

Title: Postgraduate Research Executive Report to LTC
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Issue

This paper summarises the work of the 20 October 2016 and 08 December 2016 meetings of the Postgraduate Research Executive. As per a Senate decision of 6 November 2013, the Postgraduate Research Executive now has delegated authority from LTC to make decisions affecting postgraduate research programmes. It is chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise (currently Professor Fiona Lettice) and serviced by the Postgraduate Research Service.

Statistics on PGR appeals and complaints were considered at the 08 December 2016 meeting and the summary is included at the end of this paper. Numbers of cases remain very small.

LTC is also asked to note the two Chair's actions, which were to add the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco (UFPE), Brazil as a potential co-tutelle partner, and FAPESP, the State of São Paulo Research Foundation, Brazil, as an organisation for which visiting research students funded from this source can be eligible for fee exemption if approved by Head of School according to the Procedures for Visiting Research Students maintained by the Postgraduate Research Service.

Recommendation

No recommendations in this paper.

Resource Implications

Resource implications have been considered for each of the items by the Postgraduate Research Executive.

Risk Implications

Risk implications have been considered for each of the items by the Postgraduate Research Executive.

Equality and Diversity

No specific issues.

Timing of decisions

No decisions required in this paper.

Further Information

Contact Dr Vivien Easson, v.easson@uea.ac.uk, extension 1835, with any queries about this report.

Areas covered by the Postgraduate Research Executive at 20 October / 08 December 2016 meetings

20 October 2016	Doctoral Training Bid update – October 2016 UEA-SUSTech Split-site PhD Agreement PGR Recruitment Plan for 2016-17 entry Postgraduate Research Fee Updates Initial report on Probationary Review implementation Engagement Monitoring Update Update on PGR role workload UEA-Suffolk PGR Partnership Agreement - draft PGR process improvement plan PGR quality enhancement plan PGR executive schedule for 2015/16 PGR Executive terms of reference Update on HUM professional practice programmes Update on Doctoral Training student consultation Code of Practice for Research Degrees and Research Degree Policy Documents
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	Update to Regulations and Instructions to Examiners Visiting Research Student guidelines Terms of reference for MA HEP PGR supervision module
08 December 2016	Doctoral Training Bid update – December 2016 DTP and CDT delivery: updates from academic leads (CHASE, NRP, SeNSS) Regulatory framework: split-site and distance learning arrangements Doctoral Training Implementation Plan and PGR employability Review of Honesty Project actions Graduate School feedback on probationary review pass rates Update on role descriptors and workload External examiners' fees and checks PGR systems and process improvement: plans for 2017 PGR process improvement plan PGR quality enhancement plan PGR executive schedule for 2015/16 PGR management information reports PGR appeals and complaints statistics HUM professional practice programmes Modularisation of ClinPsyD Scope of review: the experience of mature research degree candidates Policy for approving integrity of research and enterprise activities and funding Terms and conditions for UEA PGR studentships Chair's action: approve co-tutelle partner (NBS; PFPE, Brazil) Chair's action: approve FAPESP to fee exemption list for visiting research students PGR Concessions Guide v2.1 Data on launch of new research section of website

PGR Academic Appeals, Complaints, Complaints to the OIA and SSDC cases in 2015-16

Academic Appeals

The number of Stage One PGR Academic Appeals received in the academic year 2015-16 remains small: three in 2015-16 (compared to three received in 2014-15). No Stage Two Academic Appeals were received in 2015-16 (compared to one received in 2014-15).

Academic Complaints

The number of PGR Academic Complaints received continues to be low. There were two Stage One Academic Complaints received within the period and three Stage Two Academic Complaints. In 2014-15 there were two Stage One Academic Complaints and no Stage Two Academic Complaints.

OIA Cases

Two PGR cases were considered by the OIA in 2015-16, both of which started in 2014-15 (compared to three received in 2014-15). The OIA issued a judgement on one complaint, which was determined by the OIA to be not justified. The OIA concluded that the University's decision to reject the appeal was reasonable and in line with its Appeals procedures.

Senate Student Disciplinary Cases: Regulation 15 Conduct of Research

There was only one case referred in 2015-16 under this regulation, compared to one case in 2014-15, five cases in 2013-14 and no cases in 2012-13. One case listed in last year's report to PGR Executive (M14-15/2) was concluded during 2015-16. The Head of School concluded that there was no evidence to support the allegation and that it should be dismissed. One case listed in last year's report (M14-15/1) is still ongoing.

General comments

With such small numbers of cases it is not possible to identify any trends and further analysis is not warranted. However it does seem to suggest that PGR students are generally satisfied with their experience at UEA.