

Research Degrees' Framework

The Framework is aimed at:

- Research students (including research students registered at validated institutions);
- Academic staff with a responsibility for the supervision and examination of research students;
- Administrative staff with a responsibility for supporting academic staff involved with the supervision and examination of research students;
- External stakeholders.

Principles

The following statements are not intended to be conclusive but are instead intended to indicate the key principles of the University in its support of research degree provision:

- The University is committed to ensuring that all research students are provided with the appropriate academic support in order to ensure that their proposed research is completed successfully and to a high standard.
- The University is committed to ensuring that research students have access to a research environment that enables students to carry out their research in a lively and engaging atmosphere.
- The University is committed to the improvement of its services to students and encourages all students to give feedback on its provision. Research students are encouraged to give feedback on their experience within their School/Department informally through their supervisors and through the Senior Tutor/Director of Research.
- The University has a formal process for student representation and values the contribution that students make to University business through this mechanism. Research student representatives will seek the opinions of other research students on their programme or within their School/Department on how provision can be improved and will represent their views at relevant School/Departmental and University committees;
- Research students will be guided by their supervisory team and/or the Senior Tutor/Director of Research on the ethical implications of their research and will seek ethical approval of their research as appropriate;

- All staff and students engaged in research activity will conform to the University's policies and procedures that are in place to ensure sound scientific conduct in research, including appropriate procedures for investigating allegations of misconduct. The University's policies and procedures on research conduct are outlined in the Research Governance Framework.
- The University owns all intellectual property rights arising out of work carried out by a research student in the course of, or incidentally, to their studies and are subject to the terms set out in the University's policy on Managing Intellectual Property.

Research Degree Governance

University level

The management and development of University research degree policy and provision is supported by ADU through the formal working group of APPSC, the Senior Tutor for Research Forum, and through the liaison of ADU with Schools, Departments, validated institutions and other University services. ADU will provide advice to Schools/Departments on research degree administration including advice on admissions procedures, entry requirements, registration, induction, progress and review arrangements, training provision and examination arrangements and any other matters arising such as research student complaints and appeals.

School level

Under the Framework of Delegated Authority, Schools are responsible for the approval of the admission, monitoring and progress review, examination and award of individual research students, and in approving any changes in registration status during any period of candidature, the record management of research students and in securing research student feedback in accordance with the requirements of the University. Schools are additionally responsible for monitoring the delivery and evaluation of research degree programmes as a whole in order to ensure that provision is properly supported.

Review of the Framework

The Framework will be reviewed annually through the Academic Development Unit and, where relevant, the Senior Tutor for Research Forum.