

VISION
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

POSTGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Academic Year 2026/2027

"Empowering Scholars, Transforming Futures"

VISION
KOLEJ UNIVERSITI
UNIVERSITI VISION

Issued by:



Office of Postgraduate Studies (OPS)
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& IMPACT



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& FUTURE

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Glossary of Key Terms

(To be placed after Table of Contents or in Appendix)

Term	Definition
ODL	Open and Distance Learning – a flexible education delivery mode using digital platforms, asynchronous content, and minimal face-to-face requirements.
MQF	Malaysian Qualifications Framework – the national framework for qualifications, levels, and standards (e.g., Bachelor’s = Level 6, Master’s = Level 7, Doctorate = Level 8).
APEL	Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning – a national system to assess and recognise knowledge/skills gained through work or life experience for academic credit or admission.
LMS	Learning Management System – Vision UC’s online platform (e.g., Moodle, Blackboard) for course content, assignments, and communication.
Candidature	The official status of a registered postgraduate student, active upon registration and subject to renewal each semester.
Mixed Mode	A programme combining coursework and a research project/capstone (common in Master’s).
Senate	The highest academic authority at Vision UC, responsible for approving programmes, policies, and degrees.
SMILE Values	Vision UC’s core values: Simple, Motivate, Integrity, Lift, Empower.

Standard Disclaimers

(To be placed in Introduction or as a standalone section)

Policy Updates & Candidate Responsibility

Vision University College reserves the right to amend regulations, fees, programme structures, and policies in response to regulatory requirements (e.g., MQA, MOHE), quality assurance reviews, or institutional strategy.

It is the candidate's responsibility to:

- Regularly check official Vision UC email and the Student Portal for updates
- Consult the Office of Postgraduate Studies (OPS) with questions
- Ensure compliance with the latest version of this handbook and related policies

The version of this handbook in effect at the time of your registration governs your candidature, unless changes are mandated by external authorities.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Vision UC admits postgraduate candidates of any race, religion, gender, nationality, or background, in compliance with Malaysian law and international best practices.

Data Privacy Notice

Personal and academic data collected during your candidature will be processed in accordance with the Personal Data Protection Act 2010 (PDPA) and used solely for academic administration, support, and quality reporting.

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome Message

Welcome to Vision University College's postgraduate community! As a master's or doctoral candidate, you are now part of a dynamic, research-informed academic environment that blends flexible Open & Distance Learning (ODL) with rigorous scholarly standards and strong industry relevance. We encourage you to embrace this journey with curiosity, integrity, and purpose.

1.2 Vision, Mission, and Values (Postgraduate Focus)

- Vision:
To be a future-ready university college recognised for impactful postgraduate education, strategic industry collaboration, and digital innovation in learning.
- Mission:
 - To deliver rigorous and flexible postgraduate programmes through blended and fully ODL modalities.
 - To cultivate ethical, resilient professionals and researchers capable of leading in complex, evolving fields.
 - To foster a culture of inquiry, innovation, and lifelong learning, empowered by technology and academic excellence.
- Core Values (SMILE):
 - Simple: Clear processes, transparent communication.
 - Motivate: Inspire excellence and intellectual curiosity.
 - Integrity: Uphold honesty in research, writing, and conduct.
 - Lift: Support peers, supervisors, and community through collaboration.
 - Empower: Equip candidates with skills, agency, and confidence to contribute meaningfully.

1.3 Scope of the Handbook

This document serves as both a comprehensive student handbook and a programme prospectus for the following postgraduate pathways:

- Master's by Coursework / Mixed Mode (Blended: ≤50% ODL)

- Master's by Coursework / Mixed Mode (Full ODL)
- Doctorate by Research and/or Coursework (Blended or Full ODL delivery)

This handbook must be read in conjunction with:

- Programme-specific study plans and regulations
- Vision UC Academic Regulations and Examination Rules
- Institutional policies on Research Ethics, Plagiarism, and Responsible AI Use
- Requirements of relevant professional bodies or statutory agencies (e.g., MQA, MOHE)

Note: Vision UC reserves the right to amend policies in line with regulatory changes or institutional review. Candidates are responsible for staying informed of updates via official channels.

2. Governance of Postgraduate Studies

2.1 Academic Governance

Postgraduate education at Vision UC is overseen by a tiered governance structure:

- Senate: The highest academic authority, responsible for approving programmes, regulations, and degrees.
- Postgraduate Studies Committee (PGSC) / Graduate School Board: Provides strategic direction, monitors quality, and resolves academic appeals.
- Schools & Postgraduate Coordinators: Implement policies, manage supervision, and support candidate progression at the faculty level.

2.2 Office of Postgraduate Studies (OPS)

The OPS serves as the central administrative and academic support unit for all postgraduate candidates. Key functions include:

- Managing admissions, registration, candidature tracking, and graduation processes
- Coordinating research training, academic writing workshops, and supervision development programmes
- Providing guidance on ODL platforms, assessment procedures, and regulatory compliance

- Acting as the primary liaison between candidates, supervisors, and Senate bodies
-

3. Programme Types, Delivery Modes, and ODL Philosophy

3.1 Master's – Blended (Conventional with ≤50% ODL)

- Delivery: Hybrid model combining scheduled face-to-face sessions (on campus or at approved learning centres) with up to 50% online learning via the Learning Management System (LMS), webinars, and digital resources.
- Structure: Coursework-intensive with a capstone project, applied research, or major assignment (no final written examination).

3.2 Master's – Full ODL

- Delivery: 100% online via Vision UC's accredited ODL ecosystem.
- Features:
 - Asynchronous content (recorded lectures, readings, multimedia)
 - Synchronous engagement (live webinars, virtual tutorials)
 - Interactive forums, peer collaboration tools
 - Digital assessments and e-submission portals
 - Virtual consultations with lecturers and support staff

3.3 Doctorate – Blended / ODL Classes

- Types Offered:
 - Doctorate by Research (e.g., PhD)
 - Professional Doctorate (e.g., EdD, DBA – combining coursework and applied research)
- Delivery: Primarily research-driven, with taught components (where applicable) delivered via on-campus seminars, virtual colloquia, and scheduled supervisory meetings (in-person or online).

3.4 Full-Time and Part-Time Modes

- Full-Time: Designed for candidates able to devote the majority of their working week to study. International candidates must comply with student visa and work restrictions.

- Part-Time: Tailored for working professionals; structured with modular pacing, extended timelines, and ODL flexibility to balance career and academic commitments.

3.5 ODL Principles at Vision UC

Vision UC's ODL framework is built on three core pillars:

1. Openness: Equitable access to quality education regardless of geography, schedule, or background—within clearly defined academic boundaries.
2. Flexibility: Structured yet adaptable learning pathways that respect candidates' professional and personal responsibilities.
3. Learner-Centredness: Active engagement through collaborative tools, timely feedback, and facilitator-mentor roles for academic staff.

Vision UC may use learning analytics (e.g., login frequency, forum participation, assignment submission trends) to proactively identify and support at-risk candidates, ensuring timely intervention and compliance with internal and external quality assurance frameworks.

4. Admission and Registration

4.1 Admission Criteria – Master's Programmes

4.1.1 Academic Requirements

Applicants must hold:

- A recognised bachelor's degree (MQF Level 6) in a related discipline with a minimum CGPA of 2.75; OR
- A CGPA between 2.50 and 2.74, subject to internal assessment (e.g., interview, portfolio review, qualifying test) and/or minimum two years of relevant professional experience; OR
- Other qualifications deemed equivalent by Senate, in alignment with MQA/MOHE guidelines.

4.1.2 Work Experience and APEL

In accordance with national policy, Vision UC recognises prior experiential learning:

- Relevant professional experience may strengthen an application.

- Candidates may be required to undergo Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) or an internal readiness assessment.

4.1.3 Mode-Specific Expectations

- Blended Master's: Candidates must be able to attend mandatory on-campus or centre-based sessions (typically 1–2 days per module).
- Full ODL Master's: Candidates must have reliable internet access, a suitable computing device, and basic digital literacy (training resources are provided during onboarding).

4.1.4 English Language Proficiency

Vision UC offers English-medium programmes and candidates must provide proof of proficiency via:

- MUET Band 4+, IELTS 6.0+, TOEFL iBT 60+, or equivalent
- Conditional admission may be granted with mandatory enrolment in Vision UC's Academic English Support Programme.

4.2 Admission Criteria – Doctorate Programmes

4.2.1 Academic Requirements

Applicants must normally hold:

- A recognised master's degree (MQF Level 7) in a relevant field; OR
- An equivalent qualification approved by Senate per MQA/MOHE standards.

4.2.2 Direct Doctoral Entry from Bachelor's

Exceptional bachelor's graduates (e.g., CGPA $\geq$ 3.50) may apply for direct PhD entry, subject to:

- Submission of a high-quality preliminary research proposal
- Demonstrated research aptitude (e.g., publications, projects)
- Successful interview and panel endorsement
- Final Senate approval

4.2.3 Research Proposal Submission

All research-track applicants must submit a preliminary proposal (max. 1,500 words) covering:

- Problem statement and rationale

- Research questions/objectives
- Brief literature context
- Proposed methodology and feasibility
- Alignment with Vision UC's research clusters and supervision capacity

4.2.4 Fast-Track Pathway (Future Implementation)

Vision UC plans to introduce a structured fast-track from Master's to Doctorate for high-performing candidates, pending Senate approval and clear milestone criteria.

4.2.5 English Language Requirements

Doctoral candidates must meet higher proficiency thresholds (e.g., IELTS 6.5+). Conditional admission includes mandatory language support.

4.3 Registration and Candidature Status

4.3.1 Initial Registration

Upon offer acceptance:

- Pay registration and initial fees by the stipulated deadline
- Complete onboarding: orientation, LMS activation, document verification (degree certificates, ID, etc.)

4.3.2 Semester Registration

- Register each semester via the Student Portal for coursework and/or research components
- Late or missed registration without approved deferment may result in inactive candidature status, impacting visa (for international students) and progression

4.3.3 Deferment, Withdrawal, and Readmission

- Requests for deferment (max. 2 semesters) or withdrawal require written application and approval from the School and OPS
- International candidates must also notify Immigration Department and comply with student pass regulations

- Readmission after >12 months of inactivity may require re-application, updated fees, and alignment with current programme structures

5. Programme Structure and Study Plan

5.1 Master's – Blended (Conventional with ≤50% ODL)

- Components: Core modules, discipline-specific electives, and a capstone project (replacing a final examination).
- Learning Design: Face-to-face sessions (e.g., workshops, seminars) are intentionally integrated with online activities (LMS resources, webinars) to create a cohesive, scaffolded study plan aligned with programme learning outcomes.

5.2 Master's – Full ODL

- Components: Mirrors the blended structure but delivered 100% online, ensuring equivalent academic rigour and credit value.
- Learning Design: Emphasises asynchronous flexibility (recorded lectures, readings) and synchronous engagement (live tutorials, virtual group projects), supported by regular virtual consultations and digital assessments.

5.3 Doctorate – Blended / ODL Classes

- Doctorate by Research (e.g., PhD):
 - Minimal coursework (if any), focused on independent, original research culminating in a thesis that makes a significant contribution to knowledge.
- Professional Doctorate (e.g., EdD, DBA):
 - Combines advanced taught modules with a practice-embedded thesis, addressing complex real-world challenges in professional contexts.
- Delivery: Taught components (where applicable) use blended or fully ODL formats; research supervision occurs via scheduled in-person or virtual meetings.

5.4 Major Project Requirements – Master's (No Final Exam)

5.4.1 Nature of the Project

The capstone project serves as the culminating academic experience, requiring candidates to:

- Apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems or research questions
- Demonstrate advanced analytical, methodological, and critical thinking skills

- Produce work that reflects professional or scholarly relevance

5.4.2 Credit Weight and Timeline

- Typically weighted at 6–12 credits, undertaken in the final semester(s) of study.
- Prerequisites: Completion of core modules (including Research Methodology) and formal project proposal approval.

5.4.3 Supervision and Deliverables

- Each candidate is assigned a dedicated project supervisor with relevant expertise.
- Required Deliverables:
 - A substantial written report adhering to Vision UC's formatting, referencing (e.g., APA 7th), and submission guidelines
 - Supporting artefacts (e.g., software code, design prototypes, policy briefs, datasets, portfolios) where discipline-appropriate
 - A final presentation or defence (virtual or in-person), assessed by a panel per programme requirements

5.4.4 Assessment Criteria

Projects are evaluated on:

- Clarity, originality, and significance of the problem statement
- Rigour and appropriateness of methodology and analysis
- Depth of critical engagement with theory and evidence
- Practical or scholarly impact of findings
- Quality of academic writing, structure, and referencing
- Adherence to ethical standards and academic integrity policies

5.5 Dissertation/Thesis Requirements – Doctorate

5.5.1 Nature of the Dissertation/Thesis

The doctoral thesis must:

- Present substantial, original research that advances knowledge or professional practice
- Demonstrate mastery of the field, methodological sophistication, and critical scholarship

- Reflect the candidate's independent intellectual contribution

5.5.2 Structure and Word Length

- Must comply with Vision UC's Thesis Guidelines (discipline-specific templates available from OPS).
- Standard structure: Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Findings, Discussion, Conclusion, References, Appendices.
- Word limits:
 - PhD: 80,000–100,000 words (excluding references/appendices)
 - Professional Doctorate: 50,000–70,000 words (may include practice-based artefacts)

5.5.3 Proposal Defence and Milestones

- Proposal Defence: Required for most programmes; an oral examination of the research plan before ethics approval and full data collection.
- Key Milestones:
 - Submission of Chapter 1 & 2 drafts
 - Progress seminars (presenting preliminary findings)
 - Pre-viva review with supervisory panel
 - All milestones must be completed per the approved candidature timeline (tracked by OPS).

5.5.4 Submission and Examination

- Submission: Digital copy via LMS + hardbound copies (if required by Senate).
- Examination: Conducted by two examiners (one internal, one external) appointed by Senate.
- Viva Voce: An oral defence held in-person, online, or hybrid, moderated by an independent chair. Outcomes may include:
 - Pass (with/without minor corrections)
 - Major revisions
 - Fail (requiring re-submission or termination)

6. Teaching, Learning and Assessment (Including ODL Engagement)

6.1 Learning Approach

Vision UC employs student-centred, outcome-based pedagogy across all modes, using:

- Interactive seminars, problem-based learning, case studies
- Collaborative research projects and workshops
- ODL-specific tools: discussion forums, peer review, virtual labs

6.2 Assessment Methods

- Coursework: Essays, critical reviews, reflective journals, quizzes, group projects
- Capstone/Dissertation: Replaces final exams for Master's/Doctoral candidates
- ODL-Specific: Timed online tests, e-portfolios, proctored exams, virtual presentations

6.3 Grading and Progression

- Minimum Standards:
 - Core modules: Grade B (or equivalent) required for progression
 - Overall CGPA: ≥ 3.0 for good standing (programme-specific thresholds may apply)
- Progression to Thesis/Project: Conditional on completing prerequisite modules and research training.

6.4 Participation and Engagement in ODL

Blended and ODL candidates must demonstrate active academic engagement, including:

- Attending $\geq 80\%$ of scheduled synchronous sessions (webinars, tutorials)
- Contributing meaningfully to forums, group tasks, and peer feedback
- Regularly accessing LMS materials and submitting work by deadlines

Note: Low engagement may trigger OPS support interventions or affect candidature status.

7. Supervision Policy

7.1 Appointment of Supervisors

- Primary supervisors are appointed based on research alignment, expertise, and supervision capacity.
- Co-supervisors (including external experts) may be added for interdisciplinary projects, subject to School/OPS approval.

7.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Supervisors	Candidates
Guide research design, ethics applications, and methodology	Take ownership of project timeline and deliverables
Provide timely, constructive feedback on drafts	Prepare meeting agendas and share work in advance
Monitor academic integrity and data management	Maintain accurate research logs and supervision records
Recommend candidature decisions (e.g., confirmation, extension)	Uphold SMILE values in all scholarly interactions

7.3 Supervision Meetings

- Frequency:
 - Full-time: Monthly minimum
 - Part-time: As agreed in supervision contract (typically every 6–8 weeks)
- Format: On-campus or via approved video platforms (e.g., Zoom, Teams).
- Documentation: Key decisions/actions recorded in supervision logs (shared via LMS).

7.4 Supervisor Changes

- Requests require written justification and approval from School Head and OPS.
- Changes must ensure continuity of supervision and minimal disruption to candidature.

8. Plagiarism, Academic Integrity and AI Use (Postgraduate)

8.1 Plagiarism Policy

Threshold: Submissions with >25% similarity (via Turnitin/iThenticate) undergo academic review.

8.1.1 Similarity Checks

- Applied to all major submissions: coursework, projects, theses.
- Note: High similarity ≠ automatic misconduct; low similarity ≠ guaranteed integrity.

8.1.2 Interpreting Similarity

Review considers:

- Context: Is text properly quoted/cited?
- Location: Is similarity in critical sections (e.g., methodology)?
- Pattern: Is it fragmented or systematic copying?

8.2 Levels, Contexts and Repeated Plagiarism

8.2.1 Contextual Severity

- Coursework: Minor errors treated as learning opportunities; extensive copying = module failure.
- Projects/Theses: Zero tolerance for substantive unattributed work; may trigger examination suspension or candidature termination.
- Group Work: All members jointly accountable; individual roles investigated before penalties.

8.2.2 Response Framework

Level	Description	Response
1 (Minor)	Poor paraphrasing, missing citations in non-critical text	Feedback, mark deduction, mandatory writing support
2 (Moderate)	Uncited sections in analysis/discussion	Zero for affected component, academic probation, formal record

Level	Description	Response
3 (Major)	Fabricated data, purchased work, core plagiarism	Fail project/thesis, termination referral, award rescission if post-graduation

8.2.3 Repeated Offences

- Second offence: Escalated to Academic Misconduct Committee; likely suspension.
- Third/severe offence: Termination of candidature and Senate-level disciplinary action.

8.3 Academic Integrity for Postgraduate Students

8.3.1 Scope

Applies to all scholarly activities: coursework, research, publications, conferences, and industry collaborations.

8.3.2 Examples of Misconduct

- Data fabrication/falsification
- Misrepresentation of group contributions
- Self-plagiarism: Reusing prior work without permission/citation
- Breach of confidentiality (e.g., sharing proprietary data)

8.3.3 Shared Responsibility

- Candidates: Proactively learn discipline-specific integrity standards.
- Supervisors: Model ethical conduct and address concerns early.

8.4 AI Use Policy

8.4.1 Guiding Principle

AI is a tool, not an author. Submitting AI-generated content as your own original work without disclosure or critical revision constitutes misconduct.

8.4.2 Permitted Uses

- Brainstorming research questions or outlines
- Grammar/style refinement (post-drafting)
- Coding assistance (with human validation)

8.4.3 Prohibited Uses

- Generating entire sections/chapters with minimal editing
- Fabricating data, references, or quotes
- Using AI in restricted assessments (e.g., closed-book exams)

8.4.4 Disclosure Requirements

- Substantial AI use must be acknowledged in:
 - Methodology (for research design assistance)
 - Acknowledgements (for writing/editing support)
- Candidates retain full responsibility for accuracy and originality.

8.5 Postgraduate Academic Integrity & AI Quick Guide

Do	Don't
Start early to avoid last-minute AI reliance	Copy-paste without quoting/citing
Disclose AI use per guidelines	Submit AI output as your own voice
Verify AI outputs (check facts, references)	Use AI to fabricate data/results
Keep drafts as proof of your process	Reuse your past work without permission
Ask OPS/Library if unsure	Assume “common knowledge” doesn't need citation

Remember: At Vision UC, Integrity (I) is a core SMILE value. When in doubt, disclose, cite, and consult.

9. Candidature Management, Progression and Scholarly Output

9.1 Confirmation of Candidature

- Research-track candidates (Master's/Doctorate) are initially registered under provisional candidature.
- Full candidature is confirmed only after:
 - Successful proposal defence
 - Completion of early milestones (e.g., literature review, methodology approval)
 - Endorsement by supervisory panel and School

9.2 Progress Monitoring

- Candidates must submit semesterly progress reports signed by their supervisor(s).
- Unsatisfactory progress may trigger:
 - Formal warning letters
 - Reduced study load
 - Mandatory academic support plans (e.g., writing workshops, extended supervision)

Persistent failure to meet milestones may lead to candidature termination.

9.3 Status Changes and Extensions

- Permitted changes (require School + OPS approval):
 - Switching between full-time/part-time modes
 - Research topic adjustments (must retain alignment with original proposal scope)
 - Supervisor changes (see Section 7.4)
- Extensions beyond maximum duration:
 - Granted only under exceptional circumstances (e.g., health, force majeure)
 - Require detailed justification, supervisor endorsement, and OPS/Senate approval
 - May incur additional fees

9.4 Publications and Scholarly Output

- Master's Candidates: Encouraged to present capstone findings at conferences or publish in practitioner journals.
- Doctoral Candidates:
 - Strongly encouraged—and required by some programmes—to submit at least one peer-reviewed paper (journal or conference) during candidature.
 - Authorship ethics: Roles (first/second author, contributions) must be discussed early with supervisors and documented per COPE/ICMJE guidelines.

Note: Thesis content may form the basis of publications, but must comply with copyright and prior publication policies.

10. Examinations, Thesis and Viva Voce

10.1 Coursework Examinations

- Conducted per Vision UC Examination Regulations (published separately).
- Covers absenteeism protocols, review requests, and appeal procedures.

10.2 Viva – Master’s Project (If Required)

- Some programmes require an oral defence before a panel (typically: supervisor + 1 examiner/moderator).
- Focus: Clarity of problem, methodology, findings, and professional relevance.

10.3 Viva – Doctorate

10.3.1 Pre-Viva Procedures

- Examiners receive the thesis 4–6 weeks pre-viva and submit confidential preliminary reports.
- Serious concerns (e.g., plagiarism, ethical breaches, methodological flaws) may trigger:
 - Viva postponement
 - Formal investigation by Academic Integrity Committee

10.3.2 Viva Panel and Conduct

- Panel Composition:
 - Internal examiner(s) (Vision UC academic)
 - External examiner(s) (independent expert from another institution)
 - Independent Chair (moderates process)
 - Supervisor (attends as non-voting observer, unless policy states otherwise)
- Structure:
 - Candidate presentation (15–30 minutes)
 - In-depth questioning on theory, methods, findings, and contribution
 - Closed deliberation by examiners to determine outcome

10.3.3 Outcomes and Corrections

Outcome	Requirements	Timeline
Pass (No/Minor Corrections)	Editorial fixes, formatting updates	1–2 months
Pass (Major Corrections)	Substantive revisions to analysis/discussion	3–6 months
Resubmit & Re-viva	Significant reworking of core sections	6–12 months
Fail	Candidature termination; no re-submission	N/A

- Supervisors support candidates in implementing corrections.
- Final approval requires examiners' signed acceptance of revised work.

10.3.4 Plagiarism and Viva

- If integrity issues arise during viva or examiner reports:
 - Viva outcome is withheld pending investigation
 - Case referred to Academic Integrity Committee
 - No degree is awarded until resolved

11. Fees, Scholarships and Financial Matters

11.1 Fees and Payment

- Fee schedules are published annually on the Vision UC website.
- Late payment may result in:
 - Blocked semester registration
 - Withheld exam results/transcripts
 - Ineligibility for graduation

11.2 Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Internal scholarships: Merit-based or need-based (e.g., Vision UC Postgraduate Fellowships).
- External funding: Government loans (e.g., PTPTN), industry sponsorships, or research grants.

- Conditions: Recipients must maintain minimum CGPA and satisfactory progress; failure may require repayment.
-

12. Support Services and ODL Support

12.1 Library and E-Resources

- 24/7 access to:
 - Digital databases (e.g., ProQuest, ScienceDirect, JSTOR)
 - E-journals, e-books, theses
 - Research support: Literature search training, reference management (EndNote/Zotero)

12.2 IT and LMS Support

- Dedicated helpdesk for:
 - LMS login/access issues
 - Online assessment technical support
 - Webinar/platform troubleshooting

12.3 Academic Skills and Counselling

- Workshops: Academic writing, research design, APA referencing, data analysis (SPSS/NVivo).
 - Counselling Services: Confidential support for stress, time management, and wellbeing (in-person/virtual).
-

13. International Postgraduate Candidates

13.1 Visa and Compliance

- Mandatory requirements:
 - Valid student pass (for candidates in Malaysia)
 - Minimum attendance (≥80% for blended components)
 - Satisfactory academic progress (reported to Immigration Department)

- Non-compliance may result in visa cancellation and deportation.
-

14. Graduation and Alumni

14.1 Graduation Requirements

Candidates must:

- Complete all coursework, projects, and thesis
- Achieve minimum CGPA and programme-specific benchmarks
- Obtain financial and administrative clearance (fees, library, IT)

14.2 Alumni Engagement

- Graduates join the Vision UC Global Alumni Network, with benefits:
 - Career services and networking events
 - Continued library/database access
 - Invitations to research colloquia and workshops
-

15. Amendments and Candidate Responsibility

15.1 Amendments

- Vision UC reserves the right to update this handbook to align with:
 - MQA/MOHE regulations
 - Senate-approved policies
 - Quality assurance recommendations
- The latest official version (published on Vision UC website) supersedes all prior versions.

15.2 Candidate Responsibility

- You are responsible for:
 - Regularly checking Vision UC email and Student Portal for updates
 - Seeking clarification from OPS when policies are unclear
 - Adhering to current regulations governing your candidature

Remember: At Vision UC, "Simple" (S) means clear expectations—and "Empower" (E) means taking ownership of your journey.

Appendix A: Postgraduate Programme Comparison

Criteria	Master's (Blended: ≤50% ODL)	Master's (Full ODL)	Doctorate (Blended/ODL)
Typical Entry	Bachelor's (MQF 6)	Bachelor's (MQF 6)	Master's (MQF 7)
Min. CGPA	≥2.75 (2.50–2.74 w/ conditions)	≥2.75 (2.50–2.74 w/ conditions)	As per Senate; strong master's required
Delivery Mode	Campus + ≤50% online	100% online (LMS, webinars)	Supervision + seminars (campus/ODL)
Study Modes	Full-time / Part-time	Full-time / Part-time	Full-time / Part-time
Duration	FT: 1.5–2 yrs PT: 2–4 yrs	FT: 1.5–2 yrs PT: 2–4 yrs	FT: 3–5 yrs PT: 4–7 yrs
Structure	Coursework + Capstone Project	Coursework + Capstone Project	Coursework (if any) + Thesis
Capstone	Applied Project (No Exam)	Applied Project (No Exam)	Original Research Thesis
Research Intensity	Moderate (applied focus)	Moderate (applied focus)	High (theoretical/practical contribution)
Ideal Candidate	Prefers blended flexibility + campus interaction	Fully remote; working professionals	Research-focused professionals/academics