



## Guidance on Thesis Word Count



Please note the University of London and Royal Holloway Research Degree Regulations for the Degrees of MPhil and PhD state that the thesis will comprise a piece of scholarly writing of not more than 60,000 words for the MPhil degree and 100,000 words for the PhD degree. In both cases this length relates to the main body of the thesis only, ie, it includes references, and footnotes but excludes the bibliography, table of contents, abstract, acknowledgements and any appendices.

In summary

(MPhil 60,000/PhD 100,000)		
Main body of the thesis word count includes	References and footnotes	
Word count does not include	Title page, bibliography, table of contents, abstract, acknowledgements, abbreviations and any appendices	

Please note the following exceptions apply for the MPhils/PhDs listed below:

**Drama and Theatre Studies:** The submission may include a live performance (broadly defined) or a piece of creative writing (normally a play script) devised specifically for the degree, together with a body of critical/theoretical writing of approximately 30,000-60,000 words. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

**Creative Writing:** The thesis is between 80,000-150,000 words in total: 60,000–90,000 words of creative writing and 20,000–60,000 words of critical writing. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

**Poetic Practice:** The thesis is the equivalent of between 80,000-150,000 words in total: 45–60 pages of poetry or equivalent practice-based output and 20,000–60,000 words of critical writing. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

**Practice Based Geography:** The thesis may include a body of creative work devised specially for the degree, together with a body of critical/theoretical writing of approximately 30,000-60,000 words. Please be aware this is merely a suggested breakdown and the exact balance will be decided between the student and the supervisory team. For an MPhil thesis an equivalent breakdown is recommended.

**Practice Based History:** The practice element of the PhD will be informed by research and appropriately documented. A retainable record of these creative practices will be submitted in a form which has been approved by the supervisory team, together with a body usually 30,000-60,000 words of critical and theoretical writing. The exact balance between the creative, theoretical and critical elements of the thesis will be decided between the student and the supervisory team.

Please note in cases where candidates exceed the prescribed word limit set out in the University *Research Degree Regulations* the examiners may refer the thesis for resubmission requiring it to be shortened.

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