V PROFESSIONAL / PRACTITIONER DOCTORATE AWARDS

V.1 General Regulations

V.1.1 In accordance with the National Qualifications Framework the Professional / Practitioner Doctorate awards equates to a total of 540 credits normally made up of 180 credits at level 7 (Masters Degree) and 360 credits at level 8. This section relates to study at level 8 only, students must enter with a Master Degree (180 credits) or appropriate credits at level 7. Study at Masters level 7 is governed by section P of the Academic Regulations.

V.1.2 This section of the regulations relates to the awarding of Higher Masters and Professional / Practitioner Doctorate degrees. This section must be read in conjunction with Sections A – E of the University of Wolverhampton Academic Regulations.

V.1.3 The Registry will publish, annually, a full list of courses governed by Section V of the Regulations.

V.1.4 The University Bye-Law No. 5: Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates, confirms the University's approval to award a Professional/Practitioner Doctorate. The full award title and co-responding abbreviation will be considered and approved through the validation process for each new Professional / Practitioner Doctorate to ensure its fit within sector norms.

V.2 The Admission of Students

V.2.1 Students studying for awards governed by this section of the regulations will normally hold a Masters Degree or equivalent before being accepted onto the course.

V.2.2 To be eligible to study the Professional/Practitioner Doctorate Award students should be working or have experience of working in the subject area relevant to the Professional/ Practitioner Doctorate.

V.3 The Registration of Students

V.3.1 The maximum period over which an award governed by Section V of the Regulations may be studied will be:

Full Time Students	**Normal**	**Maximum**
Higher Masters Degree	Within a 12 month period (1 year)	Within a 24 month period (2 years)
Professional / Practitioner Doctorate	Within a 36 month period (3 years)	Within a 48 month period (4 years)

To note: In accordance with HEFCE guidelines, the maximum period is taken from the date that the viva is held for the thesis and not from the date of submission of the thesis. These periods identified apply to level 8 study only.

Part Time Students	**Normal**	**Maximum**
Higher Masters Degree	Within a 24 month period (2 years)	Within a 48 month period (4 years)
Professional / Practitioner Doctorate	Within a 48 month period (4 years)	Within a 96 month period (8 years)

V.3.2 Where a student chooses to change their mode of study the maximum period of registration will be calculated pro rata.

V.3.3 To be eligible to continue to study for an award governed by Section V of the Regulations, a student must not exceed each of maximum periods of registration in Section V.3.1 and Section V.3.4.

V.3.4 To be eligible for an interim award, a student must not exceed the following maximum period of registration:

University Statement of Credit	1 year part-time	1 year part-time

V.3.5 Section B.5 permits students to be admitted to the University with advanced standing where they have previously successfully completed relevant study at higher education level, in the UK or abroad.

For courses governed by Section V of the Regulations, the minimum number of University of Wolverhampton credits students must study and pass will be as follows:

Higher Masters Degree	100 credits at level 8
Practitioner / Professional Doctorate	180 credits at level 8 which must include the completion of the Doctoral Thesis

V.4 The Management of Student Assessment

V.4.1 Section D.2 sets out the grading schemes used by the University of Wolverhampton. For Professional / Practitioner Doctorates the following schemes will be used:

Level 8	Pass / Fail

V.4.2 No compensation will be permitted for modules offered at level 8

V.4.3 Taught modules may only be repeated once. Where Award regulations permit replacement of a failed option module will be permitted for one attempt only.

V.4.4 Research regulations apply to the Doctoral thesis module and may only be repeated once. Where Award regulations permit replacement of a failed option module, this will be permitted for one attempt only.

V.5 The Management of Assessment Boards

For the management of the taught elements of level 8 study:

V.5.1 The Module Results Board is responsible for a cognate set of modules. Modules in this set will normally belong to more than one Subject. The Board carries full responsibility for considering the performance of students, individual modules, module groups and

confirming module results. These Boards are conducted at Faculty level. Refer to Section E)

V.5.2 Progression and Award Boards are responsible for confirming that University regulations have been correctly applied in determining and conferring the final qualification and a student's right to continue study. This Board will be a University-wide Progression and Award Board that will take responsibility for overseeing all University Professional / Practitioner Doctorate courses.

For the research elements of level 8 study:

V.5.3 The Doctoral Thesis module will be managed through the same processes as for Research students completing PhDs and MPhils and will be governed by that structure.

V.6 Continuation Regulations

V.6.1 In order to continue, students studying for an award governed by Section V will:

a. be in a position to recover any failure within the rules of their course; and
b. have met any pre-requisite modules specified for the course; and
c. be in a position to not exceed the maximum period over which an award or interim award may be studied, contained in Section V.3.

V.6.2 Progression rules to include:

- A student is permitted to commence the thesis module before completion of the taught modules at level 8 as their course structure permits.
- A student must have successfully completed all Level 8 taught modules before the submission of the Doctoral thesis/portfolio.

V.7 Award Credit Requirements

V.7.1 To be eligible for the award from courses governed by Section V of the Regulations, a student will need to have met the following credit requirements:

Qualification	**Total Credits required**	**Level 7**	**Level 8**
Professional / Practitioner Doctorate	540	180/160	360/380

V.7.2 To be eligible for an exit award from courses governed by Section V of the Regulations a student will need to have met the following credit requirements:

Exit Qualification	**Total Credits required**	**Level 7**	**Level 8**
Higher Masters Degree	360	180/160	180/200

V.8 Classification of Awards

V.8.1 Awards of Professional / Practitioner Doctorate, Higher Masters and University Statement of Credit are not classified.

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