



**Senate**

<b>Paper Title</b>	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive summary March 2014 to May 2014.
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is asked to <b>note</b> the RDPEB executive summary.
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	This paper summarises the business of RDPEB from March 2014 to May 2014
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	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.
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	
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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 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 March to May 2014 the Board considered examiner nominations for 82 candidates for research degrees. 6 nominations (%) 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 March to May 2014 the Board considered the outcomes of 68 examinations:

Outcome	No.	%
Pass	9	13
Pass with minor amendments	44	65
Pass with major amendments	12	18
Re-enter for the examination	3	4
Recommend for MPhil (PhD entries)	0	0
Re-enter for MPhil (PhD entries)	0	0
Fail	0	0

#### Approval of awards for research degrees

4. The Board approves awards for research degrees on behalf of Senate. From March to May 2014 the Board approved 67 awards:

Award	N
PhD	64
MPhil	1
MD(Res)	2

## Policy and other matters

5. **Framework for professional doctorates.** The Board considered a framework for professional doctorates at QMUL, and has recommended a version for consideration by Senate following further review by Taught Programmes Board.
6. **Review of research degree programme titles.** The Board has approved a project to review the range of research degree programme titles offered by Schools and Institutes. The review will enable the QMUL programme structure to reflect recent changes in the delivery of PGR programmes, including the establishment of virtual or cross-faculty institutes which are recruiting students. This project will be co-ordinated by ARCS over summer 2014.
7. **Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate programmes: awarding degrees jointly with European partners.** The Board reviewed the assessment arrangements for QMUL's two EMJD programmes and proposed that students should be awarded a single degree jointly between the relevant participating institutions wherever legally and technically possible. ARCS is developing a series of agreements between the partner institutions to facilitate the joint awarding of degrees and clarify how the assessment processes will operate. The Board has approved two such agreements so far, with more to follow. It is expected that the first degrees to be awarded jointly with the European partner institutions will be awarded in autumn 2014.

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28 May 2014