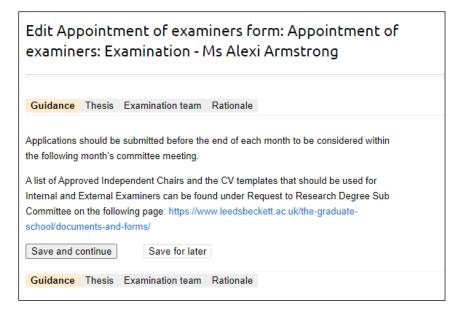


You will then be able to see a link to the Appointment of Examiners process:

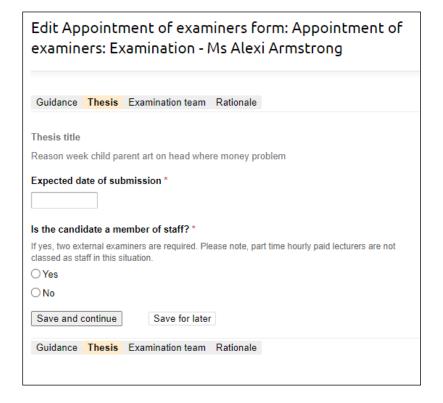


Click Edit appointment of examiners form to start the process:



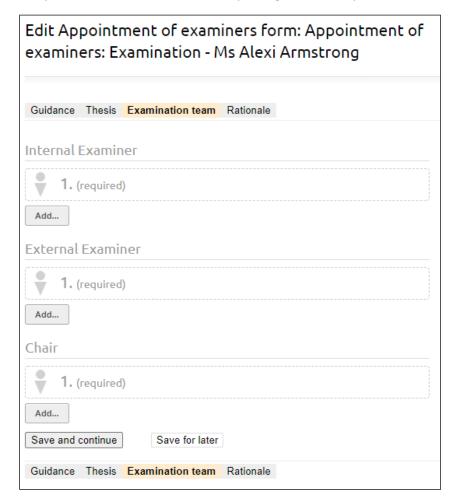


Page 2 of form -THESIS

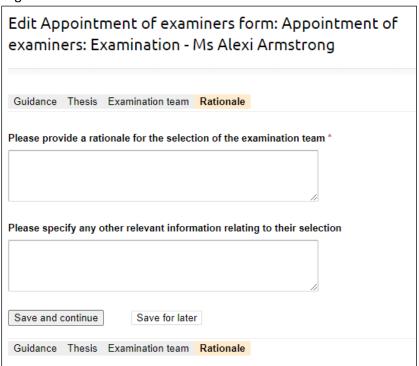


Page 3 of form - EXAMINATION TEAM

Click 'add' for each examiner to enter their details and CV. For the proposed Chair you just need to enter their contact phone number and address (for posting out hard copies of thesis).



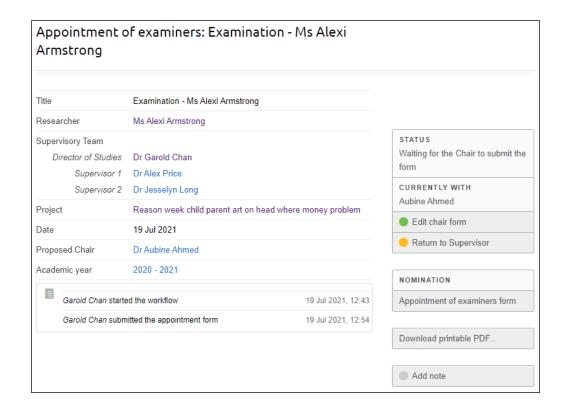
Page 4 of form - RATIONALE



Once you have submitted your form, a notification will be sent to the proposed Chair to ask whether they agree to act as Chair.

CHAIR FORM

Stage	Who	Why	When
Examination	Chair	To agree to chair the	As soon as possible after receipt
Arrangements		viva	



Chair – complete this form as appropriate:

Edit Chair form: Appointment of examiners: Examination - Ms Alexi Armstrong		
Are you willing to act as Chair? *		
○ Yes ○ No		
If no, please explain why		
The form will be returned to the supervisor		
Save and continue Save for later		

Once the Chair has completed the form and is in agreement, the Appointment of Examiners will go to the URDSC for approval.

The URDSC decision can either be 'approve' or 'not approve'.

If it is 'approve' then the Examiners are added in SAM. External examiners will receive an introduction email about how to access SAM and will need to have a right to work check.

If the outcome is 'not approve', then the request will be returned to the Director of Study to review the request and propose a new team if needed.

Intention to submit (all awards)

Stage	Who	Why	When
Intention to submit	PGR	To notify the Grad School and the supervisory team that a submission is imminent	Around 1 month before the expected submission date
	Supervisory team	To confirm the request	As soon as possible after receipt

PGR – you should complete the Intention to submit form at least a month before you intend to submit your final thesis. Click on the Examinations button on your project page to access your Examination page, then click on the examination record:



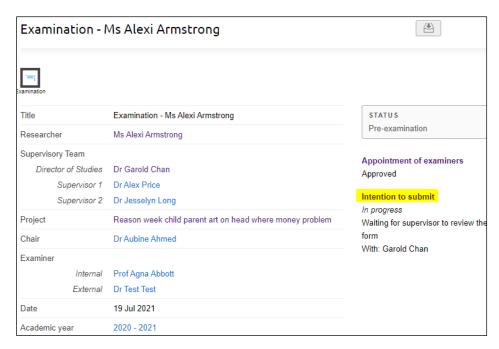
Complete the Intention to Submit form. Your proposed submission date must be in the future:

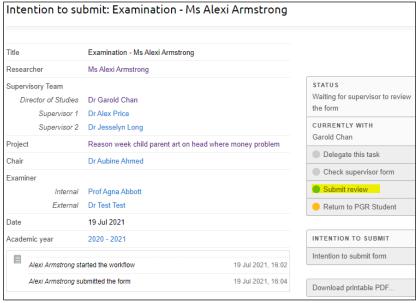
Edit Intention to submit form: Intention to submit: Examination - Ms Alexi Armstrong			
Once you have submitted your intention to submit, you can find details about how to present and submit your thesis here.			
Thesis title			
Reason week child parent art on head where money problem			
Do you need to change the thesis title?*			
○Yes			
○ No			
If yes, what is the new thesis title?			
Please note the way you write your title here is how it will be displayed in the system			
Submission deadline			
16 Dec 2023			
Proposed submission date *			
If your proposed submission date is after your submission deadline, you will need to submit a change request to the Research Degree Sub Committee.			
☐ I understand the standard time frame between the point of my submission and my Viva Voce is 3 months. This may be longer dependent on examiner availability or if I have any fees outstanding. Save for later			

The form will then go to your DoS for approval.

DoS:

You will receive a notification and task that your PGR has submitted their Intention to Submit form. Log in to check all the details then click confirm once you are happy to submit the form. This will then go to the Graduate School.



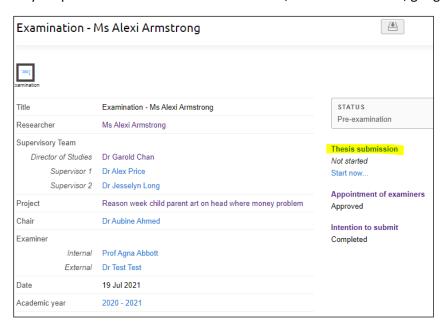


Thesis submission

Stage	Who	Why	When
Thesis submission	PGR	To send the e-thesis in	By the expected submission
		to the Graduate school	date in your project dates
		ready for circulation	
	Supervisory team	To confirm the	By the expected submission
		submission	date
	Grad school	To carry out fee and	2 weeks
		enrolment checks, then	
		send the e-thesis to the	
		examination team once	
		all is clear and proceed	
		with arranging the	
		examination	

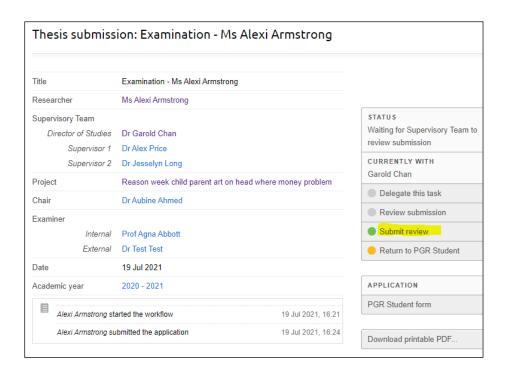
PGR:

Click into your examination page, then click on Thesis submission. Work through the steps to complete the form and submit the electronic version of your thesis. This can either be a pdf upload or a link to your preferred document transfer tool link, such as wetransfer, google drive.



Supervisors:

Once your PGR has submitted their thesis it will come to you to review and confirm the accompanying information. You will have a task in your task list and will receive a notification.



Viva arrangements (PhD, Professional Doctorates, MPhil, PhD by Existing Published Work)

Stage	Who	Why	When
Viva arrangements	Graduate School	To liaise with the examination team to find a suitable date for the viva. To confirm the details to the PGR, supervisory team, exam team via SAM	This can take up to 6 weeks and is subject to the availability of the examiners.

PGR, Supervisory team, Examination team – the Graduate School will work with the Examination team to finalise a date for the viva. You will receive an email from SAM once the details of the examination have been finalised.

Preliminary Reports

Preliminary Reports	Examiners	To read the thesis and	- 7 to 14 Days before viva
		complete their	date
		preliminary report which	- for MRes within 4 weeks
		is then circulated to the	of receiving thesis
		examination team.	

Examiners:

Once the thesis has been submitted and the Graduate School have carried out their checks, you will be sent an email from SAM with a link to the thesis and the PGR's examination pages. When you log into SAM you will also have a task that you can click into to complete your preliminary report:



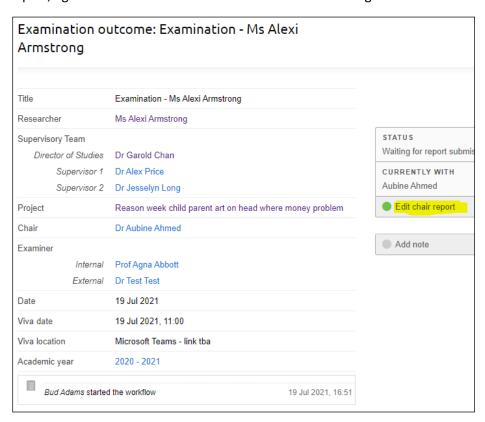
Please complete your report at least 10 working days before the date of the viva, this will allow time for other members of the examination team to read it in advance. You will be sent the reports of the other examiner(s) once all reports have been submitted.

For MRes exams, once you have completed your preliminary report, it will be shared with the Graduate School, who will then share with all examiners once all reports have been received. The internal examiner should then complete the final outcome form, liaising with other examiners via email and phone if needed.

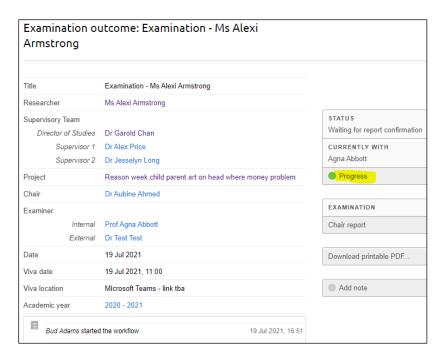
Examination Outcomes

Chair

After the exam, in the Post viva-voce examination outcome and recommendation part of the meeting the team will discuss and agree the outcome for the PGR. The Chair will complete the Chair's Report, again there will be a task and notification sent linking to this:



Examiners - The chair's report will then be sent to all the examiners to review and approve the outcome. A notification will be sent and a task will appear on the task bar.



When all examiners have confirmed the outcome is correct, it will go to the Graduate School to review and send the formal outcome to the PGR.

If you receive an outcome resulting in a resubmission and re-examination, you will only be allowed to do this once. Amendments and resubmissions are handled via SAM.

Possible outcomes (Doctoral awards and MPhil)

Possible outcome	What this means
The candidate receives the award.	Your certificate will be produced by our Registration and Awards team and posted out to the address we have for you on file. Please log in to My Beckett to check and/or update this. You will be asked to provide a clean pdf e-thesis for the Library
The candidate receives the award subject to minor amendments being made to the thesis within a one-month period.	You must make some small amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis.
The candidate receives the award subject to substantive amendments being made to thesis within a three to sixmonth period. The examiners will be required to indicate the date by which the amendments are to be completed.	You must make some amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis.
The candidate is permitted to resubmit for the award and be re-examined on the thesis with an oral examination (and/or further examination as applicable) in any period up to 12 months.	You must resubmit your thesis and have a further viva voce examination. You will need to follow the Resubmission process in SAM to do this.

The candidate is permitted to resubmit for the award and be	You must resubmit your thesis.
re-examined on the thesis only.	You will need to follow the
	Resubmission process in SAM
	to do this.
For PhD and professional doctorates (excluding PhD by	You must make some
Existing Published Work):	amendments to your thesis and
The candidate has not achieved the standard of the	then follow the Amendments
award but has satisfied the criteria of award of an MPhil.	process in SAM to submit your
In this case, the candidate may, after changes to the	revised thesis for the
format of the thesis to meet the requirements for the	alternative award on offer.
degree, be awarded the degree of MPhil.	
For MPhil	You must make some
The candidate has not achieved the standard of the award	amendments to your thesis and
for MPhil and should be awarded the alternative award of	then follow the Amendments
MRes, subject to confirmation that the thesis meets the	process in SAM to submit your
requirements for the award.	revised thesis for the
	alternative award on offer.
For all examinations	Your work is not up to the
The candidate has not achieved the standard of the	standard of your original target
award but should be offered the opportunity to	award. You must resubmit
resubmit and be assessed for the award of MPhil (for	your thesis to be assessed for
PhD or professional doctorate PGRs) or MRes (for	the alternative award on offer.
MPhil PGRs).	You will need to follow the
	Resubmission process in SAM
	to do this.

Possible outcomes (MRes)

Possible outcome	What this means
The candidate receives the award	Your certificate will be produced by our Registration and Awards team and posted out to the address we have for you on file. Please log in to My Beckett to check and/or update this. You will be asked to provide a clean pdf e-thesis for the Library
The candidate receives the award subject to minor amendments being made to the thesis within a 1 month period	You must make some small amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis.
The candidate receives the award subject to substantive amendments being made to thesis within a 1-3 month period. The examiners will be required to indicate the date by which the amendments are to be completed	You must make some amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis. You will be advised of the date you need to submit by.
The candidate is permitted to re-submit for the award (within a 6 month period)	You must resubmit your thesis. You will need to follow the Resubmission process in SAM to do this.

Unable to decide	and wish to request	an oral The Graduate s	chool will
examination		arrange a Viva	Voce exam for
		you and you w	II be informed of
		the details onc	e the date has
		been set.	

Amendments (all awards)

Please see the information in the Research Student Handbook for more details and useful information about resubmitting your thesis: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/the-graduate-school/documents-and-forms/

Thesis amendments are required after the following outcomes of your original examination:

The candidate receives the award subject to minor amendments being made to the thesis within a one-month period.	You must make some small amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis.
The candidate receives the award subject to substantive amendments being made to thesis within a three to sixmonth period. The examiners will be required to indicate the date by which the amendments are to be completed.	You must make some amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis.

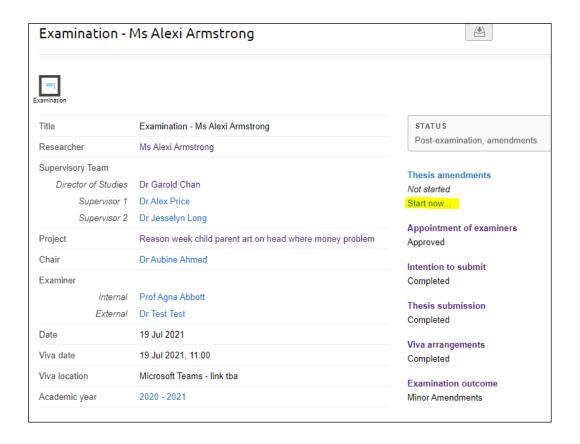
For MRes:

The candidate receives the award subject to minor amendments being made to the thesis within a 1 month period	You must make some small amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis.
The candidate receives the award subject to substantive amendments being made to thesis within a 1-3 month period. The examiners will be required to indicate the date by which the amendments are to be completed	You must make some amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis. You will be advised of the date you need to submit by.

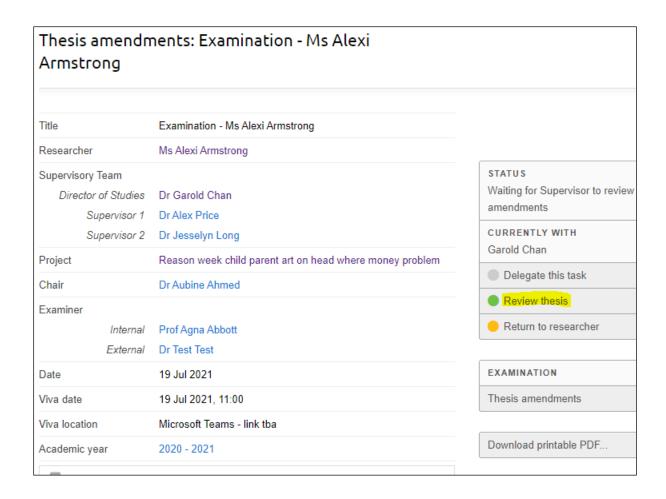
Thesis Amendments

PGR – when you are ready to submit your amended thesis, click back through to your examination page, you will have a new task there called Thesis Amendments. Follow the process through to submit your amended thesis, in the same way you originally submitted.

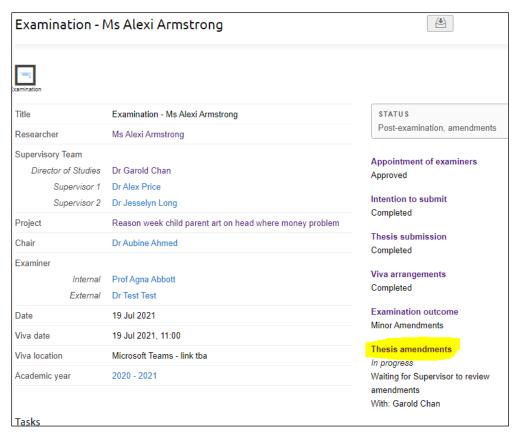
You will also need to submit a separate Word document listing all the amendments you have made. To speed up the process and to help the examiners, it would be beneficial to indicate the relevant page numbers for each amendment on the Word document.



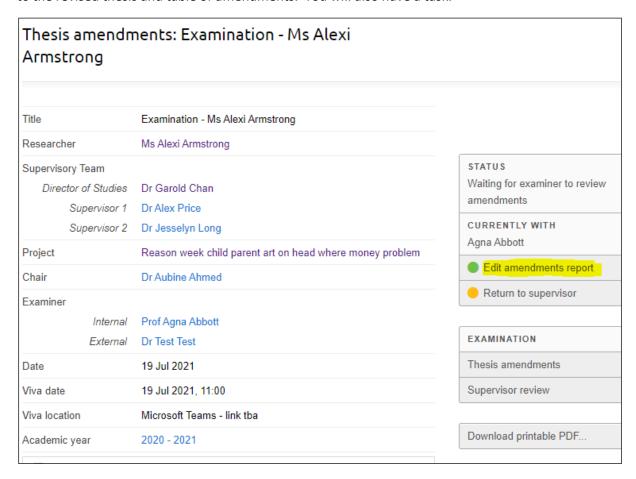
Supervisory team – when your PGR has submitted their amended thesis you will receive a notification and a task will appear.



Click on Review thesis to view the work and add your comments to the thesis amendments form, similar to when you reviewed the first submission. When you submit the form it goes to the Examiner(s) who have been specified to review the amendments.



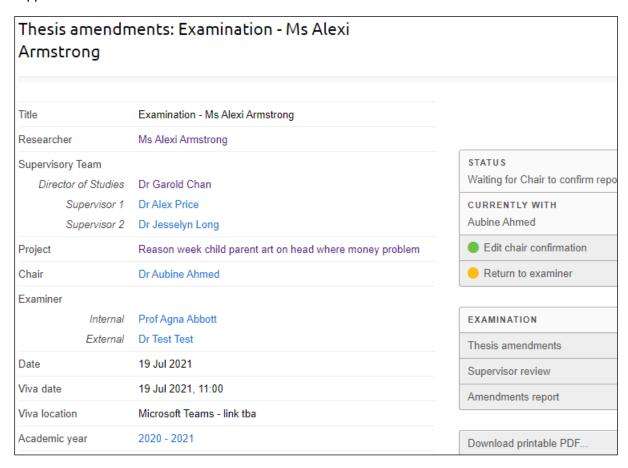
Examiner – you will receive an email from SAM when the amendments have been received, linking to the revised thesis and table of amendments. You will also have a task.



Click into 'Edit amendments report' to review the revised thesis, then enter your decision and submit. Your decision will then be sent to the Chair to review. For MRes students your decision will go straight to the Graduate School.

Edit Amendments report: Thesis amendments: Examination - Ms Alexi Armstrong	
Decision: *	
The candidate has made the suitable recommended revisions and is recommended for the award	
The candidate is recommended for the award subject to minor amendments (to be made within 1 month of receipt of the notification by the candidate)	
 The candidate has not achieved the standard of the award, or that of a lesser or alternative award; and shall not receive an award 	
Save and continue Save for later	

Chair – you will receive a notification and a task when the examiner's decision is ready to review. Click through and edit the Chair Confirmation form. You will have the option to add details in support of the decision:



Edit Chair confirmation: Thesis amendments: Examination - Ms Alexi Armstrong		
Decision *		
The candidate has made the suitable recommended revisions and is recommended for the award		
The candidate is recommended for the award subject to minor amendments (to be made within 1 month of receipt of the notification by the candidate)		
 The candidate has not achieved the standard of the award, or that of a lesser or alternative award; and shall not receive an award 		
Please provide details		
Save and continue Save for later		

Once the Chair has confirmed the outcome, an email is sent to the PGR, their supervisory team and their examination team advising of the decision. If further amendments are required, please follow the Amendments process from the beginning again. If the amendments have been signed off, the PGR has achieved their award. Please refer to the outcomes table above for what happens at this stage.

Resubmission (all awards)

Please see the information in the Research Student Handbook for more details and useful information about resubmitting your thesis: https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/the-graduate-school/documents-and-forms/

Resubmission is required after the following outcomes of the original examination:

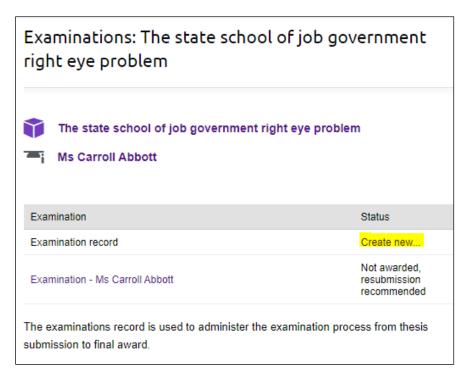
The candidate is permitted to resubmit for the award and	You must resubmit your thesis
be re-examined on the thesis with an oral examination	and have a further viva voce
(and/or further examination as applicable) in any period up	examination. You will need to
to 12 months.	follow the Resubmission
	process in SAM to do this.
The candidate is permitted to resubmit for the award and be	You must resubmit your thesis.
re-examined on the thesis only.	You will need to follow the
	Resubmission process in SAM
	to do this.
For all examinations	Your work is not up to the
The candidate has not achieved the standard of the	standard of your original target
award but should be offered the opportunity to	award. You must resubmit
resubmit and be assessed for the award of MPhil (for	your thesis to be assessed for
PhD or professional doctorate PGRs) or MRes (for	the alternative award on offer.
MPhil PGRs).	You will need to follow the
	Resubmission process in SAM
	to do this.

For MRes:

The candidate is permitted to re-submit for the award	You must resubmit your thesis.
(within a 6 month period)	You will need to follow the
	Resubmission process in SAM
	to do this.

Resubmission of thesis

PGR – once you are ready to resubmit your thesis, you will need to click into your Examinations page again and create a new record.



Click into Thesis Submission and follow the steps as above. You will have the opportunity to change the information you provided when you originally submitted should you need to.

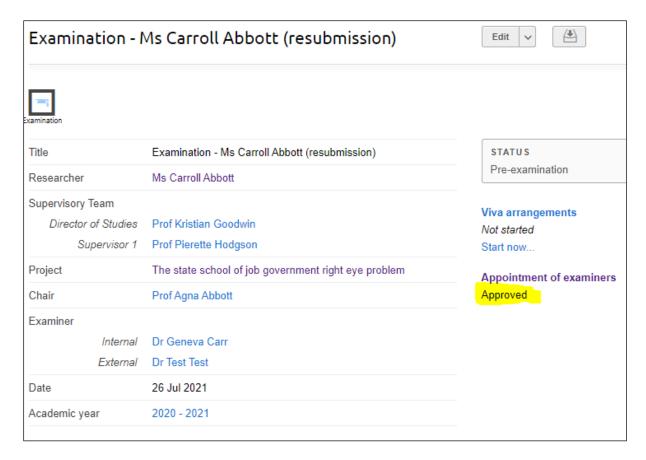
Supervisory team – you will receive a task when your PGR has resubmitted, please click into Edit Supervisor form and complete the form.

Appointment of Examiners (Resubmission)

Supervisory team – you can also create the new Examination Record if you need to do so before the PGR.

Once the new record has been created, you will need to revisit the Appointment of Examiners form. The Examination Team can remain the same or can be amended. Click into the Appointment of Examiners task in the Examination record, then choose Edit. You can then choose to leave the same team in place or submit changes. If you submit changes, the process will follow the original Appointment of Examiners process, please see the guidance above. If the team is staying the same, once you submit the form it will show as approved in the PGR's resubmission record.

Please confirm if any changes are required to the examination team for resubmission. *
The examination panel remains the same for resubmission
O I wish to submit changes to the nominated examination panel for resubmission



Viva Voce arrangements (resubmission)

PGR, Supervisory team, Examination team – if a second Viva Voce is needed the Graduate School will work with the Examination team to find a suitable date. You will receive an email from SAM once the details of the examination have been finalised.

Outcome (resubmission)

Chair - After the exam, in the Post viva-voce examination outcome and recommendation part of the meeting the team will discuss and agree the outcome for the PGR. The Chair will complete the Chair's Report as per the Examination Outcome guidance above, again there will be a task and notification sent linking to this. There will be different outcomes available this time.

For MRes the Internal Examiner will act as Chair and will complete the examination outcome.

Edit Chair report: Examination outcome: Examination - Ms Carroll Abbott (resubmission) Viva Supervisory team PhD & Prof Doc PhD and MPhil Examiners Outcome Decision * The candidate receives the award The candidate receives the award subject to minor amendments being made to the thesis within a 1 month period That the candidate has not achieved the standard of the award, and should be awarded the degree of MPhil, subject to the conditions for that award being met (within a 6 month period) That the candidate has not achieved the standard of the award or that of a lesser or alternative award; and shall not receive an award Save and continue Save for later Viva Supervisory team PhD & Prof Doc PhD and MPhil Examiners Outcome

Examiners - the report will then be sent to all the examiners to review and approve the outcome. A notification will be sent and a task will appear on the task bar.

When all examiners have confirmed the outcome is correct, it will go to the Graduate School to review and send the formal outcome to the PGR.

If further amendments are required, please follow the Amendments process to submit these.

Possible outcomes following resubmission (doctoral awards and MPhil)

Possible outcome	What this means
The candidate receives the award.	Your certificate will be produced by our Registration and Awards team and posted
	out to the address we have for you on file. Please log in to My Beckett to check and/or update this. You will be asked to provide
	both a hard copy of your thesis and a clean pdf e-thesis for the Library
The candidate receives the award subject to minor	You must make some small
amendments being made to the thesis within a one-month period.	amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments

That the candidate has not achieved the standard of the award, and should be awarded a lower award subject to the conditions for that award being met (within a 6 month period)	process in SAM to submit your revised thesis. Your work is not up to the standard of your original target award. You must make some amendments to your thesis and
	then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis for the alternative award on offer. You will need to follow the Amendments process in SAM to do this.
That the candidate has not achieved the standard of the award or that of a lesser or alternative award; and shall not receive an award	Your work is not up to the standard of your original target award or an alternative award and your registration on the programme will be terminated. The Graduate School will be in contact.

Possible outcomes following resubmission (MRes)

Possible outcome	What this means
The candidate receives the award.	Your certificate will be produced by our Registration and Awards team and posted out to the address we have for you on file. Please log in to My Beckett to check and/or update this. You will be asked to provide both a hard copy of your thesis and a clean pdf e-thesis for the Library
The candidate receives the award subject to minor amendments being made to the thesis within a one-month period.	You must make some small amendments to your thesis and then follow the Amendments process in SAM to submit your revised thesis.
That the candidate has not achieved the standard of the award or that of a lesser or alternative award; and shall not receive an award	Your work is not up to the standard of the MRes award and your registration on the programme will be terminated. The Graduate School will be in contact.