

Management Group of the Doctoral College incorporating the Board of the Faculty of Graduate Research **Outcomes Summary 2020-21**

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1. [Introduction](#)

This document is designed to act as a summary of changes to Procedures and Regulations which have been implemented following the meetings of the [Management Group of the Doctoral College incorporating the Board of the Faculty of Graduate Research](#) during 2020-21.

Reading the information in this document should not be taken as a substitute for having read the minutes and papers.

To access the papers referenced below, please go to the Minutes and Papers pages:

[October 2020](#)

[February 2021](#)

[June 2021](#)

This document lists changes by Code or Regulation, for information by meetings please see:

[October 2020](#)

[February 2021](#)

[June 2021](#)

For information on representation on the Management Group please see our [membership list](#).

2. [Student Absence](#)

Student attendance, engagement and absence have been reviewed by the University as a result of COVID-19, taking account changes in the way that students are studying. This has resulted in changes to the relevant regulations and policies. Following consultation, chair's action was taken to make additional minor changes to ensure the revisions were appropriate for PGR students.

Paper FGR/20/52 October 2020

3. [Signing and Delegation Changes](#)

The TQA Manual has been reviewed with a view to considering the delegation of authority. As a result, some minor changes have been made to approval processes. These include clarification of when and to whom authority should be given below the level of College DPGR or where the role of the discipline DPGR in supporting the College DPGR could be emphasised.

'Arrangements for the supervision of research degree students- Code of Good Practice' Paper FGR/20/45 October 2020

'Supervision of Postgraduate Research Students- Code of Good Practice'
Paper FGR/20/45 October 2020

'Statement of Procedures: Periods of Registration and changes to registration status for graduate research students'
Paper FGR/20/45 October 2020

4. [Learning and Teaching Support Handbook](#)

Learning and teaching Support Handbook: Chapter 15- Unsatisfactory Student Progress and Engagement

The code has been updated to point readers directly to the new 'Engagement Monitoring for Tier 4 & student Visa Holders' as a result of the introduction of the new Student Route to replace Tier 4 and updated UKRI guidance. In addition, the handbook has been reviewed and other minor updates made for clarity of wording, including with regard to the expiry period of warnings and who may issue the final warning.

Paper FGR/21/10 February 2021

Learning and teaching Support Handbook: Chapter 16- Accreditation of Prior Learning

Updated to show new delegated approval process for Accredited Prior Learning (APL) applications for both UG/ PGT and Professional Doctorate programmes.

Paper FTP/21/13D February 2021

Learning and Teaching Support Handbook, Chapter 26: Inclusive Practice within Academic Study

Students who experience barriers to learning are legally entitled to alternative provision in order to remove those barriers, even if this means advantaging them over others; this is our legal obligation. However, alternative assessment provision is not just a legal issue, it is integral to our 'success for all' agenda and intention to continuously deliver more inclusive student experiences.

Revisions to the Inclusive Practice within Teaching and Learning Policy and additional guidance and information to staff and students on the provision of alternative assessments will help guide staff when considering applications for alternative assessments, as well as streamlining the application process itself and delivering more consistent and appropriate outcomes for students.

Paper FGR/21/23 June 2021

[5. Credit and Qualifications Handbook](#)

Credit and Qualifications Framework, Chapter 9: Academic Credit Requirements for Award

*Updates to section 4, Credit-Rated Research Awards tables 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 to include new CLES programme Doctor of Psychodynamic/ Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Clinical Practice (DPPClinPrac)

Assessment, Progression and Awarding: Taught Programmes Handbook'- Chapter 9. Classification of Awards*

*Section 9.11 updated to include new CLES programme Doctor of Psychodynamic/ Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Clinical Practice (DPPClinPrac)

Credit and Qualifications Framework, Chapter 9 - Academic Credit Requirements for Award and Annex A

Changes to the layout and content of Chapter 9 of the CQF have not worked well with difficulties in making changes to the tables and table numbers. This has been particularly difficult in T4, the Content Management System, which generates the web version of the CQF. CQF reverted to a short explanatory outline of the content of Chapter 9 and the awards data moved into an Annex; with links in Chapter 9 to the Annex. The Annex will sit as

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a stand-alone document in PDF format. The awards data document can then be revised more easily, without Faculty Boards approval being required, and the revised Annex uploaded to the media library in T4 when updates are carried out.

Paper FGR/21/29E June 2021

Credit and Qualifications Framework – Professional Doctorates

CQF updated to align with the framework from the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) for the new Doctor of Psychodynamic/Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Clinical Practice (DPPClinPrac) and to facilitate the APL of students onto this new Doctorate Programme, encouraging flexibility in the interest of the student.

Paper FGR/21/29F June 20201

CQF updated to include new Professional Doctorate programmes already approved under Chair's Action Paper

FGR/21/37 June 2021

The General Regulations have been reviewed and updated in line with revisions to the Student Disciplinary Procedures, Residency Regulations, Chapter 13 of the Learning and Teaching Support Handbook, as well as to assure ourselves that the University is compliant with the requirements of the CMA.

6. Postgraduate Research Handbook

'Supervision of postgraduate research students: code of good practice'

Section 3.2 has been updated to keep in line with the new Open Access Research and Research Data Management Policy introduced by the University in January 2021 and to add reference to publisher agreements.

Paper FGR/21/11 Feb 2021

Periods of Registration

'Statement of Procedures- Periods of registration and changes to registration status for graduate research students'

Section 4.7 updated to further clarify that delegated authority applies to approval of all non-exceptional interruption requests. This follows on from discussions at the October DCMG meeting, see minute 20.45 (FGR/21/01A)

Section 7.2 updated access to part-time study at variable ftes for students who entered prior to 2019/20, which had been by exception previously.

Paper FGR/21/11 Feb 2021

*Section 3.1 updated to include new CLES programme Doctor of Psychodynamic/
Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Clinical Practice (DPPClinPrac)

'Annual monitoring review: code of good practice'

Section 5.2 updated to reflect how periods of study are measured for entrants from 2019-20.
Paper FGR/21/11 Feb 2021

**Statement of Procedures - Periods of registration and changes to registration status
for graduate research students**

The Doctoral College has been operating temporary guidance 'Arrangements for Upgrade Vivas by Electronic Means – Temporary Guidance in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak'. This has been used to create an additional annex on holding upgrade vivas by video-link in the procedure. The Doctoral College has been operating a 'University of Exeter Doctoral College Applications for Deferral of Internal Programme Deadlines – Temporary Policy in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak'. The temporary policy has been used for upgrade for both students entering prior to and from the 2019-20 academic year, and also for students in EMPS who do not upgrade, but who have to complete end of year reports. As it has provided consistency of expectations for students in these settings 'Annex 1- Applications for deferral' has been extended to cover all upgrade deferral applications, and for EMPS students applying to defer their end of year reports.

Paper FGR/21/27 June 2021

Presentation of Theses

'Presentation of theses/ dissertations for degrees in the Faculty of Graduate Research: statement of procedures'

*Sections 1 and 5.8 updated with references to the new Doctor of Psychodynamic/
Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Clinical Practice (DPPClinPrac) programme

Presentation of Theses/Dissertations for Degrees in the Faculty of Graduate Research: Statement of Procedures

The Doctoral College has been operating a 'Electronic Thesis Submission - Temporary Policy in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak'. Electronic thesis submission has now been integrated into the procedure.

(FGR/21/27) June 2021

Handbook for Examination

- The Doctoral College has been operating a 'Viva Voce Examinations by Video-link – Temporary Policy in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak', in response to which the handbook has now been updated with regard to holding vivas by video-link.

- Revisions have also made to align the 'Handbook for Examination of Postgraduate Research programmes: Chapter 3 Assessing Candidates with Disabilities' with changes to the 'Inclusive Practice within Teaching and Learning' Policy (see alternative assessment, below)
- The opportunity had also been taken to make other minor changes in response to recent examinations. These are primarily for clarity and include updates on Criteria for Nomination of Examiners and NEIC; Declarations of Interest; Preliminary Reports; Attendance at the Viva & Viva Agenda; Completing the report of the Board of Examiners (annotating copies of the thesis).

Paper FGR/21/27 June 2021

7. Calendar Updates

Section 2.2 of the following Regulations Governing Academic Programmes were updated to ensure consistency and explicitly show that students have the option to transfer from Doctoral Studies to a Masters by Research, or from one type of Doctoral programme to another:

'2.5 Regulations Governing the Degrees of Master of Arts by Research and Master of Science by Research'

Paper FGR/21/11 Feb 2021

'2.9 Regulations Governing the Degree of Doctor of Engineering (EngD)'

Paper FGR/21/11 Feb 2021

'2.10 Regulations Governing the Degrees of Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery'

Paper FGR/21/11 Feb 2021

***'1.18 Master- Arts, Bus Admin, Education, Eng, Eng.(European), Fine Arts, Laws, Public Admin, Public Health, Research, Clinical Research, Practice & Science'**

* Updated to include new and amended qualifications and credit-rating in section 3.1

***'2.3 Regulations Governing Professional Doctorate Degrees' –**

*Updated to include new and amended qualifications and credit-rating and assessment arrangements in section 6.3.

8. [Ordinances](#)

***Ordinance 7** updated to include new CLES programme Doctor of Psychodynamic/ Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy Clinical Practice (DPPClinPrac) and significant amendments to SSIS programme Doctor Of Education (EdD) Feb

9. [Quality Review Framework](#)

The PGR Quality Review process now incorporates a light-touch (thematic) and deep-dive alternating process, based on the light-touch process utilised in the 2019/2020 cycle. The Management Group are continuing to give consideration to the timing of the Quality Review cycle, however, it is not anticipated that ongoing discussions with regard to timing will impact on the principles set out in the Quality Review Framework.

Paper FGR/21/26 June 2021

10. [PGR Liaison Forum](#)

The Doctoral College, the Guild and the SU had been looking to identify ways to improve both the running of PGR LFs and awareness of them. As a result, changes to the Code have been made to move from a requirement to produce minutes to an action plan and highlighting the use of Sharepoint for communications, as this holds the minutes/action plans of PGR LFs. The list of PGR LF potential agenda items has also been updated.

Paper FGR/21/31 June 2021

11. [General Regulations for Students](#)

General Regulations for Students

The General Regulations have been reviewed and updated in line with revisions to the Student Disciplinary Procedures, Residency Regulations, Chapter 13 of the Learning and Teaching Support Handbook, as well as to assure ourselves that the University is compliant with the requirements of the CMA.

Paper FGR/21/29A June 2021

Student Academic Appeals

The Procedures Relating to Student Academic Appeals have been reviewed to consider its alignment with the QAA Quality Code (Complaints and Appeals) and the OIA's Good Practice Framework.

Paper FGR/21/29C June2021

Student Complaints Procedure

The Student Complaints Procedure has been reviewed to consider its alignment with the QAA Quality Code (Complaints and Appeals) and the OIA's Good Practice Framework Paper FGR/21/29D June 2021

Student Contract

The Student Contract has been reviewed review to ensure that the information remains current, and in line with the University overarching Legal duty to ensure it has a clear contract with Students.

Paper FGR/21/30 June 2021

Student Disciplinary Procedure - Non Academic Misconduct

The Disciplinary Procedure – Non Academic Misconduct has been reviewed to consider its alignment with the QAA Quality Code and the OIA's Good Practice Frameworks.

Paper FGR/21/29B June 2021

* These items were approved via Chair's Action after the DCMG meeting and not included in the Agenda and Papers for 04 February 2021.

Temporary Policies - The temporary policies referenced above:

'Viva Voce Examinations by Video-link – Temporary Policy in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak'

'Electronic Thesis Submission - Temporary Policy in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak'

'Arrangements for Upgrade Vivas by Electronic Means – Temporary Guidance in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak'

'University of Exeter Doctoral College Applications for Deferral of Internal Programme Deadlines – Temporary Policy in Response to Impact of Coronavirus Outbreak'

will be stood down once these changes are live.