



University  
of Glasgow

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College of Social  
Sciences

**Thesis Word Count Requirements for the Degree of PhD  
Information for Students & Supervisors**

In the College of Social Sciences, a thesis shall be a minimum of 70,000 and a maximum of 100,000 words including references, bibliography and appendices in each case.

A candidate who wishes to submit a thesis of greater or lesser length must seek permission from the College of Social Sciences Graduate School in advance of submitting their thesis for examination.

These requirements are confirmed in both the [University Regulations](#) (Schedule A: Degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Research, Section 3.1a) and the [PGR Code of Practice](#) (Section 10.9).

Where the thesis word count is 10% lower or higher than the expected requirements (63,000 words or 110,000 words) the College can allow this on a discretionary basis and you will not be required to make a formal request. Please contact the [Graduate School](#) to confirm this in advance of submitting your thesis.

Where the thesis word count is outwith this, you will be required to make a formal request to waive the minimum/maximum word count. In order for the College to consider a reduced/extended word count, we require a substantial statement from both the student and supervisory team regarding this. These statements should be forwarded to the [Graduate School](#) for consideration in advance of submitting your thesis.

As these requirements are outlined in the University Calendar and PGR Code of Practice, students and supervisors should have been aware of this requirement throughout the research period and prior to submission.