



Senate

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary March 2024</b>
<b>Outcome requested</b>	Senate is asked to <b>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 recent business considered by RDPEB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review of PGR programme portfolio;</li> <li>• request for thesis submission before completion of the minimum period of registration;</li> <li>• new field of study / award title in Dermatology;</li> <li>• project to develop online workflows in SITS/MySIS for Change of Circumstances processes;</li> <li>• other updates for report.</li> </ul>
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	Senate is asked <b>to note</b> the report.
<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>• Office for Students 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>	
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	
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## RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY March 2024

#### 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 Head of the Doctoral College is in attendance.

#### Examinations and other student 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 period of registration and 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.

#### Review of PGR programme portfolio

3. The Board has received updates on the work of the Fees and Degrees Task and Finish Group convened by the Doctoral College to review:
  - the types of research degree programmes offered at Queen Mary and other opportunities that could be explored to align with objectives in the Strategy 2030;
  - the potential to expand the PGR programmes offer in strategic areas; and
  - the processes of setting fees for research degree programmes and ways to enhance the recovery of research student costs.

4. The task and finish group will report to the Research and Innovation Board in April/May 2024 on progress and recommendations.
5. Recommendations concerning new research degree programme types will be referred to the Board to consider.

#### **Request for thesis submission before completion of the minimum period of registration**

6. The Board approved a request for the suspension of the Academic Regulations to permit a student in the William Harvey Research Institute to submit their thesis for examination before completion of the minimum period of registration. Authority to allow a research student to submit before the minimum registration period is delegated from Senate to the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board.

#### **New field of study / award title in Dermatology**

7. The Board approved the request from the Blizzard Institute to introduce a new field of study in Dermatology to be available to research students in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry to select as the award title for their degree, for example Doctor of Philosophy in Dermatology.

#### **Project to develop online workflows in SITS/MySIS for Change of Circumstances processes**

8. The Board received a report on the new project to develop online workflows in SITS/MySIS for Change of Circumstances processes for all levels of study. Change of Circumstances includes interruption of study, change of programme and mode of study, withdrawal from studies, and extension of the period of registration for research degree students.
9. This project aims to convert current Word/Excel/PDF process forms into online MySIS workflows to simplify processes and to enable students and staff to be able to view and track the status of an application.

#### **Other business**

10. The Board is considering the following matters:
  - updates to the Guidance Notes on the Submission and Presentation of Theses for Research Degree Examinations;
  - proposed changes to the Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes for 2024-5; and
  - changes to UKRI's doctoral training grant terms and conditions and the newly updated UKRI and other funders' "Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training" and how examples of good practice in these guidelines might be adopted to enhance Queen Mary's PGR provision.

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