	GUIDELINES FOR DIRECT ADMISSION / FAST TRACK (ACCELERATED ADMISSION) TO DOCTORAL PROGRAMME BY RESEARCH UNIVERSITI MALAYA

1. INTRODUCTION

The direct admission / Fast Track (accelerated admission) provides the opportunity for Bachelor's Degree graduates with academic qualifications and who have high potential to pursue their studies in the Doctoral programme by research without having a Master's qualification in the field concerned.

2. PURPOSE

This guideline is provided as a reference to the central administrator and the administrator of the RC in the process of managing candidates directly to Doctoral level (by research). It also aims to ensure the coordination and alignment of processes at each RC.

3. SCOPE

This guideline covers the entry requirements and application process, monitoring and management of the candidate's direct admission to the Doctoral programme by research at the Universiti Malaya.

4. DOCUMENTS FOR REFERENCE

(1) University of Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Rules and Regulations (latest version)
(2) Standards: Master's and Doctoral Degree MQA (latest version)
(3) Programme standards according to disciplines MQA (latest version)

5. GLOSSARY

(1) Definition

Direct Admission / Fast Track refers to the entry route for excellent Bachelor's Degree graduates to pursue studies in the Doctoral programme by research with a minimum CGPA of not less than 3.70 or equivalent from a relevant academic programme or Technical and Vocational Education and Training programme.

(2) Abbreviation

AASC	Academic Administrative and Services Centre
TnL	Teaching and Learning
RC	Responsibility Centre
MQA	Malaysian Qualification Agency
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
CGPA	Cumulative Grade Point Average

6. ENTRY PROCEDURES AND MONITORING PROCESS AND MANAGEMENT OF CANDIDATE'S DIRECT ADMISSION / FAST TRACK

(1) Entry Requirements

(a) Applicants are required to make an online application according to the prescribed procedures.

(b) Applicants are required to submit a Research Proposal (Research Intent) not exceeding one thousand (1000) words via the online platform, focusing on the following:

(i) Research field and NEC
(ii) Research title
(iii) Objective of Study
(iv) Research Methodology
(v) Significance of Study
(vi) Reference

(c) Applicants who are citizens and non-citizens who have complied with the qualifications below may be admitted to the Doctoral programme by research:

(i) Bachelor's Degree with a minimum CGPA of not less than 3.70 or equivalent;

and

(ii) Passed the interview and presentation of the proposed research.

(2) English Language Requirements for Non-Citizen Applicants

The English language requirements for non-citizens applicants are as below:

(a) to obtain a minimum score of 550 on the paper-based total (PBT), a score of 213 for the computer-based total (CBT) or a score of 80 for the internet-based total (IBT) for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL); or

(b)   to obtain a minimum score of band 5.5 and above on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (Academic); or

(c)   score according to the respective programme standard if it is higher than (a) and (b); or

(d)   If programme standard states that the TOEFL or IELTS (Academic) score is lower than the minimum score of the University, these programmes should follow the minimum score set by the University; or

(e)   to obtain a minimum score of 42 for Pearson Test of Academic English (PTE Academic); or

(f)   to obtain a minimum Grade C and above for A-Levels English Language subject; or

(g)   to obtain a minimum Grade C and above for Cambridge English: First (FCE); or

(h)   to obtain a minimum Grade C and above for Cambridge English: Advance (CAE); or

(i)   to obtain a minimum Grade C and above for Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE); or

(j)   to obtain a minimum score of Band 4 for Malaysian University English Test (MUET).

Note: These requirements are also subjected to any amendments approved from time to time.

(3) Programme Structure / Research Activities

The structure of the programme/ research activities to be carried out by the candidates is as follows:

(a) Attending and pass the Research Methodology course.

(b) Attending and pass the Core/Elective course (if applicable).

(c) Present the research proposal during the Proposal Defence.

(d) Present the research progress during the PhD Confirmation Defence.

(e) Present the research progress during the Candidature Defence.

(f) Present the research results during the Thesis Seminar before the submission of thesis.

(g) Publish in the refereed journals.

(4) Registration

Candidates shall complete the registration as prescribed by the University.

(5) Duration of Study

The duration of study for candidates with direct admission / *Fast Track* are as below:

Programme of Study	Method of Study			
	Minimum Duration		Maximum Duration	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Doctor of Philosophy	4 semesters	6 semesters	12 semesters	16 semesters
Doctor of Medicine	4 semesters	6 semesters	10 semesters	14 semesters

(6) Supervision

The RC is encouraged to appoint at least two (2) supervisors for each candidate pursuing this programme whereby one of them is a full-time academician (a Professor or Associate Professor).

The appointment criteria of the supervisors shall be in accordance with the Supervision Policy of Postgraduate Candidate, University of Malaya (latest version).

(7) Candidature Requirements

(a) Attend and pass the Research Methodology course not later than the second semester of candidature.

(b) Required to attend satisfactorily the *Bahasa Malaysia* or *Bahasa Melayu* University course not later than the second semester of candidature for non-citizen candidates.

(c) Present the research proposal in the Proposal Defense not later than the second semester of candidature.

(d) Present the research progress in the Confirmation Defense not later than the third semester of candidature. If the research progress is unsatisfactory, the candidature status is changed from Doctoral programme by research to a relevant Master's programme. If the research progress is satisfactory, the candidate may continue his candidature.

(e) Present the research progress in Candidature Defence not later than the fifth semester of candidature.

(f) Present the research progress in the Thesis Seminar before the submission of thesis for examination.

(g) The non-citizen candidates must fulfill the academic residential requirement for a period of one (1) semester.

(h) **Publication Requirement**

The requirements of publication are as follows:

(i) Doctoral programme by research candidate pursuing programme in the field of **Sciences** must show proof of acceptance at least two (2) articles in the journal indexed by Web of Science (WoS) before graduation (as prescribed by the Senate from time to time).

(ii) Doctoral programme by research candidate pursuing programme in the field of **Social Sciences** must show proof of acceptance before graduation (as prescribed by the Senate from time to time) as below:

(A) at least one (1) article in the journal indexed by Web of Science (WoS); or

(B) at least one (1) book published by the list of publishers of WoS *Master Book List* or University of Malaya Press or *Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka* or any publishers recognized by the RC; or

(C) at least two (2) publications in Category A or B refereed journals, or book chapters as below:

(aa) Articles in **Category A** journal:

Journals indexed in the Scopus database;

(bb) Articles in **Category B** (List of journals recognized by RC):

Journals published by University or scholarly publishers or listed in MyJurnal (Malaysian Journal Management System).

(cc) Book chapters in different books:

Book chapters published by the list of publishers of WoS Master Book List or University of Malaya Press or *Dewan Bahasa dan*

Pustaka or any publishers recognized by the RC. Two (2) book chapters from different books is equivalent to one (1) publication.

Note:
The requirement of this publication are subject to the amendment of requirement approved by the Senate from time to time.

    (i) Candidates are also required to fulfil any additional requirement approved by the RC and Senate from time to time.

    (j) Word limit for programme by research

        (i) Maximum word limit of a candidate's thesis is 100,000 words.

        (ii) Maximum word limit does not include footnotes or endnotes, references, attachments, tables, and diagram and reproductions or translations of any text.

        (iii) Minimum word limit of a candidate's thesis is as prescribed by the RC or based on the relevant programme standard according to the respective disciplines (if any).

        (iv) A candidate who does not fulfil the required word limit shall apply to and obtain approval from their respective RC at least one (1) month before the date of submission of his thesis for examination with strong justifications.

(8) Candidate who does not attain sufficient academic merit in the thesis examination for Doctoral Degree will not be awarded a Master's qualification as an 'exit award'.

7. CLOSING

This guideline is provided as a reference to the central administrator and the administrator of the RC in the process of managing the admission of *Fast Track* candidates. It aims to sustain quality and alignment of processes at each RC. This guideline shall be read together with the Standards: Master's and Doctoral Degree MQA (latest version) and the University of Malaya (Doctoral Degree) Rules and Regulations (latest version). This guideline is subject to amendment from time to time.

Approved by the Senate on 25.02.2021.