



Senate

Paper Title	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive summary December 2013 to February 2014.
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the RDPEB executive summary.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This paper summarises the business of RDPEB from December 2013 to February 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 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 December 2013 to February 2014 the Board considered examiner nominations for 50 candidates for research degrees. 2 nominations (4%) 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 December 2013 to February 2014 the Board considered the outcomes of 58 examinations:

Outcome	No.	%
Pass	6	8
Pass with minor amendments	50	67
Pass with major amendments	16	21
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 December 2013 to February 2014 the Board approved 42 awards:

Award	N
PhD	42
MPhil	0
MD(Res)	1

Policy and other matters

5. **Quality assurance processes for research degrees.** The Board has established a small group to take forward the detailed work to ensure compliance with the QAA Quality Code for PGR, and associated enhancement activities.
6. **Report on research degree appeals and complaints 2012-13.** The Board reviewed a detailed report from the appeals team on appeals and complaints submitted by research degree students in 2012-13. It was agreed that the outcome of cases that are referred to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator will be passed to the Board to enable review of relevant Regulations and processes.

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3 March 2014