

Title: Postgraduate Research Executive Report to LTC
Author: Dr Vivien Easson, Head of Postgraduate Research Service
Date: 15 June 2017
Agenda: Learning and Teaching Committee, 21 June 2017
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

This paper summarises the work of the 15 June 2017 meeting 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 Innovation, Professor Fiona Lettice, and serviced by the Postgraduate Research Service.

Recommendation

No recommendations in this paper – specific items are covered in separate papers.

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 15 June 2017 meeting

15 June 2017	Doctoral Training Bid update – June 2017 PGR admissions and recruitment update and Admissions Policy Policy on Research Degree Candidate Categories Report from E-thesis Working Group Doctoral Training Implementation Plan – June 2017 Update PRES 2017 – Initial Report PGR and Code of Practice on Student Representation Postgraduate Research Fee Recommendations PGR students as Associate Tutors – verbal update Review of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme Equality Duty Focus: age, disability and mental health updates PGR process improvement plan, PGR quality enhancement plan PGR executive schedule for 2016/17, PGR MI reports (April 2017) Instructions to Examiners Updates (incorporating ClinPsyD, MD) Review of external examiner reports on vivas Equality data: annual Athena SWAN report Proposed PGR amendments to the Academic Appeals and Complaints Regulations Proposed PGR amendments to the Policy on Plagiarism and Collusion Proposed amendments to the PGR Course Approval Process Proposed amendments to the Code of Practice on Research Degrees Revised Guidelines on PGR Examiner Expenses Revised documentation for PGR partnerships UEA-Suffolk PGR partnership agreement Course Approval: Doctorate in Educational Psychology
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Title: Chapter B11 (Research Degrees) Compliance Report
Author: Dr Vivien Easson, Head of Postgraduate Research Service
Date: 21 June 2017
Agenda: Learning and Teaching Committee, 21 June 2017
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Issue

This paper provides an update on compliance with UK Quality Code Chapter B11 (Research Degrees). The University continues to be compliant following HE Review in 2015.

Recommendations

No recommendations in this paper.

Resource and Risk Implications

Resource and risk implications have been considered for each of the items by the Postgraduate Research Executive and/or other University committees.

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.

Summary of key changes and enhancements in 2016/17 taken to implement Quality Code Chapter B11

- Expanded and reviewed marketing and recruitment activity, including various CMA-related actions
- Began quarterly PGR-SSS Managers Group to bring together PGR and Student Support Service staff
- Continued implementing doctoral training changes including two student consultations with UEA SU
- Reviewed first year of probationary review and made improvements to online functionality
- Reviewed EU PGR student numbers and checked support available through Student Support Service
- Worked with UEA SU and SSS on PGR mental health and wellbeing, Fitness for Study, Return to Study
- Set up first UEA split-site PhD agreement with SUSTech in Shenzhen, China, and related assurance
- Consolidated ongoing work with the University of Suffolk in supporting Suffolk-based PGR candidates
- Reviewed the options for online doctoral education and clarified mechanisms for course proposals
- Reviewed the Doctor of Medicine and approved two new professional doctorate awards (EdPsyD, ProfD)
- Reviewed professional practice programmes in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Reviewed the University's policy on e-thesis deposit, embargo and retraction, and related guidance
- Started development of PGR supervision module in University MA in Higher Education Practice
- Responded to government consultation on Doctoral Loans; contributed to Westminster round table event
- Noted increased engagement of PGR students with the Careers Service and availability of related data
- Noted progress in strategic benchmarking KPIs such as 98% compliance with online SITS APR
- Excellent response rates were achieved in Researchfish submissions from RCUK-funded PGR students
- Excellent response rate (58%) to PRES 2017; overall satisfaction up again from 84% (2015) to 87%
- Full-time PhD submission rates considered by Senate, LTC and PGR Executive; 10 Schools made plans
- Reviewed and increased reassessment fees and external examiner fees; reviewed guidance for expenses
- Reviewed Right to Work Check procedures for PGR external examiners with HR teams and local support
- Tier 4 arrangements for visiting research students were reviewed together with HR and ARM teams
- Added all remaining research degree courses to single updated Instructions to Examiners
- Regular annual activities were carried out for PGR including reviews of external examiners' reports

The annual PGR Directors' Conference in November covered developments of the University's doctoral training framework, and included student, training coordinator and DTP representative speakers.