



Senate

Paper title	Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board Executive Summary March to May 2025
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the executive summary of business considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board (RDPEB).
Points to note and further information	This paper summarises business considered by RDPEB at meetings held from March to May 2025: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students' Businesses term of reference 2. Guidance on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence service for PGR thesis 3. UKRI funded students' new deal/updates 4. Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degrees Programmes for 2025-26 5. EngD in Data-Centric Engineering programme amendments
Questions 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 • OfS regulations and policies <p>RDPEB has oversight of quality and standards issues relating to research degree programmes.</p>
Strategy and risk	
Reporting/consideration route	Draft proposals are considered by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board and the Education Quality and Standards Board (EQSB). Final recommendations will be proposed to the Senate by RDPEB for approval.
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Sponsor	Professor Tim Warner, Dean for Postgraduate Research



Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board

Executive Summary - March to May 2025

1. Students' Businesses are not included in this paper

The Board:

- a. considers and approves nominations for internal and external examiners for research degrees;
- b. considers and approves outcomes of research degree examinations and reviews all examiners' reports;
- c. considers and makes decisions on applications to interrupt studies and extensions to the thesis submission deadline;
- d. approves awards for research degrees on behalf of Senate;
- e. considers and advises on processes and policies for research degrees.

Items discussed/approved at the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board on Wednesday 19 March 2025

2. Guidance on the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence service for PGR thesis

- a. Added statement of originality for inclusion in research degree theses: reference to the use of Generative AI, and guidance to PGR students updated.
- b. Doctoral Colleague guidance on editorial assistance for research degree theses has been published on the [policy zone webpage](#).

3. UKRI funded students' new deal/updates

- a. There are not changes that affect the Academic Regulations or the Code of Practice.
- b. Despite UKRI guidelines, clause TGC 8.3.2.2, recommending the implementation of phased return after a period of leave, QMUL maintains the mode of attendance at 100% for full-time and 50% for part-time students.
Any arrangements students might have with their schools will not impact on the student official registration with QMUL; stipends will only be disbursed according to the student registration 100% FT or 50% PT.
- c. This information has been included in the QMUL/UKRI studentships Terms & Conditions.

Items discussed/approved at the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board on Wednesday 16 April 2025

4. Academic Regulations and Code of Practice for Research Degrees Programmes for 2025-26

The Senate paper item **SE2024.50a**, in June's meeting, summarises the proposed updates.

The recommendations in that paper have been confirmed by the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board and the Education Quality and Standards Board.

The changes did not involve content, but only grammar, numbering and hyperlinks.

Senate is asked to approve the proposed changes to the Academic Regulations and to the Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes for 2025-26, at its meeting in June, for publication on 1 August 2025.

Senate will be asked to delegate to the Chair of the Research Degrees Board (RDPEB) the authority to approve any final minor or factual revisions to the text of the Code of Practice.

Items discussed/approved at the Research Degrees Programmes and Examinations Board on Wednesday 21 May 2025

5. EngD in Data-Centric Engineering programme amendments

The Board has approved minor amendments to the Eng-DCE programme, which comprises of changing modules requirement from six to four.

The modules do not count towards the degree, nor show in transcripts.

These changes come into effect from 1 Aug 2025.