

Signed Declaration in a Postgraduate Research Thesis



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Purpose of Guidance

This guidance supports the Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees and provides examples of what should be included in the signed declaration which must be incorporated in all theses submitted for assessment.

Scope: Guidance is not Mandatory

Relevant to postgraduate research students, supervisors of postgraduate research students and support staff involved with postgraduate research thesis submission.

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Document control

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Consultation undertaken	Assessment regulations annual review panel, College postgraduate offices, Senatus Researcher Experience Committee
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Section responsible for guidance maintenance & review	Academic Services
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Related policies, procedures, guidelines & regulations	Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/pgr_assessmentregulations.pdf
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UK Quality Code	UK Quality Code Research Degrees
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Guidance superseded by this guidance	None
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Alternative format	If you require this document in an alternative format please email Academic.Services@ed.ac.uk or telephone 0131 651 4990.
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Keywords	Thesis declaration, signed declaration
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Signed Declaration in a Postgraduate Research Thesis

At the front of the thesis submitted for assessment, students are required to incorporate a signed declaration. The declaration must state:

- (a) that the thesis has been composed by the candidate, and
- (b) either that the work is the candidate's own, or, if the candidate has been a member of a research group, that the candidate has made a substantial contribution to the work, such contribution being clearly indicated, and
- (c) that the work has not been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification except as specified, and
- (d) that any included publications are the student's own work, except where indicated throughout the thesis and summarised and clearly identified on the declarations page of the thesis.

Students must ensure they have signed and dated the declaration page. If the thesis is being submitted electronically, then log in through a University system or University email address is sufficient as an electronic signature.

Examples of a standard declaration:

1. I declare that this thesis has been composed solely by myself and that it has not been submitted, in whole or in part, in any previous application for a degree. Except where states otherwise by reference or acknowledgment, the work presented is entirely my own.
2. I confirm that this thesis presented for the degree of [*degree sought*], has
 - i) been composed entirely by myself
 - ii) been solely the result of my own work
 - iii) not been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification
3. I declare that this thesis was composed by myself, that the work contained herein is my own except where explicitly stated otherwise in the text, and that this work has not been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification except as specified.

Parts of this work have been published in [*state previous publication*].

Examples of a declaration including collaborative work:

1. The data presented in this thesis was obtained in an experiment carried out by the [*name of collaboration*] in [*location of experiment/where collaboration happened*]. I played a major role in the preparation and execution of the experiment, and the data analysis and interpretation are entirely by own work. Any contributions from

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colleagues in the collaboration, such as diagrams or calibrations, are explicitly referenced in the text.

I am aware of and understand the university's policy on plagiarism and I certify that this thesis is my own work, except where indicated by referencing, and the work presented in it has not been submitted in support of another degree or qualification from this or any other university or institute of learning.

2. I declare that this thesis is an original report of my research, has been written by me and has not been submitted for any previous degree. The experimental work is almost entirely my own work; the collaborative contributions have been indicated clearly and acknowledged. Due references have been provided on all supporting literatures and resources.

I declare that this thesis was composed by myself, that the work contained herein is my own except where explicitly stated otherwise in the text, and that this work has not been submitted for any other degree or professional qualification.

Example of a declaration including jointly authored publications:

1. I declare that the thesis has been composed by myself and that the work has not be submitted for any other degree or professional qualification. I confirm that the work submitted is my own, except where work which has formed part of jointly-authored publications has been included. My contribution and those of the other authors to this work have been explicitly indicated below. I confirm that appropriate credit has been given within this thesis where reference has been made to the work of others.

The work presented in Chapter [*chapter number*] was previously published in [*publication name*] as [*title of article*] by [*authors – clearly indicate which is the student and author of the declaration. If the supervisor is a co-author this should be clearly indicated as well*]. This study was conceived by all of the authors. I carried out [*description of student's contribution*]. [*This paragraph should be repeated for each journal article included in the thesis.*]

31 May 2020