Queen Mary
University of London

Senate

Paper Title	**Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary October 2019**
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 the meeting held in October 2019: • new fields of study and award titles in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film Studies; • criteria for the appointment of supervisors for research students; • requests to examine by skype
Questions for Senate to consider	Senate is asked **to note** the report.
Regulatory/statutory reference points	• Queen Mary Strategy 2030 • Queen Mary Academic Regulations • Queen Mary Code of Practice for Research Degrees Programmes • UK Quality Code for Higher Education 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

October 2019

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 reviews 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.

New fields of study and award titles in the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film Studies

3. The Board has approved proposals from the School of Languages, Linguistics and Film Studies for new fields of study and PhD/MPhil award titles in

   (a) Visual Cultures
       and
   (b) Translation and Adaptation Studies.

4. For Translation and Adaptation Studies the Board has approved an amendment to the special regulation for Modern Languages concerning materials submitted for assessment to make specific provision for works of adaptation as follows:

In certain specified fields other forms of material may be required to be submitted for assessment within or in addition to the thesis (additional text in bold):

Modern Languages and Cultures

In the field of Modern Languages and Cultures, a candidate may undertake research leading either to the submission of a written thesis or a combination of a written thesis and practice in the form of a translation into English of a text, **or an adaptation**. The critical commentary shall be a minimum of 30,000 words. The balance between the written and practical components is determined by the needs of the project.

5. With regard to Visual Cultures, the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures provides support and supervision for students engaged in doctoral research in Visual Cultures with a specific focus on cultural memory, trauma and censorship in visual cultures; book history and visual culture; cultural transfers in the visual arts; intermediality and image-text relationships; representations of migration, mobility and gender in film and photography.

6. With regard to Translation and Adaptation Studies, the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures brings together experts in Catalan, French, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, as well as supervision provision in Chinese, Dutch, Galician, Romanian and Yiddish. The new degree will increase the capacity to accommodate prospective students, covering original translation and adaptation themes within the department's expertise but not clearly represented by language-specific programmes. For example in adaptation, cultural translation, intersemiotic translation, postcolonial translation, queer translation, sub-titling, theatre translation, theories of translation (East European, German, Russian, Latin American and Russian), translation as activism, translation for museums, and translation of medieval/pre-modern texts. The programme is clearly distinguished from other competitor programmes which often focus on more technical areas of translation (corpus linguistics, technical and commercial translation, etc.).

Criteria for the appointment of supervisors for research students

7. The Board has considered a proposal from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences to the Senior Executive Team (SET) to ensure that the criteria for the appointment of supervisors for research students set out in the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes permits academic staff who are on Teaching & Scholarship (T&S) or Teaching & Professional Practice (TPP) contracts to supervise research students, in addition to Teaching & Research (T&R) staff. HSS was concerned that the current guidance on the criteria for the appointment of primary and secondary supervisors might be interpreted as excluding staff in TPP and T&S roles from undertaking lead supervisory roles. SET had referred to the Board the question of whether changes were required to the guidelines on appointment of supervisors to enable TPP and T&S staff to be appointed as primary and secondary supervisors.

The Board considered that the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes did not exclude non T&R academic staff from acting as primary and secondary supervisors.

However, it agreed that it would be helpful to amend the criteria in the Code to make specific reference to Teaching & Research, Teaching & Scholarship, and Teaching & Professional Practice roles.

The Board considers that in each supervisory team either the primary or secondary supervisor must be research-active in order to ensure that students have direct access to, and support from, a member of research active staff. It was concerned that this could not be assured if the requirement were that the supervisory team include a research active member of staff as an additional supervisor only.

In conclusion the Board **recommends** the following changes to the guidelines on the appointment of supervisors in the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes. Changes shown in italic.

Current text: 48. Each research student will have an identified primary supervisor, who is their main point of contact with the School/Institute and must be a research-active member of academic staff at Queen Mary, as part of their supervisory team.

NEW 48: Each research student will have an identified primary supervisor who is their main point of contact with the School/Institute and must be *a member of academic staff at Queen Mary (whether Teaching & Research, Teaching & Scholarship, or Teaching & Professional Practice)*, as part of their supervisory team.

Current text: 49. Each supervisory team must normally include at least two research-active members of academic staff from Queen Mary.

NEW 49: Each supervisory team must normally include *at least two members of academic staff from Queen Mary, of which either the primary or secondary supervisor or both must be research-active.*

Requests to examine by skype

8. The Board has delegated authority from Senate to approve one examiner's attendance at a viva by video link following an individual application to the Board setting out the reasons for the request (Academic Regulations 2019-20 Reg. 8.91). The Board approved two requests from the School of Law.

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