Senate: 05.03.20 Paper Code: SE2019.36



Senate

| Paper title | New award title of Doctor of Engineering (EngD) |
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| Outcome requested | The Senate is asked to recommend to the Council approval of the addition of the award of Doctor of Engineering (EngD) to Ordinance A16, section 1.6 denoting research degrees (FHEQ level 8) awarded by Queen Mary. |
| Points to note and further information | New EngD award title |
| Tarther information | The Faculty of Science and Engineering proposes to introduce the new award title of Doctor of Engineering (EngD) to be available in all schools in the Faculty. |
| | The timing of the request is aligned to the Faculty's application to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) call for proposals to the 2020-21 Doctoral Training Programme Doctoral Mobility Pilot. |
| | The Faculty wishes to have the award title approved now so that it can be agile in its response to external funding opportunities (UKRI grant calls often have short deadlines) and to internal programme development. It is considering the development of an EngD programme independent of funding applications as this type of award is more likely to be attractive to companies with experienced employees working in research. This is demonstrated by the letters of support from IBM, BT, BBC, and TWI Ltd for the EPSRC DTP application. |
| | EPSRC DTP application |
| | The EPSRC DTP application is for £1.6m from EPSRC which will contribute to the funding of 24 students during the pilot with partnership funding and Queen Mary match-funding. The academic lead and Principal Investigator is Dr Eram Rizvi, S&E Faculty Deputy Dean for Research. If the application is successful the EngD award will be offered by schools in the Faculty of Science and Engineering collaborating in the provision of the proposed Industrial Mobility and Doctoral Training Programme in Data Science and Engineering. It is planned that the first students would enrol wef September 2020. |
| | The application proposes a doctoral mobility programme to expand the number of scientists and engineers with data-science and engineering research skills in the UK economy. The programme will offer workplace research projects in applied research with industry partners, including IBM, BT and the BBC, with a flexible portfolio approach to the final doctoral dissertation. |

Aligned with the mobility theme the pilot will explore opportunities to broaden access routes to doctoral study and to increase the diversity of doctoral students. It aims to increase understanding of the motivations and barriers people face when considering doctoral training. A direct impact of the scheme for Queen Mary will be to enhance recruitment and selection processes to open up access to doctoral training.

Prior approvals

The Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board and the Education Quality and Standards Board have approved the new award title of EngD and recommend approval to the Senate.

Questions to consider

- (i) The award title of EngD better aligns with industrial partnership based doctoral training and research than traditional PhD programmes.
- (ii) Any new regulations required for the award will be included in the proposed changes to the Academic Regulations for 2020-21 to be considered by EQSB and RDPEB at their meetings in May 2020. It is proposed that students may submit for examination either a single PhD thesis or a coherent research portfolio consisting of up to four applied research projects with one or more industry partners.
- (iii) All new programme proposals will be scrutinised in line with the programme approval process.

Regulatory/statutory reference points

The key external reference points are the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, in particular the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (the Qualifications Frameworks) and the Qualification Characteristics Statement for Doctoral Degrees.

The UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Part A: Setting and maintaining academic standards, Characteristics Statement for the Doctoral Degree, September 2015, identifies the award of Doctor of Engineering or Engineering Doctorate (EngD) in Appendix 1: Summary of doctoral award titles

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/doctoral-degree-characteristics-15.pdf

Strategy and risk

Queen Mary Strategy 2030

The programme objectives align with the strategic aims to innovate in doctoral education, increase research student numbers, increase industrial partnerships, and to be the most inclusive university of its kind.

Risk

No strategic risks are anticipated. The EngD is a well-established programme (over 30 years) and award in the UK doctoral degrees qualifications portfolio. It is offered by many universities e,g. Birmingham, Bristol, Exeter, Imperial, Manchester, St Andrews, Southampton, Surrey, UCL, Warwick.

| | The S&E Faculty also intends to participate in the Association of Engineering Doctorates: http://www.aengd.org.uk/programmes/ The AEngD is a community of Engineering Doctorate providers, researchers, sponsors, EngD alumni and other stakeholders in the EngD 'brand'. |
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| Reporting/ consideration route | Subject to approval by Senate, the proposal will be recommended to Council's Governance Committee to approve the addition of the award title of EngD to |
| for the paper | Ordinance A16 1.6 – Research Degrees (FHEQ level 8). |
| Author | Mary Childs |
| | Research Degrees Office |