



Senate

Paper Title	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary June – October 2018
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 June – October 2018: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• terms of reference and membership;• joint PhD programme between SMD and Humanitas University, Milan;• A*STAR Research Attachment Programme.
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	
Authors	Mary Childs, Research Degrees Office
Sponsor	Professor Bill Spence, Vice-Principal (Research) Professor Mike Watkinson, Director of the Doctoral College and Chair of the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board

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 member (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.

Terms of Reference and Membership

3. At its meeting in September, the Board conducted the annual review of its terms of reference and membership.

The Board approved the terms of reference without amendment.

On membership it approved the continuation of Dr Ruth Fletcher (School of Law, HSS) and Professor Rob Allaker (Institute of Dentistry, SMD) as members of the Board in 2018-19 for a third and final year.

The terms of reference are annexed to this report.

Joint PhD programme between SMD and Humanitas University, Milan

4. The Board has approved the academic case for this collaborative PhD programme leading to a joint degree between QMUL and Humanitas University, Milan, in the field of inflammation studies. This is based on current joint research in the broad field of inflammation based on the formation of the Centre for

Inflammation and Therapeutic Innovation (CITi) at the William Harvey Research Institute which is composed of staff from across the SMD faculty and from Humanitas University. In March 2018 Partnerships Board approved Humanitas University as a partner for the programme, and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Humanitas.

5. Students will be recruited jointly, and will join either QMUL or Humanitas as their primary university and the other partner will be the secondary university. Students will have joint supervision and training from both universities, and will study at both for defined periods according to individual project needs.
6. Students will be recruited in small cohorts (initially 2 or 3 students) and enrolled on the joint programme. The theme will be inflammation but making use of supervisory expertise at the two institutions to broaden the "inflammation" horizon into specific key areas e.g. cancer, gastroenterology, pharmacology. Students will benefit from cohort training (already available through cohort PhD training provided by the Doctoral College) and to tailored training for SMD PGR students and Humanitas training provision.
7. Humanitas and QMUL intend to apply with another European university partner to the European Joint Doctorate studentship funding scheme.

A*STAR Research Attachment Programme

8. The Board considered at its June meeting the draft agreement with the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore concerning the joint supervision of PhD students under the A*STAR Research Attachment programme (ARAP). Under this programme, PhD students from QMUL will spend one to two years at A*STAR Research Institutes under the joint supervision of staff of the A*STAR Research Institutes and QMUL. Students will be registered for the PhD degree awarded by QMUL only. Successful students will be funded jointly by QMUL and A*STAR. The programme will start with a group of six co-funded PhD students expected to begin in autumn 2019. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with A*STAR.



Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board

Terms of Reference and Membership

2018-19

Terms of reference

- To consider and approve proposals for all new research degree programmes, including all proposals for collaborative research degree programmes;
- To consider and approve proposals for the withdrawal of research degree programmes;
- To consider amendments to the Academic Regulations for research degree programmes, and associated policies and guidance;
- To consider and approve 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 consider action to be taken following the publication of national guidance relating to research degrees, and the quality assurance and monitoring activity of external agencies such as QAA, the Office for Students, UK Research and Innovation, and research funders;
- To have oversight of the admission of students to research degree programmes.

Membership

- Director of the Doctoral College [Chair]
Dr Paul Allen (SMD Deputy Dean for Research (PGR))
[two year term of office as Director: 2018-19 and 2019-20]
- Faculty Deputy Deans for Research (PGR)
Dr Eram Rizvi (S&E)
Dr David Williams (HSS)
- One further representative from each Faculty
[Faculty representatives are appointed for a term of two years. The appointment may be extended by one year to a maximum of three years with the approval of the Board. The Faculty representative should not be from the same school or institute as the Faculty Deputy Dean for Research (PGR). The Faculty representative is usually one of the Directors of Graduate Studies from amongst the schools or institutes of the Faculty concerned.]

Professor Rob Allaker, Institute of Dentistry (SMD) [term of office 2016-17, 2017-18 – extended to include 2018-19]
Dr Ruth Fletcher, School of Law (HSS) [term of office 2016-17, 2017-18 – extended to include 2018-19]
Dr Yi Sui, School of Engineering and Materials Science (S&E) [term of office 2018-19 and 2019-20]

In attendance

- Assistant Academic Registrar (Research Degrees)
- Members of the Research Degrees Office
- The Doctoral College Manager

Mary Childs
RDO

Approved by the Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board 19.09.18