

## Research Degrees Committee

### Terms of Reference

**Purpose:** To monitor research students' programmes and academic progression, and consider and approve the appointment of examination teams and examination outcomes. To monitor and evaluate research degree quality and provision. To ensure appropriate research student and supervisor training is provided.

#### Remit

1. On behalf of Academic Board, as a formal sub-committee of the University R&I Committee, and working with Schools, to monitor research postgraduate degree students' programmes of study.
2. To monitor research postgraduate students' academic progression.
3. To consider and approve the appointment of research degree examination teams.
4. To consider and approve research degree examination outcomes.
5. To ensure the academic standards of the University's research degrees.
6. To undertake an annual review of regulations and procedures.
7. To promote best practice in RPG supervision, assessment and examination.
8. To monitor research postgraduate completion rates and student satisfaction levels for comparison with sector norms.
9. To monitor and evaluate the delivery of appropriate supervisor development and training, to ensure quality and to increase supervisory capacity.
10. To monitor and evaluate the delivery of RPG student development and training according to appropriate external benchmarks.
11. To annually review the provision of Research Degree and develop new routes for research post-graduate education.
12. To receive reports from School Research Degree Committees on the progress of Research Degree students.
13. To report routinely through Committee minutes, and formally annually, to the University Research & Innovation Committee on the fulfilment of its remit.

#### Quorum

One-third of the total membership (excluding co-options) which must include either the Convenor or a designated Vice-Convenor

#### Frequency of Meetings

Five Policy Meetings.  
Six Student Matters Meetings  
Two Student Monitoring Meetings

#### Reporting Line

Research & Innovation Committee

#### Minutes

Copies of open minutes will be forwarded to the University R&I Committee.  
Open minutes and papers will be held electronically by RIE.  
Closed minutes will be held by RIE.

#### Equality Issues

Those officers with responsibility for nominating or appointing members to the committee as prescribed by the constitution should, in doing so, have due regard to the desirability of achieving an equal balance of either gender within the committee's membership.

#### Constitution

Professorial Leader, Research Degrees (Convenor)  
School Research Degrees Leaders  
Leader of Researcher Development  
Three additional academic staff members appointed by the Convenor

In attendance: Clerk to the Committee  
RPG URDC student representatives (x2) (at Policy meetings only)

Vice-Convenor, to be appointed by the Convenor from the membership