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# Senate

**Subject:** Direct Registration for PhD

**Origin:** Dr Brigette Vale, Research Student Office

**Action Required**: Senate, on the recommendation of Research Committee, is asked to approve amendments to Regulation XXVI and to the Code of Practice on Research Degree Programmes necessary to give effect to direct registration for PhD on research degree programmes, for implementation for new research students registering with effect from October 2012 onwards.

At its meeting on 25 January 2012 Senate approved the recommendation of Research Committee that candidates be permitted to register directly for the award of PhD on research degree programmes. There was discussion at Senate, however, about the need to ‘maintain the developmental benefits associated with students being required to achieve a positive outcome at the end of the year 1 review process’. Accordingly Senate agreed that the new procedure should be based on a probationary period in year 1. It was agreed that at the end of year 1, students would either be confirmed as registered for PhD; have their registration amended to MPhil or have their probationary period extended into their second year of registration. Attached at Annex 1 and 2 are the amendments to the relevant sections of Regulation XXVI and to the Code of Practice on Research Degree Programmes necessary to give effect to this decision.

The concept of the introduction of a probationary year had not previously been discussed and there were some specific issues in relation to this on which Research Committee has made recommendations, so that the drafting of the regulations could be confirmed and amendments submitted to Senate for its meeting on 9 March 2012 .

These are drawn to Senate’s attention as follows-

1. There are a number of 4 year research degree programmes where the major review takes place at the end of Year 2. It was agreed that for these programmes there should be a two year probationary period and that this would be extended into year 3 if the report was unsatisfactory.
2. Currently where a student’s progress review is unsatisfactory at the end of the Year 1, they may have a further 3 months in which to rewrite and resubmit their research report. It was agreed that this should be the limit of the extension to the probationary period into Year 2 or Year 3.
3. Students on EngD programmes have always been registered directly for an EngD and the opportunity to amend registration to an MPhil at the end of Year 2 has always existed. It was not felt appropriate to introduce the concept of a probationary period for these programmes.
4. It was not felt appropriate to introduce the concept of the probationary period for staff submissions where the minimum registration period is 12 months and there is no maximum registration period.
5. The probationary period for part time students has been identified as 24 months.
6. Senate agreed that students should be able to appeal decisions to amend their registration to MPhil from PhD. Paragraph 15 of Regulation XXVI has been amended to reflect this and to define more clearly the grounds for appeal in the event of termination and amendment to registration. The right to appeal has been extended to include EngD students.
7. An additional request has been made to amend the programme regulations for the PhD in Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and their Applications to permit candidates to commence on one of the standard four dates for admission rather than on 1 October only. The opportunity has been taken to amend the regulations accordingly.

Annex 1

Annex 2