



Senate

Paper Title	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary December 2024 - February 2025
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (RDPEB).
Points for Senate members to note and further information	This paper summarises business considered by RDPEB at meetings held in December 2024 - February 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• part 2 approval of new PhD Organ-on-a-Chip Technologies, SEMs;• beginning of discussion of changes to the Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degrees for 2025-6;• consideration of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) changes to the support for Research Council funded students through UKRI training grant funds.
Questions for Senate to consider	Senate is asked to note the report.
Regulatory/statutory reference points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Queen Mary Strategy 2030• Queen Mary Academic Regulations• Queen Mary Code of Practice for Research Degrees Programmes• Office for Students regulations and policies <p>RDPEB has oversight of quality and standards issues relating to research degree programmes.</p>
Strategy and risk	
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	
Authors	Mary Childs/Anderson Santos, Research Degrees Office
Sponsor	Professor Tim Warner, Dean for Postgraduate Research Director of the Doctoral College and Chair of the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board



RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND EXAMINATIONS BOARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY December 2024 - February 2025

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 Head of the Doctoral College is in attendance.

The secretariat is provided by the Research Degrees Office.

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;
 - considers and advises on processes and policies for research degrees.

Decisions are recorded in the minutes of the monthly meetings of the Board.

Part 2 approval of new PhD programme Organ-on-a-Chip Technologies, SEMS

3. The School of Engineering and Materials Science is introducing a PhD programme to develop Organ-on-a-Chip Technologies. The Board approved the Part 2 programme proposal papers which completes the programme approval process.
4. This new PhD programme is supported by the successful bid to UK Research and Innovation and EPSRC for funding for a new centre for doctoral training in Next Generation Organ-on-a-Chip Technologies (COaCT). The programme will follow the standard PhD requirements and no changes to Academic Regulations are required. The programme will be managed by SEMS. Students may carry out their research in other

departments in the Faculties of Science and Engineering and Medicine and Dentistry associated with the CDT.

Changes to the Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degrees for 2025-6

5. The Board has begun discussion of the possible changes to the Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degrees for 2025-6. These will be recommended to Senate at its summer meeting.

UKRI New Deal for PGR

6. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) published on 30 January 2025 information about the changes being made to the support available to UKRI Research Council funded students through training grant funds. These changes will be considered by the Doctoral College Management Group and the Research and Innovation Board. Any recommendations requiring changes to the Academic Regulations and the Code of Practice for Research Degrees will be referred to the Research Degrees Board to consider and to Senate for approval. Further information is available here: <https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-is-increasing-phd-stipends-and-improving-student-support/>
7. The UKRI announcement includes details of changes to their doctoral training grant terms and conditions for 2025-6. In particular UKRI is increasing the research student minimum stipend by 8% to £20,780 from 1 October 2025. This is the standard rate. £2k p.a. is added for "London weighting". The Research and Innovation Board will consider how this might impact on the stipend rate for Queen Mary funded studentships.

Mary Childs/Anderson Santos
Research Degrees Office
Registry Services
Student Experience Directorate