



**Senate**

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary March to May 2022</b>
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is <b>asked to note</b> the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (RDPEB).
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	This paper summarises business considered by RDPEB at meetings held in March to May 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposals for changes to the Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degrees in 2022-23. The details are in a separate paper on the Senate agenda;</li> <li>• draft regulations for the new award of Master by Research (ResM);</li> <li>• HESA Data Futures and ATAS – Postgraduate Research Data;</li> <li>• PGR studentship terms and conditions 2022-23;</li> <li>• new field of study for FMD doctoral awards.</li> </ul>
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Queen Mary Strategy 2030</li> <li>• Queen Mary Academic Regulations</li> <li>• Queen Mary Code of Practice for Research Degrees Programmes</li> <li>• OfS regulations and policies</li> </ul> <p>RDPEB has oversight of quality and standards issues relating to research degree programmes.</p>
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	Compliance with OfS regulations and policies
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	
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## RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

March 2022 – May 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.

#### Academic Regulations and the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes for 2022-23

3. The Board's recommendations for changes to the Academic Regulations and the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes for 2022-23 are set out in a separate paper for Senate to consider.

#### Master by Research – Academic Regulations

4. In November 2021 Senate and Council approved the addition of the award of Master by Research (ResM) to Ordinance A16, section 1.5 denoting research degrees (FHEQ level 7) awarded by Queen Mary.

5. The ResM is a master's level programme of supervised research of one calendar year (FT). There are no taught modules. The programme differs from the Master of Research as the focus is on a specific subject, studied through research methods. Examination is by submission of a dissertation with outcomes of pass, pass with amendments, resubmission and fail. There are no alternative exit awards.
6. The general PGR regulations apply with certain amendments as set out in the attached paper.
7. The Research Degrees Board is preparing guidance on programme requirements and student processes to assist schools and institutes in preparing new programme proposals.
8. Senate is **asked to approve** the attached draft regulations for the new award of Master by Research.

#### **HESA Data Futures and ATAS – Postgraduate Research Data**

9. The Board received a briefing on changes to the [Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\)](#) to align processes with the revised FCDO guidelines. Changes are required to research student processes for admitting students and the monitoring of changes to research students' projects during their studies.
10. The current applicant process for research students determines whether ATAS is required at subject/programme level (it mainly applies to PGR programmes in the Faculty of Science and Engineering) rather than the individual nature of each research project.
11. To meet ATAS requirements and new data requirements for the HESA Data Futures student return applying to all research students, new processes will require each applicant's record to include a research project synopsis and subject code(s) that apply to the research studies. The project synopsis and subject code(s) will be reviewed annually within the annual academic progression review process. The subject codes for research students are required also for the HESA return.

#### **Queen Mary Studentship Terms and Conditions 2022-23**

12. The Board approved the studentship terms and conditions for funding offered to commence in 2022-23 for studentship funding managed and offered by Queen Mary.

#### **Proposed new field of study for awards of students in Medicine and Dentistry**

13. The Board approved a new field of study of Pharmaceuticals and Drug Delivery for doctoral awards in Medicine and Dentistry.

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