



## **Programme Specification**

# Doctor of Philosophy by Publication {Social Sciences}[Distance Learning]

Version: 2025-26, v1.0, Validated

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## Section 1: Key Programme Details

### Part A: Programme Information

**Programme title:** Doctor of Philosophy by Publication {Social Sciences}[Distance Learning]

**Highest award:** DPhil Doctor of Philosophy by Publication

**Awarding institution:** UWE Bristol

**Teaching institutions:** UWE Bristol

**Study abroad:** No

**Year abroad:** No

**Sandwich year:** No

**Credit recognition:** No

**School responsible for the programme:** CHSS School of Social Sciences, College of Health, Science & Society

**Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies:** Not applicable

**Modes of delivery:** Distance without attendance

**Entry requirements:** For the current entry requirements see the UWE public website.

**For implementation from:** 01 January 2026

**Programme code:** LL1W41

## Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

### Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

**Overview:** A supervised programme of study during which the candidate demonstrates that they can carry out research at a level that makes an original contribution to knowledge as determined by experts in the field. It is for UWE academics, or researchers with a close association with UWE, and based in the research community of their School. It is delivered through a dedicated supervisory team and is enriched by engagement with UWE researchers in the School, College, University, partner institution and beyond. It is assessed against nationally and internationally agreed frameworks for doctoral education.

The programme is unusual for a DPhil in having a credit requirement (60 M level credits) focused on the development of professional skills guided by an individual Development Needs Analysis. Candidates will be able to access available online UWE modules, travel to UWE to study in person or may complete modules at the partner institution which can be considered for recognition towards this award of through UWE's accredited learning process. The programme includes a wide range of personal and professional development opportunities, which are delivered in various formats including workshops and an online Resources Library. DPhil candidates will be fully engaged with governance aspects of their research, whilst their Director of Studies has ultimate responsibility for them.

The programme is notable in that it enables candidates to include research outputs published before the period of registration in their final thesis.

**Features of the programme:** Students embark on a personal journey of supervised research with responsibility for their own learning and progress. Progression throughout the research period is established at regular intervals with a final assessment made via a thesis and viva voce. The thesis shows a creation of new knowledge or originality in the application of knowledge.

It is recognised that, due to in-country requirements, some elements of the programme may become mandatory, e.g. the requirement for an element of in-person study at the partner institution or at the awarding institution. This will not impact on the candidates ability to meet the educational aims of the programme and

so will be considered on a flexible and case-by-case basis in collaboration with the candidate and the partner institution.

**Educational Aims:** To enable researchers to demonstrate that they are independent researchers who can contribute to the generation of original knowledge in their discipline.

To enable researchers to show that they can take ownership of and can communicate knowledge they have generated.

To produce researchers with the personal and professional skills to flourish in a range of contemporary work environments

To produce researchers with the skills to engage with all aspects of contemporary research governance.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes**

- PO1. The ability to conduct enquiry leading to the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, shown by satisfying scholarly review by accomplished and recognised scholars in the field;
- PO2. A critical understanding of the current state of knowledge in the relevant field of theory and/or practice;
- PO3. The ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge at the forefront of the discipline or field of practice including the capacity to adjust the project design in the light of emergent issues and understandings;
- PO4. A critical understanding of the methods of enquiry;
- PO5. Independent judgement of issues and ideas in the field of research and / or practice and the ability to communicate and justify that judgement to appropriate audiences;

- PO6. The ability to critically reflect on their work and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses including understanding validation procedures.
- PO7. The skills to engage with all aspects of research governance in a contemporary context.

**Assessment strategy:** DPhil candidates will be assessed using a variety of the formats that are used by professional researchers to assess research. Candidates will be required to write, discuss and present their work in a variety of ways. In a Progression Examination candidates will write a report on the progress of their work and how it will make an original contribution to knowledge, submit it for independent review and undertake a viva voce examination to discuss it. At subsequent milestone assessments candidates will submit for review outputs from activities that they have produced in the recent phase of their research. Final submission will consist of a written thesis and a viva voce examination carried out by two experts who are external researchers of significant standing in the field. The submitted thesis will consist of research outputs and a critical commentary on them that candidates will use to help demonstrate that they meet the award criteria.

**Student support:** The Distance Learning programme will only be available to candidates working within UWE's affiliated academic partner institutions. As such a due diligence process will have been completed to ensure that appropriate infrastructure, resources and student support and feedback mechanisms are in place.

As students registered on a UWE award, Distance Learning DPhil candidates are eligible for all support services afforded to students at UWE, such as the Student's Union and UWE Wellbeing. However, given that the candidates will be located at the affiliated institution then it is expected that candidates will also be able to access all relevant student support services at their home institution, including face-to-face wellbeing support.

## Part B: Programme Structure

### Year 1

A supervised programme of research designed by the supervisory team and the candidate and supported by a minimum of 60 credits at M level that can be completed, as appropriate for the candidate's study, at any time before final award.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted from Year 1.

### Year 1 Optional Modules

Students on a PhD are required to take between 60 - 120 M Level credits at any time before the end of their studies.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted from Year 1.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
PGR Compulsory Credits	60 - 120 M Level Credits 2025-26	0
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2025-26	0

### Year 2

A supervised programme of research designed by the supervisory team and the candidate and supported by a minimum of 60 credits at M level that can be completed, as appropriate for the candidate's study, at any time before final award.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

At 18 months student to complete Progression Examination if final submission has not been made.

### Year 2 Optional Modules

Students on a PhD are required to take between 60 - 120 M Level credits at any time before the end of their studies.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

At 18 months student to complete Progression Examination if final submission has not been made.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
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PGR Compulsory Credits	60 - 120 M Level Credits 2026-27	0
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2026-27	0
Progress Review 1	Progress Review 1 2026-27	0

### Year 3

A supervised programme of research designed by the supervisory team and the candidate and supported by a minimum of 60 credits at M level that can be completed, as appropriate for the candidate's study, at any time before final award.

Progress Review 2 to be completed by month 36 if final submission has not been made.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

### Year 3 Optional Modules

Students on a PhD are required to take between 60 - 120 M Level credits at any time before the end of their studies.

Progress Review 2 to be completed by month 36 if final submission has not been made.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
Progress Review 2	Progress Review 2 2027-28	0
PGR Compulsory Credits	60 - 120 M Level Credits 2027-28	0
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2027-28	0

### Year 4

A supervised programme of research designed by the supervisory team and the candidate and supported by a minimum of 60 credits at M level that can be completed, as appropriate for the candidate's study, at any time before final award.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

**Year 4 Optional Modules**

Students on a PhD are required to take between 60 - 120 M Level credits at any time before the end of their studies.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credit</b>
PGR Compulsory Credits	60 - 120 M Level Credits 2028-29	0
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2028-29	0

**Year 5**

A supervised programme of research designed by the supervisory team and the candidate and supported by a minimum of 60 credits at M level that can be completed, as appropriate for the candidate's study, at any time before final award.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

Progress Review 3 to be completed by month 54 if final submission has not been made.

**Year 5 Optional Modules**

Students on a PhD are required to take between 60 - 120 M Level credits at any time before the end of their studies.

Progress Review 3 to be completed by month 54 if final submission has not been made.

Final collection of work and thesis commentary may be submitted.

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credit</b>
Progress Review 3	Progress Review 3 2029-30	0
PGR Compulsory Credits	60 - 120 M Level Credits 2029-30	0
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2029-30	0

**Year 6**

A supervised programme of research designed by the supervisory team and the candidate and supported by a minimum of 60 credits at M level that can be completed, as appropriate for the candidate's study, at any time before final award.

Latest opportunity for final collection of work and thesis commentary must be submitted.

**Year 6 Optional Modules**

Students on a PhD are required to take between 60 - 120 M Level credits at any time before the end of their studies.

Latest opportunity for final collection of work and thesis commentary to be submitted.

<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Credit</b>
PGR Compulsory Credits	60 - 120 M Level Credits 2030-31	0
THESIS	Doctoral Thesis 2030-31	0

**Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis**

There is no HEAR statement for DPhil

**Part D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks**

Doctoral Degree Characteristics statement (2015)

QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education (2018) and (2023), especially Advice and Guidance 'Research Degrees' but including all other themes as relevant.

QAA The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (2014), level 8.

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2019).

The Salzburg principles (I and II) of the European Higher Education Area,

**Part E: Regulations**

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures: Academic regulations and procedures - Academic information | UWE Bristol