How this policy applies to you

RD 7.4 The minimum and maximum periods of registration shall be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MPhil</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>15 months</td>
<td>48 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>72 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PhD</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>24 months</td>
<td>48 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>72 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance Requirements

RD 8.1 Registered students must, unless they are registered through an ARC, be resident in the UK for the duration of their studies. Exceptions, supported by a recommendation from the Faculty will be considered by Graduate School Director for those students whose topic of study necessitates residence overseas.

RD 8.2 Full-time students who are directly registered with The Open University are expected to be available to undertake their research, attend related training or other relevant events and meet supervisors and other members of their academic unit on a regular basis. Consequently they are expected to live within easy commutable distance of the campus (approximately 40 miles). In exceptional cases the Faculty or Institute may apply to the Graduate School Director on behalf of the student for a residency waiver. Although part-time students are not expected to live within a commutable distance of the campus they are expected to engage fully with the University and its research community.

RD 8.4 Full-time students are required to spend a minimum of 37 hours a week on their studies throughout their registration period. Part-time students are required to spend a minimum of 18.5 hours per week on their studies throughout their registration period.

Suspensions

RD 9.4 Full-time students may request a suspension to their registration, for a maximum of 12 months in total on the following grounds:

a) Certified serious ill health of the student or a family member or dependent for whom the student is acting as a carer.

b) Internship or placement.

RD 9.5 A part-time student may request a suspension to their registration, for a maximum of twenty four months in total on the following grounds:
a) Certified serious ill health of the student or a family member or dependent for whom
the student is acting as a carer.
b) Work related difficulties.
c) Domestic commitments.
d) Internship or placement.

RD 9.6 Following submission of the thesis, students, regardless of mode of study, may only
request a suspension on the grounds of exceptional circumstances.

Extensions

RD 10.1 Students approaching their maximum registration may in exceptional circumstances apply
to the Graduate School Director for an extension to their registration of up to 12 months in total.
Requests for extension must be accompanied by supporting evidence and an agreed plan of work
for completion.

RD 10.2 Students seeking an extension to their registration must commit to meeting the minimum
number of study hours per week (see RD 8.4).

RD 10.3 Extensions to registration are not permitted post thesis submission.

Probation

RD 15.2 For those students whose aim is to obtain a MPhil their initial registration is probationary.
Probation must be completed within the following time frames:

a) 12 months for a full-time student
b) 24 months for a part-time student

Extensions to these deadlines are only permissible in exceptional circumstances, where
recommended by the Faculty or Affiliated Research Centre and with the prior approval of the
Graduate School Director. It is expected that students who are unable to study will apply to
suspend their registration (RD 9.1 to 9.5).

RD 15.5 For those students whose aim is to obtain a Doctor of Philosophy their initial registration is
probationary. Probation must be completed within the following time frames:

a) 12 months for a full-time student;
b) 24 months for a part-time student.

Extensions to these deadlines are only permissible in exceptional circumstances, where
recommended by the Faculty or Affiliated Research Centre and with the prior approval of the
Graduate School Director. It is expected that students who are unable to study will apply to
suspend their registration (RD 9.1 to RD 9.5).

RD 15.6 Students will be assessed before the end of the probationary registration period. The
assessment is in four stages:

c) An oral presentation by the student of their research in a public forum to the
satisfaction of their Associate Dean Research (or delegate).