

**Senate**

Subject : Review of Regulations for Research Degree Programmes Consequent on the Restructuring to Schools.

Origin: Dr Brigette Vale, Research Student Office

The Regulations Review Group, consisting of the Dean of the Graduate School, the Faculty ADRs and the Senior Assistant Registrar, Research Student Office, has developed proposals (attached) in relation to amendments to the research degree regulations necessary to give effect to the changes to the University’s structure with effect from 1 August 2011. Research Committee has recommended the proposal and Senate is now asked to consider the proposed amendments and approve them with effect from 1 August 2011.

The removal of the Faculty structure and the replacement of Heads of Departments by Deans of Schools has a significant impact on the research degree programme regulations, where Deans and ADRs of Faculties and Heads of Departments had many prescribed and defined areas of responsibility.

In seeking to redefine and reallocate those responsibilities the Group has considered the job descriptions of the Deans of Schools and the Associate Deans of Schools and has noted that the Dean of School has a strategic role and should not be expected to carry out operational responsibilities, which could be conducted by either the Dean of the Graduate School or the Associate Deans Research of Schools.

It has previously been agreed that the Dean of the Graduate School should undertake the responsibilities in relation to the approval of routine research student business, currently undertaken by the Associate Deans of the Faculties. The original job description of the ADRs for Schools has been modified to take this into account.

It is uncertain at this stage whether existing roles such as Research Co-Ordinator will remain in the new Schools and, given the varying School structure, the Group has not come to a conclusion about whether or not this role should remain in addition to the ADR in each School.

In the course of the review the group has taken the opportunity to introduce a number of amendments to the regulations alongside those necessary to give effect to the new School structure.

It is recommended that the research degree registration date of 1 December be amended to 1 January . This has become possible now that HEFCE have abandoned 1 December as its census point for the Research Activity Survey. This change will be particularly beneficial to international students, many of whom delay their arrival date until after the Christmas closure but who are now facing visa problems under the new UKBA monitoring process which requires them to have registered within a prescribed period from their start date.

The award of degrees will no longer be made by Faculty Boards or their equivalent, but routinely actioned and processed on the recommendation of Examiners. Senate will continue to award degrees for those students who have resubmitted following an appeal.

The New Route PhD regulations are deleted since the University no longer participates in this scheme.

The Higher Doctorates Committee has been disbanded and its role is replaced by the executive action of the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research.

Attached for the guidance and approval of Senate is a summary of the changes to the regulations together with the amended text. All amendments have been highlighted.

The Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research have been renamed Regulation XXVI - Research Degree Programmes so that they are consistent with other University regulations.

Annexes