



PhD by Publication Comprehensive Handbook

This handbook combines formal academic requirements (aligned with the official Course Specification 2025) and practical, student-friendly guidance, giving doctoral candidates a complete, usable reference for the entire PhD by Publication journey.

1. Introduction

A PhD by Publication is an alternative doctoral pathway that recognises a candidate's existing published research as evidence of doctoral-level contribution and expertise. It is particularly suited for:

- Mid-career professionals
- Researchers with existing peer-reviewed publications
- Academics who did not pursue a traditional PhD but have produced significant scholarly work

This route awards the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) based on a portfolio of published outputs and an accompanying Critical Overview document.

2. Nature and Purpose of the PhD by Publication

A PhD by Publication differs from a traditional PhD in that:

- Research is already completed before registration.
- Publications form the core evidence of the doctoral contribution.
- Skills, methods, and research development are demonstrated retrospectively.
- Candidates focus primarily on producing a coherent, critical synthesis.

You must demonstrate:

- Original and significant contribution to knowledge.
- Mastery of research methods.
- Ability to conceptualise, execute, evaluate, and defend research.
- A coherent programme of scholarly activity over time.

3. Programme Structure

The PhD by Publication consists of two phases:

Phase One: Prima Facie Case

You must submit a Prima Facie Case for examination by a Progress Review Panel (PRP). This includes:

- A proposed list of 4–6 publications.
- Evidence that they form a coherent research programme.
- Proof that at least 50% are peer-reviewed journal articles or equivalent.
- All outputs published/completed within 5-7 years before initial enrolment.

Upon successful approval, you progress to Phase Two.