

Summary of The Findings

In the analysis of doctoral studies in general presented in Table 4, significant association with the likelihood of completion rather than withdrawal, five years after initial enrollment on doctoral studies, was noted for the variables namely, age at commencement, discipline area and nationality ($p < 0.05$). In other words:

- Candidates below 30 years at commencement of doctoral studies ($RR = 7.6$) and those between 31 – 40 years ($RR = 3.8$) were more likely to complete rather than withdraw compared to those above 40 years.
- Doctoral candidates registered in Arts-based discipline had a 65% reduced rate of completion compared to candidates in the sciences ($RR = 0.35$).
- International doctoral candidates were more likely to complete their studies rather than withdraw compared to their native counterparts ($RR = 4.4$).

Further, significant association with the likelihood of extended candidature rather than withdrawal, five years after initial enrollment on doctoral studies, was noted for the variables namely financial assistance and discipline area ($p < 0.05$). In the results:

- Doctoral students with financial assistance (tuition, living and/or research allowances) were more likely to have extended candidatures rather than withdraw compared to their counterparts with no assistance ($RR = 3.3$).
- Doctoral students registered in the Arts-based discipline had a 47% reduced rate of having extended candidatures rather than withdrawing compared to candidates in the sciences ($RR = 0.53$).

In a model of thesis-based studies presented in Table 5, significant association with the likelihood of completion rather than withdrawal, five years after initial enrollment on doctoral studies, was noted for the variables namely, age at commencement, discipline area and nationality ($p < 0.05$). In other words:-

- Thesis-based students aged below 30 years at commencement of doctoral studies (RR = 10.5) and those between 31 – 40 years (RR = 5.5) were more likely to complete rather than withdraw compared to candidates above 40 years.
- Thesis-based students registered in the Arts-based discipline had a 73% reduced rate of completion rather than withdrawal compared to their counterparts in the science disciplines (RR = 0.27).
- International thesis-based students were more likely to complete their doctoral studies rather than withdraw compared to the native counterparts (RR = 5.4).

Further, significant association with the likelihood of extended candidature rather than withdrawal, five years after initial enrolment among thesis-based candidates was noted for the variables namely financial assistantship and discipline area ($p < 0.05$). In the results:

- Thesis-based doctoral students with financial assistance (tuition, living and/or research allowances) were more likely to have extended candidatures rather than withdrawal compared to those with no assistantship (RR = 3.6).
- Thesis-based students registered in the Arts-based discipline had a 52% reduced rate of having extended candidatures rather than withdrawal compared to candidates in the sciences (RR = 0.48).