

Senate

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| Paper Title | Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary October – November 2021 |
| 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 October – November 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new award title of Master by Research (ResM); • appointment of SMD Honorary Contract holders as supervisors; • MB PhD – Suspension of PGR admissions requirements and concurrent study waiver |
| Questions for Senate to consider | Senate is asked to note the report. |
| Regulatory/statutory reference points | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen Mary Strategy 2030 • Queen Mary Academic Regulations • Queen Mary Code of Practice for Research Degrees Programmes • UK Quality Code for Higher Education <p>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.</p> |
| Strategy and risk | |
| Reporting/consideration route for the paper | For information. |
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| Sponsor | Professor Tim Warner, Dean for Postgraduate Research Director of the Doctoral College and Chair of the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board |

RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

October – November 2021

Meetings and membership

1. The Research Degree Programmes and Examinations Board meets monthly. The membership comprises:
 - Dean for Postgraduate Research [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.

Master by Research (ResM)

3. The Board has approved the introduction of the new award title of Master by Research (ResM).
4. These programmes will offer master's level supervised research of one calendar year in a specific subject, studied through research methods. There will be no taught modules.
5. The ResM will provide a route for entry to a PhD at Queen Mary, as well as opportunities to recruit international students as part of master's level collaborations with other institutions. It will also offer research experience to a broader group of students who cannot afford the funding or time to study on a standard PhD.

6. New regulations for Master's by Research programmes are being prepared. The draft regulations will be considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board and the Education Quality and Standards Board.
7. Under Chair's action on behalf of the Education Quality and Standards Board and the Senate it has been agreed to ask Council's Governance Committee to approve the addition of the new award title to Ordinance A16 1.5 – Research Degrees (FHEQ level 7).

Appointment of SMD Honorary Contract holders as supervisors – new text for Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes

8. The Board has approved a clarification of the requirements for a clinician holding an honorary contract at Queen Mary to be a primary supervisor for a research student as this is not addressed specifically in the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes.
9. This text will be included in the Code of Practice for 2022-23 in the section concerning supervisors:

Barts NHS Trust staff who hold a current honorary contract with Queen Mary at the level of Senior Lecturer, Reader or Professor, and who meet the other supervisor requirements set out in section [X] of the Code, may act as a primary or secondary supervisor subject to approval by the institute Director of Graduate Studies or the School of Medicine and Dentistry Deputy Dean for Postgraduate Research. A primary supervisor who holds an honorary Queen Mary contract must be partnered with a second supervisor who is a member of Queen Mary staff (not an honorary contract holder) and who meets all the supervisor requirements in this Code.

MB PhD – Suspension of PGR admissions requirements and concurrent study waiver

10. Under the new MB PhD programme, students on the MBBS will be able to apply to intercalate onto the 3-year MB PhD after completing three years of the MBBS, with effect from 2022/23.
11. The Board has approved suspension of the Admissions Policy concerning the standard entry requirements for academic qualifications for PhD study and suspension of the Academic Regulations concerning concurrent study to enable MBBS students to be made offers in 2021-22 to enrol on the MB PhD in September 2022.
12. The [Admissions policy](#) states that applicants must normally have achieved a minimum of an upper second class honours degree (2.1) or equivalent qualification to be considered for entry to a postgraduate research programme.

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