

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND RESEARCH DEGREES COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

The function of the University Research and Research Degrees Committee is to promote and co-ordinate research activity across the institution ensuring that the resource available is used effectively. The Committee is responsible for advising Academic Board on research strategy and policies and for reporting on the outcomes of research activity. The Committee should also monitor, evaluate and enhance the quality of the Postgraduate Professional and Postgraduate Research provision ensuring that it fully satisfies the standards set down by external agencies including the HEFCE, the QAA and the Research Councils. The Committee seeks to have due regard to equal opportunities in its composition, its conduct and the business it transacts.

The Committee is expected to liaise as necessary with the Regulatory Frameworks Committee with regard to the occasional revision of the PG Professional and PG Research Regulatory Frameworks to ensure consistency with the PG Taught Regulatory Framework.

The Committee has the authority to exercise the following powers:

1. To approve new research groups and to evaluate the performance of research centres and groups;
2. To approve through an agreed and documented mechanism the appointment of external examiners for PGR candidates for a higher degree;
3. To approve through an agreed and documented mechanism the award of higher degrees to individuals who have satisfied the examiners with regard to the examination requirements;

The Committee is expected to undertake the following;

1. recommend to Academic Board research strategy, policies, codes of practice and charters which the University should adopt in order to enhance research activity or respond to national developments;
2. advise the Executive regarding financial policies and infrastructure needs in relation to research;
3. have oversight of preparation of submissions to external assessments of research and PGR research activity such as the Research Excellence Framework;
4. monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the University's policy and procedures on research ethics;
5. advise on policies and procedures in relation to employment of research students;
6. consider and respond to issues raised by the Faculty Research and Research Degrees Committees and PGP Programme Committees;
7. monitor, evaluate and propose improvements to PGP and PGR facilities;
8. ensure provision of appropriate training and continued professional development for independent research supervisors and examiners;

9. evaluate the overall progress and performance of PG Professional and PGR research students
10. recommend amendments to the PG Professional and PG Research Regulatory Frameworks and approve associated procedural and guidance documents;

URRDC is required to submit an Annual Report on Research and the PGP and PGR provision to Academic Board.

Composition (up to 23)

Chair (appointed by Academic Board)

The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning, Teaching and Scholarship

Head of Research

Two representatives from each Faculty (one representative shall normally be the current Chair of the Faculty Research and Research Degrees Committee)*:

One representative of the School of Flexible and Partnership Learning

Two PG Professional Programme Leaders

Senior Administrator with responsibility for Research

A minimum of two PG Professional and two PG Research Students; maximum six PGP/PGR students

Co-option of up to two persons who bring expertise not otherwise represented on the Committee.

Committee Officer

Standing invitation: Representative of the Learning and Information Services Department

- * The representatives appointed by a Faculty should have a sound record of research. One of the representatives from each Faculty should have a good record in research supervision and some experience of examination of higher degrees by research.