



Senate

Paper Title	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary December 2016 – February 2017
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (RDPEB).
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This paper summarises business considered by RDPEB at meetings held in December 2016 – February 2017 concerning: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD Studentship Terms and Conditions;• PGR applications for 2017-18 entry at 31.01.17;• QMUL Quality Handbook – research degrees collaborative provision.
Questions for Senate to consider	Senate is asked to note the report.
Regulatory/statutory reference points	RDPEB has oversight of quality and standards issues relating to research degree programmes. The quality assurance framework is key to the maintenance of academic standards and the quality of the student learning experience.
Strategy and risk	
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	
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RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meetings and membership

1. The Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board meets monthly. The membership comprises:
 - Director of the Doctoral College [Chair]
 - Faculty Deputy Deans for Research (PGR)
 - One additional representative (a school/institute Director of Graduate Studies) from each Faculty

The secretariat is provided by the Research Degrees Office. The Doctoral College Manager is in attendance.

Examinations Business

2. The Board:
 - considers and approves nominations for internal and external examiners for research degrees;
 - considers and approves outcomes of research degree examinations and views all examiners' reports;
 - considers and makes decisions on applications to interrupt studies and extensions to the thesis submission deadline;
 - approves awards for research degrees on behalf of Senate.

Decisions are recorded in the minutes of the monthly meetings of the Board.

QMUL PhD Studentship Terms and Conditions

3. The Board reviewed and approved the QMUL PhD Studentship Terms and Conditions for new awards.
4. Two clauses have been added:
 - a. to clarify the expectation that the holder of an award will usually live sufficiently near to QMUL to be able to attend regular supervision meetings in person with their supervisory team, attend doctoral training and research events as required by their school/institute, and to use the research facilities provided by QMUL;
 - b. to make explicit that stipend payments will be suspended if the award holder takes up full-time work during the period of the studentship.

These additions arise from questions referred to the Board for decision.

PGR applications for 2017-18 entry at 31.01.17

5. The Board has oversight of PGR admissions. The main QMUL deadline for PGR scholarship applications for entry in 2017 was 31 January 2017. A total of 1,151 applications were received by the deadline. There has been an overall increase in applications of 8% on the position at this time last year. Home/EU applications increased by 11% and overseas applications increased by 7%. It is too early in the cycle to look at data on offers and acceptances.

QMUL Quality Handbook – research degrees collaborative provision

6. The Board approved the advice on research degree collaborations to be included in the Quality Handbook. For information the research degree arrangements are as follows:

“Collaborative research degree programme arrangements. These normally lead to a single degree jointly awarded by the partner organisations. Double awards (including co-tutelles) will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, for example where required as part of an external doctoral training grant application. QMUL will only consider joint degree programmes for a cohort of students. Joint degrees will not be set up for individual students.”

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