

Research Degrees Progression & Award Board

2024-25

Committee purpose

(a) To consider examiners' reports and make recommendations to the Chair of the Postgraduate Researcher Sub-Committee-(PGRSC) on the outcome of research degree examinations, including the award of research degrees; as per Regulation 23, the Chair of the PGRSC will approve outcomes on behalf of Senate.

(b) To approve the appointment of examiners for research degrees.

All academic committees operate in accordance with the University's governing documents – Charter, Statutes and Regulations – and the Public Interest Governance Principles.

Membership

- Dean of the Sussex Researcher School (Chair)
- Head of the Sussex Researcher School
- Academic representative for the Faculty of Media, Arts & Humanities
- Academic representative for the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine
- Academic representative for the Faculty of Social Sciences
- Academic representative for the University of Sussex Business School.

In attendance:

- Research Degrees Manager
- Academic Regulations Manager
- Assessment & Examinations Manager.

Terms of Reference

The below stated responsibilities apply to all research degree-awarding programmes at the University of Sussex, with the exception of those managed via the Brighton Sussex Medical School, which are overseen by the Joint Research Degrees Approval Board (see), and Higher Degrees, which are the responsibility of Senate (see [Regulation 25](#)).

- To consider examiners' reports and make recommendations to the Chair of the Postgraduate Researcher Sub-Committee (PGRSC) on the outcome of research degree examinations, including the award of research degrees; as per [Regulation 23](#), the Chair of the PGRSC will approve outcomes on behalf of Senate.
- To approve the appointment of examiners for research degrees.

On behalf of the Postgraduate Researcher Sub-Committee:

- c) To consider and approve any individual variations to examination processes, including but not limited to:
 - Extensions to examination deadlines
 - Requests for remote vivas
 - Requests for reasonable adjustments to the examination.
- d) To report annually to the PGRB, highlighting trends in progression and examination outcomes and making recommendations or raising items for consideration, as required.
- e) To implement, monitor, and keep under review the regulations and policies relating to research degree progression and examinations and make recommendations for updates or changes to the PGRSC.
- f) To develop, implement, monitor, and keep under review the procedures and correspondence relating to research degree progression and examinations and make recommendations to the PGRB where any changes will require a corresponding policy update.
- g) To provide input, as required, on the progression and examination of PGRs during the development of transnational education agreements, including joint and double awards.
- h) To monitor national and international developments in PGR assessment and make onward recommendations to the PGRSC.