



Senate

Paper Title	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary December 2021 – February 2022
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 December 2021 – February 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New programme approval – PhD in Artificial Intelligence for Drug Discovery;• Summary of other business.
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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RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 2021 – February 2022

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.

New programme approval

PhD in Artificial Intelligence for Drug Discovery (UKRI-AIDD) Part II approval, the Digital Environment Research Institute (DERI)

3. The Board approved the Part II programme proposal for the new PhD in Artificial Intelligence for Drug Discovery to commence in September 2022. Part 1 approval has been granted for this programme by the Faculties of Science and Engineering and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.
4. The programme will be managed by the Digital Environment Research Institute (DERI). Students will undertake their research studies with primary supervisors from SBBS, EECS, SPCS, BCI, and WHRI.
5. The programme is part of the newly funded UKRI/BBSRC Collaborative Training Partnership between Queen Mary and three companies: Exscientia, MSD and Sosei Heptares.

6. The programme and grant is formally led by Exscientia. The grant provides initial funding from UKRI for 15 studentships over three annual intakes. There will be an additional six studentships funded by Queen Mary (4 by the Faculty of Science and Engineering and two by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry).
7. The programme is aligned with the Academic Regulations and the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes. No new regulations are required.

Other business

8. The Board has:
 - a. considered the Covid-19 situation and impact on research degrees at its meetings, and intends to remove this as a standing item on the agenda with effect from April in light of the recent government announcement;
 - b. discussed the proposed programme structure for the new award of Master by Research (ResM) preparatory to finalising programme guidance for schools and institutes wishing to offer the programme, and the drafting of new programme regulations;
 - c. begun to consider changes to the Academic Regulations and the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes for 2022-23.

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