Queen Mary
University of London

Senate

Paper Title	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive summary September 2013 to November 2013.
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to **note** the RDPEB executive summary. Senate is asked to **approve** the terms of reference and membership of the Board.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This paper summarises the business of RDPEB from September 2013 to November 2013
Questions for Senate to consider	
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 Degrees Examinations and Awards Board meets monthly. The membership was revised at the September 2013 meeting and now comprises:

   Director of the Doctoral College [Chair]
   Deputy Deans for Research (PGR)
   One additional representative from each Faculty

Appointment of Examiners

2. The Board considers nominations for internal and external examiners for research degrees. From September 2013 to November 2013 the Board considered examiner nominations for 69 candidates for research degrees. 4 nominations (5.8%) were rejected or deferred pending receipt of further information.

Consideration of outcomes of research degree examinations

3. The Board considers outcomes of research degree examinations and views all examiners' reports. From September 2013 to November 2013 the Board considered the outcomes of 58 examinations:

Outcome	No.	%
Pass	8	13
Pass with minor amendments	37	64
Pass with major amendments	11	19
Re-enter for the examination	1	2
Recommend for MPhil (PhD entries)	0	0
Re-enter for MPhil (PhD entries)	1	2
Fail	0	0

Approval of awards for research degrees

4. The Board approves awards for research degrees on behalf of Senate. From September 2013 to November 2013 the Board approved 42 awards:

Award	N
PhD	40
MPhil	2

MD(Res)	0

Policy and other matters

5. **Quality assurance processes for research degrees.** The Board has reviewed and developed a project plan from ARCS on developing quality assurance processes for research degrees during 2013-14, designed to ensure that QM is meeting all the expectations in the relevant chapters of the QAA's new Quality Code.

6. **Report on research degree appeals and complaints 2012-13.** The Board reviewed a report from the appeals team on appeals and complaints submitted by research degree students in 2012-13. The Board was pleased to note that, against the overall number of PGRs registered, the numbers of complaints and appeals was very small (<1%).

Rhiannon Thompson
25 November 2013

Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board

The Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board considers matters relating to the quality and standards of research degree programmes. It has delegated authority from Senate to approve nominations of examiners for research degree examinations, and awards of research degrees.

Terms of reference

- To consider and approve proposals for all new research degree programmes, including all proposals for collaborative research degree programmes;

- To consider amendments to the Regulations for research degree programmes, and associated policies;

- To consider nominations of internal and external examiners for all research degrees examinations;

- To monitor outcomes of research degree examinations and review examiners' reports;

- To approve awards of research degrees to individual candidates;

- To consider requests for interruptions of study and extensions to the maximum registration period/writing-up period;

- To monitor compliance with the Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes within Schools and Institutes;

- To have oversight of the admission of students to research degree programmes.

Membership

- Director of the QM Doctoral College [Chair]
  Professor Joy Hinson

- Deputy Deans (PGR)
  Professor Jon May
  Professor Mike Watkinson

- One further representative from each Faculty [to be appointed for a fixed term of three years]
  Professor Tim Warner (SMD)
  Professor Clive Parini (S&E)
  Professor Joad Raymond (HSS)

In attendance

- Assistant Registrar (Research Degrees)

- Members of the Research Degrees Office

Last updated: September 2013