

The University of Derby
Research
Annual Report 2010/11

1. Executive Summary

Research at Derby is important. It helps to inform the core student learning function of the University and it also contributes significantly to social, cultural, business and technological matters. Research was supported by HEFCE Quality Related (QR) funding for the first time in 2009/10 and this continued in 2010/11 at a slightly reduced level. The University has also continued to invest University funds in order to support research activity which informs the curriculum and teaching practice. The combination of HEFCE and University funding has helped to achieve major progress in research during 2010/11.

During the year researchers have stepped up the pace of preparations for the Research Excellence Framework in 2014. The Research Excellence Framework 2014 Planning Committee was established and conducted a REF audit in January 2011. This showed evidence of strong progress since autumn 2007. At least eight prospective units of assessment have been identified for probable submission in autumn 2013 compared to just four in autumn 2007.

The new professional doctorate programme in Health and Social Care recruited its first cohort of students in January 2011 and Doctor of Education (EdD) programme commenced the introduction of the revised programme structure validated in January 2010. The number of PGR doctoral graduates jumped from 10 in 2009/10 to 17 in 2010/11 and there were several EdD doctoral awards as well.

The PGR students organised their second annual Postgraduate Research Conference *New Horizons* which was open to all doctoral students of the University. Support for international students was strengthened this year with the launch of the academic English Language programme. This was well received by PGR students. The Master of Research Degree (MRes) which forms stage 1 of the New Route PhD is now available as a stand alone programme for students who wish to prepare for doctoral research. The PGR student questionnaire had a record 50% response rate this year. The overall level of satisfaction is high with 85% regarding their experience as excellent or good.

Last year the annual report indicated an issue with the PGR completion rate and withdrawals. It became evident that there had been instances where students had been admitted with appropriate qualifications and references but lacking the inherent research curiosity and sense of inquiry essential for good research. A risk based approach to admissions was introduced and the progress chart has been introduced to strengthen monitoring. There have been fewer withdrawals this year but the number has remained quite high as faculties identify PGR students admitted some years ago who have not made satisfactory progress. The Faculty Research and Research Degree Committees have taken robust measures to apply the policy of PGR completion within the target times. This work will continue in 2011/12 to bring the University to the national benchmark position by 2014. Here are some of the headlines.

- 61 PGR students responded to the annual questionnaire which is the highest proportion ever (50%)
- The proportion of students who regard their research training experience as excellent is 33% (2007 = 22%, 2008 = 30%, 2009 = 32%, 2010 = 34%) The proportion of PGR students who regard their experience as excellent or good 85% (2009 = 78%; 2010 = 89%).
- There were 17 PGR completions compared to 11 last year and 13 withdrawals compared to 22 in 2009/10.
- The average completion time was 3.9 years (FT) and 6 years (PT) all by the Traditional Route.
- A risk-based approach to admissions was introduced in 2010/11 which is expected the benefit the completion rate, progressively improving from 2012 to the benchmark level by 2014/5.
- There has been good progress towards preparation for the submission to the Research Excellence Framework 2014. The audit conducted in January 2011 suggests that the University is likely to be able

to submit in the order of 100 researchers in a total of eight [or nine] units of assessment compared to 58 researchers in four units submitted to RAE 2008.

- The HEFCE Quality Related funding for 2009/10 was £516 k following some HEFCE claw-back during the year. A substantial proportion has been re-invested in the centres and groups that entered the RAE 2008, but it has also been used for a range of other research investments.
- The PGR students organised the second very successful New Horizons Conference.
- The Research Office has introduced periodic PGR Networking events as part of the University induction to research. These have been well received, particularly by international students.
- The core modules in Research Supervision and Research Colloquium have run for the first time this year. They form the core of the new CPD programme in Academic Practice in Research which was validated in August 2010.
- The University held the second External Funding Conference in January with excellent external speakers and workshops organised by Gaynor Davis and Lynne Hand.
- The fourth Annual Research Conference was organised by the Research Office and attended by 100 researchers.
- The sixth Annual Research Review was published in July 2011.

This report is complemented by the 36 page **Research Review 2011** published in July. This provides a good insight into staff and postgraduate research activity across the University. The progress of PGP students is contained in separate annual programme reports.

2. The research profile

The research profile shows a slight increase in professors, university readers and visiting fellows but a reduction in the number of visiting professors (Table 1).

Professors	Visiting Professors	University Readers	Senior Research Fellows	Research Associates & Fellows	Visiting Fellows	PGR Research Supervisors	Research Students
28 (29)	27 (26)	27(25)	4(4)	5	27 (25)	141	121 (124)

Table 1. The research profile of the University. *The 2009/10 numbers are shown in brackets for comparison.*

3. Research Centres and Groups

3.1 Research Centres

1. **Digital and Material Arts:** Director of Research Centre: Professor John Goto:
2. **Educational Research*:** Director of Research Centre: Professor Dennis Hayes
3. **Identity, Conflict and Representation:** Director of Research Centre: Professor Robert Hudson;
4. **Psychological Research:** Director of Research Centre: Professor James Elander.

*Amended title approved by the Executive

3.2 Research Groups

1. **Academic Practice:** Head of Research Group: *To be appointed*
2. **Applied Mental Health:** Head of Research Group: Professor Chris Brannigan
3. **Biological Sciences:** Head of Research Group: Dr Heidi Sowter
4. **Built Environment:** Head of Research Group: Eleni Tracada
5. **Creative Technologies¹:** Head of Research Group: Dr Bruce Wiggins
6. **Culture, Lifestyle and Landscape:** Head of Research Group: Tim Heap:
7. **Distributed and Intelligent Systems:** Head of Research Group: Professor Nik Bessis
8. **Electronic and Software Systems¹:** Head of Research Group: Tim Wilmshurst
9. **Human and Physical Environments:** Head of Research Group: Dr Richard Pope:
10. **Law in Society:** Head of Research Group: Dr David Walsh
11. **Mechanical Engineering and Industrial Design:** Head of Research Group: Professor Mianhong Wu
12. **Society, Religion and Belief:** Head of Research Group: Dr Kristin Aune
13. **Systems Thinking and Organisational Change:** Head of Research Group: Dr David Longbottom
14. **Design and Visual Communications*:** Head of Research Group: Jane Stanton

*Amended title approved by URRDC

¹ Denotes new research group during 2010/11.

The two new research groups are in ADT and replace the former Signal Processing Applications Research Group. The aim is to establish centres and groups which match the curriculum offer across the University. There remains scope for new research groups in sports science, health care and gerontology. Another very significant area which would benefit from a research group is on-line learning. URRDC intends that every researcher at the University should be able to identify with a community of like-minded researchers. All research funded by the University is expected to support student learning on taught programmes.

5. Research income and expenditure 2010/11

Table 2: Research income from HEFCE in 2010/11

The 80% fraction was reinvested in the research centres and groups which earned the HEFCE income, subject to the standard contribution rate (30%). The residual 20% fraction formed the Central Research Fund which was used to fund the non-QR funded research centres and groups and invest in measures to improve external funding. The Central Research Fund was also used to pay for the Research Conferences, the Research Review, one PGR Studentship, PGR Conference grants and PGR resources.

Unit of Assessment	QR £	RDP	Charity Support	Total	80%	After contrib
Biological Sciences	63,194	14,842	877	78,913	63,130	44,191
Psychology	80,052	26,531	0	106,583	85,266	59,686
Art and Design	96,791	4,824	0	101,575	81,260	56,882
Communication, Cultural & Media Studies	206,133	27,829	0	233,962	131,019	131,091
Business Related QR				5,062		
Total £	446,130	74,026	877	526,095	416,826	291,778

Table 3: Research Contract income (£ thousands)

Source	ADT	BCL	EHS	UDB	TOTAL
Research Councils	0	0	104 (47)	0	104 (47)
Public bodies/charities Non-income generating	105 (13)	62 (14)	233 (63)	0 (7)	400 (97)
Commercial contracts Income generating	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL contract income	105 (13)	62 (14)	337 (110)	0 (7)	504 (144)

Research costs	82	47	201	0	330 k
Net position 2010/11	12	14	95	0	121 k

Table 3. The Table shows the income accounting position from research grants which were operational in 2010/11. This differs from the grant income captured during the year. This is because grants received may be divided between collaborative partner and the funding is often spread over several years. Similarly, the net position [surplus] is derived from the actual accounted income and expenditure over the year. *Data kindly provided by Laura Mahal.*

There has been a significant improvement in the accountable external research income to the University in 2010/11. This is reflected in Arts, Design and Technology, Business Computing and Law and Education, Health and Sciences. Nevertheless, The University Research and Research Degrees Committee plans to improve the position further and is considering measures which can be introduced in 2011/12. It will be necessary to create a Peer Review Panel to consider applications submitted to the research councils. This is shortly to become a requirement of the Economic and Social Research Council.

In addition to the above, the University has made the following funds available for 2010/11. Most of these funds have been channelled, through a process of competitive application, to individual or small groups of researchers in the faculties for the purpose of research which supports the teaching role.

1. Promising Researchers Fund = £35 k
2. The Teaching Informed by Research Fund = £100 k.
3. The Research Fund [Development Fund] = £100 k.
4. Total £235 k.

The grand total research income in 2010/11, including the teaching-support research funds, was £1,265 k. This figure compares to £952 k in 2009/10 and £671 k in 2008/09.

The TRAC survey 2010 for academic year 2009/10 showed an improved position compared to the previous two years but still showed a significant deficit for postgraduate research tuition. However two aspects of the method which has been approved (and therefore correctly applied) for the TRAC calculations were found to result in a substantial exaggeration of PGR tuition costs. This matter has been addressed by the HR Director and so future TRAC calculations should be a better reflection of the actual position.

6. Postgraduate Research provision (PGR)

6.1 The recruitment of research students

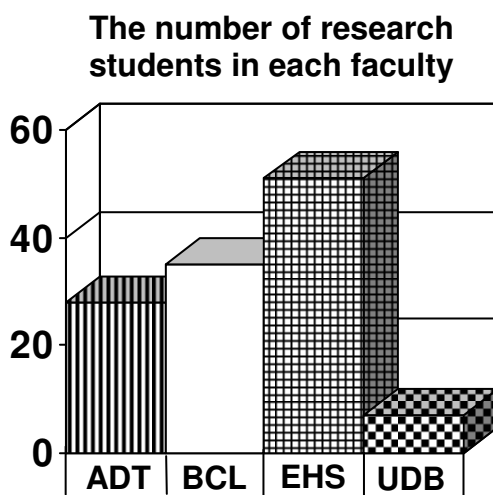


Figure 1 Chart illustrating the total number of research students (full and part time) enrolled in each faculty on 31st July 2010.

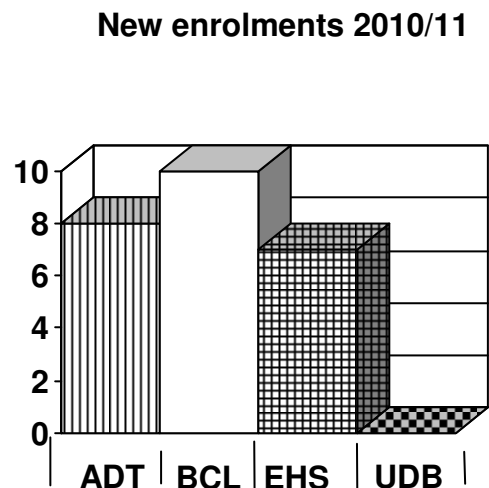


Figure 2 Chart showing the number of new research students enrolled in each faculty over the period from 1st August 2010 to 31st July 2011. The total number of new students = 25 (2009 = 33; 2010 = 28)

The overall number of enrolled students on 31st July 2011 was 121 (Figure 1). Twenty five new students were enrolled, 17 completed and 13 withdrew giving a net reduction of five. The number of withdrawals (13) is results in part from Faculty Research and Research Degree Committees terminating the registration of PGR students admitted some years ago whose progress is poor and will not complete. Following a high withdrawal rate in 2009/10 a joint decision with the faculty was taken to suspend new PGR enrolments in UDB until there was confidence that the problems had been overcome. There were no withdrawals from UDB in 2010/11 and progress has been good. Recruitment resumed with effect from 1st August.

The Research Office has developed a new initiative called PGR Network Events based upon experience gained in EHS. PGR students are invited to a two-hour facilitated meeting in which new PGR student meet other students and there is a discussion on various aspects of research. There have been three PGR Network Events in 2010/11.

6.2 Registration of PGR students

The registration process has operated effectively with the majority of registrations taking place on schedule and no instances of major delays. Two students in BCL were not successful in registration. It is important that if a student does not have the potential to complete a doctoral thesis that was believed at enrolment, this should be identified at registration and a firm decision taken. More harm is realised if the weak student is permitted to continue and struggle.

6.3 Confirmation of registration

The faculties have made good progress in ensuring the students complete the confirmation of registration on time. There is only one overdue student in BCL and there are two in EHS.

6.4. The sources of funding

Faculty	Self-funded	Staff	Graduate Teaching Assistants	University Research Studentships	Research Council Studentships	External sponsors	Total	Total Fees Paid 2009/10
ADT	17	1	0	3	0	6	27	£81,752
BCL	17	6	4	0	0	7	34	£31,641
EHS	26	5	4	7	1	7	50	£118,778
UDB	4	1	1	0	0	1	7	£11,368
Total	64	13	9	10	1	21	118	£243,539

Table 3 Table showing the sources of tuition fees for the PGR students in each faculty.

The majority of PGR students (60%) are self-funded (Table 4). About 9% hold University Research Studentships and a further 7% hold Graduate Teaching Assistantships. 20% of students have external sponsorships.

6.5 Research degree completions

There were 17 completions in 2010/11 which was a significant improvement on the previous year (11). The process is running very smoothly and the on-going survey of student experience suggests that the policy of holding mock *viva-voce* examinations is worthwhile. The analysis of completion times indicates that the average time for full time students was 3.9 years and the average time for part time students was 6 years. The aim is to reduce further the time taken for full time Traditional Route students to about 3.3 years which is the sector average.

6.6 Non-completions: an update on the position

Last year the high number of withdrawals combined with a low completion rate for the 2002/3 cohort prompted a review. It was decided that since the doctoral provision is of high quality and the PGR experience is regarded by students to be overwhelmingly good or excellent, the problem must lie with the recruitment of research students. Applicants may be technically qualified but this does not mean that the applicant is suited to postgraduate research. A risk-based approach to recruitment was adopted and implemented with immediate effect.

There are still instances where, in hind sight, an acceptance was not the right decision but there has been an improvement in the admissions process this year. It is more important that the PGR students accepted at Derby have a good experience and are successful than for PGR student numbers to grow. The University aims to provide high quality postgraduate research training experience on a sound business basis.

There are still instances of PGR students who are struggling to progress and some of these enrolments are being terminated. It is important that the Faculty Research and Research Degree Committees get a strong grip of PGR progress. This has been achieved in ADT, there has been good progress in BCL and UDB and work is continuing in this direction in EHS.

In addition to adopting the risk-based approach to admissions, URRDC has agreed to introduce the progress chart for each student. The plan of progress is drawn up as a chart at the time of

registration and the chart is then updated to measure actual progress against the plan with each annual report and at the confirmation of registration. The chart is expected to be a material help in helping to ensure that PGR students complete on schedule. At the same time the new fees structure provides a strong financial incentive to complete on time. Part time fees become payable in place of writing-up fees if a student goes over the target completion time. This arrangement is also a better reflection of actual costs because students who are writing these need significant supervisory support.

6.7 Complaints, Appeals and Failures

During the year there was one complaint regarding excessive time taken to consider an application for a PGR place in Law. The complaint was upheld. In future the Head of Research will be informed of any application which the Research Office believes a cause for concern in terms of the response time. One student was unsuccessful in gaining a doctorate following major revision. The student transferred registration to the Master of Philosophy and was successful in gaining that award.

6.8 PGR Office Accommodation

The Head of Research and the PGR students in the office accommodation on N3 have jointly developed a code of practice for the occupants of this accommodation. This is now in operation. One of the first steps taken was to remove detritus left by previous occupants. The Head of Research has also held occasional informal meetings with PGR students to talk about any aspect of the PGR experience. This will be continued in 2011/12. Two corridor notice boards have been obtained on loan (with thanks to the School of Health and Therapeutic Studies).

6.9 The New Route PhD

Launched in August 2008, this route is recommended for students who have recently graduated and have not taken a master's degree. The ten students on this programme are making good progress and two part time students have now submitted their thesis for the MRes intermediate award. The research skills modules have operated smoothly in 2010/11 and the research methods module has received a commendation from the external examiner for the design, content and tutor support. The grades achieved have generally been high. The New Route PhD Programme Handbook has been revised (August 2011) and the guidance in the regulations has been revised.

The programme committee has commenced a review of the research training support programme. Two additional research skills modules will be added in August 2012 to make the programme fully comparable with the ESRC standard for research training programmes. This appears to be the only *credit-based on-line* research skills programme in the East Midlands at the present time. The advantage of this programme is that the modules can be used to support any master's programme in the University.

The Master of Research programme (MRes) has hitherto been available only as part of the New Route PhD. From August 2011, the programme is also available on a stand alone basis which means that any subject in the University can use the programme as a preparation for research and can include subject modules to help contextualise the programme to their discipline.

6.10 The PGR student questionnaire survey July 2011

6.10.1 The overall response

The Research Office received 61 returns, which is a record 50% of the cohort. In the following information, the equivalent figure for last year is shown in brackets. The overall level of satisfaction [satisfactory, good or excellent] was 98% (100%). Thirty four percent 33% (34%) of respondents rated their experience as excellent and a further 52% (55%) regarded their experience as good. Hence 85% of respondents regarded their experience as excellent or good. The analysis was carried out at faculty level and a similar pattern was replicated in the four faculties. All four faculties can have reasons for satisfaction. ADT recorded the highest proportion of excellent ratings (43%). The factors which have contributed to the favourable result are thought to be the PGR New Horizons

Conference, the PGR Network meetings, the academic English Language classes and most important of all the continuing commitment of directors of studies to the support for their students. One distance learner commented on the improvement in systems and support since 2009.

Student opinion	ADT	BCL	EHS	UDB	Overall
Excellent	43%	26%	38%	0	33%
Good	36%	63%	50%	75%	52%
Satisfactory	14%	11%	12%	25%	13%
Poor	7%*	0	0	0	2%*
Very poor	0	0	0	0	0
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4: The student response regarding the overall quality of their PGR experience. (n = 61) *Represents one student who is exercised by issues outside the University's control.

6.10.2 The support from the director of studies

Students commonly expressed considerable satisfaction with their supervisors. One student noted that the director of studies has been changed several times but indicated overall satisfaction. Another commented that her second supervisor had not read her confirmation of registration report.

6.10.3 The PGR Seminars and the PGR Communications Workshops

This year the PGR Seminars were lengthened to 1½ hours to encourage more depth. Feedback was generally very positive indeed. One felt that the seminars were too generic. The response to the new communications workshops was also favourable.

6.10.4 The library environment

Once again the respondents praised the staff of the library for their helpfulness particularly in acquiring books on interlibrary loan. One Buxton respondent drew attention to noise in the library.

6.10.5 Further individual comments

Positive comments

- I am extremely satisfied with my director of studies (New Route student)
- I have had several changes of DoS but the Faculty Head of Research has been very helpful (BCL)
- Research Office excellent/ friendly and helpful
- Faculty Office very helpful (Helen Lord mentioned)
- The new colour zones in the library are very effective
- PGR New Horizons Conference well organised; fantastic. It was a most interesting experience writing a short presentation for non-specialists. This was great communication training; there was strength in the eclectic mix of research on show: a harvest of ideas
- Academic English classes very useful and lecturers were committed; they were great but a bit short.
- As a distance learning student since January 2009, have noted how much provision and the systems have improved.
- University of Derby staff have been as wonderful as ever
- The Wellbeing Centre helped me with a financial problem.
- Excellent healthcare support from Park Medical Practice

Constructive criticisms

- Might be useful for the two academic English lecturers to harmonise their notes and also to distribute materials before classes begin
- It is difficult to work in the library because it is noisy (Buxton)
- Interlibrary loan takes too long. [one isolated incident?]
- The PGR Communications Workshop on confirmation of registration needs to be *deeper* with the student participating explaining his/her experience rather than repeating the *viva* presentation
- PGR student have to deal with other departments such as Estates and ITS and they do not understand why non-staff PGR students need to raise purchase orders. (Neither do I!)

7. Professional development for research and teaching staff

The programme in Academic Practice in Research was validated in August 2010 and is owned by the Learning Enhancement and Innovation Department with Professor Barbara Dexter as the Programme Leader. Kevin Silber has taken over the programme leadership following the departure of Professor Dexter. This important programme is a key part of the Continuing Professional Development for staff at the University of Derby and is also fulfilment of the national concordat for researchers which is a *requirement* of all UK universities. The programme has been designed to enable staff to balance their research and teaching professional interests and is ideally suited for this University. The core modules in Research Colloquium and Research Supervision were offered in 2010/11. The full programme is scheduled to operate in 2011/12. URRDC remains concerned by the confusion regarding the staff understanding of the Academic Workload Model and the tendency for the 200 hours intended to be used for scholarship and research being actually used for further duties.

8. Preparations for the submission to the Research Excellence Framework 2014

There has been good progress in the preparations for the submission of units of assessment to the Research Excellence Framework 2014. The REF strategy was approved in December 2010; the REF 2014 Planning Committee was established in February 2011; the first comprehensive audit of the University position was conducted in January 2011 and the REF 2014 planning committee has started work on the detailed procedures that will be followed. The audit showed that there has been significant advance in research productivity since 2007 and it is expected that eight [or nine] units of assessment involving about 100 researchers will be submitted in autumn 2013. The immediate priorities are to agree the code of practice for the selection of researchers and to tackle the challenge of evidencing the economic and social benefits of research.

9. The University of Derby on-line Research Archive (UDORA)

During the academic year, Richard Finch and Melanie McKeedy have adapted the software for archiving research outputs in a University archive which is accessible on-line. This repository was tested in trials between January and June and should be ready for implementation in September 2011. It could be made accessible to external enquiry.

10. Research ethics

Jo Hutchinson has taken over from Professor Paul Lynch as chair of the University Research Ethics Committee. The school/subject Research Ethics Committees were established in 2009/10 to consider all staff and student proposals for research and independent scholarship. Experience in this past first year that some adjustments are desirable in the coming year to reduce the time the committees spend in meetings. URRDC has agreed to an audit sample approach which will greatly reduce the burden on individual committees. Funding for the research ethics administration ended in July 2011 and alternative sources have not been forthcoming. This matter will be addressed in the early autumn 2011.

11. Grants from the Teaching Informed by Research & Research Inspired Curriculum Funds

These two funds have awarded about £200 k in small grants in July 2010 to support research projects in 2010/11. An audit of the projects conducted in 2009/10 was conducted in November 2010. The summary report was considered by Academic Board, the Executive and the faculties. The funds have been amalgamated to create the Research for learning and Teaching Fund for 2011/12. This is jointly operated with the Learning Enhancement and Innovation Fund.

12. Research Administration

The Research Office has continued to provide excellent support for research activities. In particular this year, it has undertaken:

- Further work to help ensure University compliance with the International Border Agency requirements.
- The management of the PGR office accommodation on N3 particularly the hot-desk system
- Continued improvement of the efficiency of the re-enrolment process
- The development of the research website for news updates and the creation of a Research Excellence Framework intranet website
- Servicing the New Route PhD Programme Assessment Board
- Implementing the new PGR Tuition Fees arrangements
- The revision of the PGR regulations
- The organisation of URRDC meetings and the planning of FRRDC meetings
- The upkeep of the PGR Student Database
- Organisation of PGR examinations and the survey of PGR experience of viva-voce examinations
- Admissions and student seminar programmes
- Advice given to the Head of Research and the Faculty Heads of Research

All these tasks have been undertaken to a high standard. The Research Office team is well organised and efficient.

12. Measuring research performance - performance indicators 2010/11

Research has the following key outputs. (i) **The standard of research** The outcomes of research enquiries, communicated to the public audience as published works or exhibits which have made *original* contributions to understanding in their respective disciplines; (ii) **The value of research to society** Research which has discernable economic and cultural benefits for society; (iii) **Research training**: The award of research degrees (MRes, MPhil and PhD) which reflect individual student success in research training. (iv) **External funding generated**: Funding for research in the form of grants or contracts awarded by external bodies such as research councils, governmental, public and charitable bodies. URRDC has identified six performance indicators so that there are measures by which the progress in the development of research can be monitored. These are set out in Table 5 below.

- (i) **The standard of research**: The next national assessment will take place through REF 2014 with submission due in November 2013 and the outcomes due in December 2014. It is not practical for the University to self-assess the standard of research on an annual basis. It would not be cost effective. Therefore a *productivity* measure has been introduced with effect from 2010/11.
- (ii) **The value of research to society**: This is an important aspect of research at Derby and is exemplified in the Annual Research Reviews published each July since 2006. This aspect will be subject to specific peer view assessment in REF 2014 leading to a quantitative measure. In the interim it is not practicable to have a quantitative measure.
- (iii) **Research training**: There are three aspects of research training that can be measured: The number of research degree awards each year; the student satisfaction with their training experience; the completion rate of each annual cohort; the completion times compared to student intended completion times.
- (iv) **External funding**: This is measured by the total amount of **new** income awarded over an academic year.

	Aspect	How the performance indicator is derived	Actual	PI
1.	Productivity - Publications & exhibitions	The total number of cited exhibitions, books, journal papers and conference proceedings published in the academic year (May 2010 to April 2011). Excludes book reviews, text books, general articles and conference presentations and works in progress or in press. Source: the annual reports June 2011	292	1.0
2.	The PGR Experience	This is the proportion of PGR respondents who regard their experience at Derby as excellent or good. (July 2011)	85%	1.05
3.	Number of completions	The number of PGR students awarded a research degree in 2010/11.	17	1.31
4.	PGR cohort completion rate	The proportion of FT PGR students in 2003/4 cohort to have completed (7 years). The target is the national benchmark.	25%	0.63
5.	PGR completion times	The average number of years taken by 2010/11 full and part time doctoral graduates to complete their PhD (<1.0 = +ve)	FT = 3.9 PT = 6.0	0.78 0.86
6.	New external income capture	This is the total amount of new external funding captured during the academic year 2010/11 (excluding HEFCE)	£126,004	1.12

Table 5: The performance indicator is the actual result for 2010/11 divided by the average of the three previous years. Green = positive result. Orange = marginal negative; Red = strongly negative result.

Commentary: This is the first quantitative measure of productivity and so there are no previous figures for comparison. However, the annual reports are more substantial with many more entries than in the past. The PGR training level of satisfaction is very positive indeed. An analysis of the annual reports shows that the proportion of students who regard their experience as excellent or good has risen progressively from 67% in 2003/4 to 85% in 2010/11. The number of completions in 2010/11 is up compared with the last three years although this figure is variable. The PGR completion rate compared with the national benchmark is poor. This was recognised last year and an action plan implemented. The first improvements should be evident in 2012/13. The completion times have improved from a low base but further improvement is desirable. The externally funding capture is up compared to the last three years but is still low compared with the University potential.

13. Planned actions for 2011/12 arising from this report

From the consideration of the information contained in this annual report, the University Research and Research Degrees Committee has identified the following actions for 2011/12.

1. Devise and agree a strategy for improving the external income for research and related activities at the University.
2. Continued Implementation of a risk-based approach to PGR admissions and recognition of the critical responsibility borne by directors of studies for ensuring that only suitable students are enrolled as PGR students and that they are proactively guided to completion on schedule.
3. Devise and agree a code of practice for the selection of researchers for the Research Excellence framework 2014 and conduct trials for securing evidence of research impact.
4. Continued implementation of the CDP in Academic Practice in Research in support of PGR supervisors.
5. Address the matter of funding the administration of research ethics matters.
6. Review and strengthen the on-line research training support programme for PGR students.
7. Consider the development of a Doctoral Training Centre(s) with responsibility for oversight of curriculum development for research methods and research skills.
8. Encourage new research groups in areas where there is taught curriculum with no underpinning research.
9. Implement UDORA the new research repository and provide incentives for the full use of the Research Activities Database.
10. Devise research performance indicators and associated targets.

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Paul H Bridges

Head of Research

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Agreed by the University Research and Research Degrees Committee on 21st September 2011

Approved by Academic Board, 12th October 2011