

Senate Regulation 3b

Doctoral College Board of Studies

Freedom of Speech

City St George's, University of London, regards freedom of speech and academic freedom to be fundamental to delivering its mission as the University of business, practice and the professions. Its values in this respect are set out in a code of practice on freedom of speech and academic freedom, which explains how the University will uphold, secure, and promote freedom of speech within the law. See: <https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/code-of-practice-on-freedom-of-speech>

Nothing in this regulation should be interpreted in any way that would be inconsistent with the code of practice and – in the event of any inconsistency – the provisions of the code will prevail.

Delegated Powers

The Doctoral College Board of Studies has delegated authority from Senate for the maintenance of academic standards and quality for postgraduate research programmes across City St George's, University of London.

- (a) The Board may not delegate any decision-making authority without specific approval to do so being granted by Senate.
- (b) The Board of Studies must seek approval from Senate and Council on matters as prescribed in Regulation 27, Delegation of Senate Authority.

Specific Duties of Doctoral College Board of Studies

1. To oversee the academic strategy for postgraduate research programmes and ensure a positive relationship with associated research in accordance with University strategy;
2. To agree a Code of Practice for Research Degrees that details the baseline standards and practices for the education of postgraduate research students across the University, and to support Schools in the implementation of this code;
3. To provide strategic direction and focus with respect to policy and good practice in admissions and institutional scholarships, with a focus on quality of candidates as well as achieving institutional targets;
4. To represent the interests of postgraduate research students both within and beyond the institution;
5. To assure the effective implementation of academic policies and regulations for postgraduate research programmes, as determined by Senate;
6. To approve the following, in accordance with delegated authority from Senate and set out in Senate Regulation 27, on the recommendation of Schools:
 - a. Appointments of research degree supervisors
 - b. Registration of staff doctoral candidates
 - c. Transfer of registration from MPhil to PhD
 - d. Applications for a period of suspension
 - e. Annual Progress Reviews

- f. Changes in mode of attendance
 - g. Changes of supervisory team
 - h. Transfers to writing-up status
 - i. Applications for a period of extension
 - j. Nominations of examiners for viva voce examinations
 - k. Appointment of Chair for viva voce examinations
 - l. Examiners' joint reports and conferment of awards
7. To review the following documentation:
 - External Examiners joint submission and re-submission reports;
 - PRES and other student survey data;
 - Statistical data relating to the above approvals;
 - Minutes from relevant School Research Degree Programme Committees and University Programme Approval and Review Committees.
 8. To be consulted on the review of the following documentations via the Doctoral College:
 - Annual Programme Evaluations for research degree programmes;
 - Programme Periodic Review reports for research degree programmes.
 9. To review and consult on amendments and additions to the regulations, policies and procedures relating to postgraduate research degrees for recommendation to Senate;
 10. To oversee the Graduate Teaching Assistants policy and support Human Resources in the development and implementation of processes for Graduate Teaching Assistants;
 11. To coordinate a programme of researcher development training that supplements research skills training delivered by academic Departments and Schools;
 12. To share best practice in postgraduate research provision across the University, promoting a coherence where appropriate that enhances the effectiveness and visibility of the University as a research-led institution;
 13. To propose and embed strategic initiatives that would enhance the postgraduate research student experience;
 14. To engage with the student body, through representation and consideration of feedback, in order to support the academic quality of provision and associated student satisfaction;
 15. To establish Sub-Committees or stakeholder group meetings to investigate particular issues and make policy recommendations that might arise;
 16. To oversee the academic quality and standards of postgraduate research award partnership provision, including liaison with the University's Collaborative Provision Committee on policy development and amendments that cover partnership provision.
 17. To work with Schools to monitor postgraduate research student admissions, progression, submission, examination and employment outcomes across the University, making recommendations for policy and process change where necessary;
 18. To monitor the University's strategic performance indicators in relation to postgraduate research students, making recommendations to Senate and the Senior Leadership Team for action where appropriate;
 19. To prepare responses on behalf of the University to sector-wide initiatives, consultations, bid proposals and other national and international developments concerning postgraduate research student activity and provision;

20. To refer to Senate any matters relating to academic standards, quality assurance or student experience which the Board of Studies considers require the attention to Senate;
21. To report to Senate through the submission of i) an annual report on the Board's activity in the previous academic year and ii) Minutes of each meeting of the Board.

Composition

Decisions of a Board of Studies or Sub-Committee and the reasons leading to particular decisions are recorded in the minutes and should be regarded as public unless the Board or Sub-Committee determines that confidentiality or redaction is necessary for legally justified reasons (for example, to protect personal data, safeguarding, or commercially sensitive information). Any decision to withhold information must be consistent with the University's statutory duties to secure freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law, must not be based on disagreement with lawful viewpoints, and should be applied as narrowly as possible with the rationale recorded.

Ex-Officio Members	
Assistant Vice-President (Doctoral College)	Dr Carwyn Hooper
Deputy Chair, appointed annually by Senate	Professor Pam Parker
Associate Dean with responsibility for Postgraduate Research, School of Policy and Global Affairs (or nominated Senior Tutor)	Dr Elinor Carmi
Associate Dean with responsibility for Postgraduate Research, School of Communication and Creativity	Dr Lea Hellmueller
Associate Dean with responsibility for Postgraduate Research, School of Science and Technology (or nominated Senior Tutor)	Professor Alfredo Pinelli
Associate Dean with responsibility for Postgraduate Research, School of Health and Psychological Sciences (or nominated Senior Tutor)	Professor Steve Gillard
Associate Dean with responsibility for Postgraduate Research, Law School (or nominated Senior Tutor)	Professor David Townend
Associate Dean with responsibility for Postgraduate Research, Bayes Business School (or nominated Senior Tutor)	Professor Feng Li
Director, Department of Learning Enhancement and Development & PhD programme Lead	Professor Pam Parker
Academic Director for Validated Partnerships	Professor Laurence Solkin
Students' Union President or Deputy President Education & Employability Leads	Nanayaa Osei (Clerkenwell campus) Ana-Maria Barrow (Tooting campus)
Non-Ex-Officio Academic Staff Members¹	
Six academic staff, of which one should be appointed by each School Board of Studies or School Research Degree Programme Committee and all should be current Senior Tutors for Research or Category A Supervisors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jed Odermatt (Law) • Dr Nicholas Drey (SHMS) • Dr Trudi Edginton (DPsych) tbc (MDRes) • Dr Esther Mondragon (SST) • Dr Clement Minaundier SPGA) • Dr Claudia Molitor (SCC) • Dr Joelle Evans (Bayes)

¹ Non-ex-officio members normally serve a three-year term.

Student Members	
Two PGR student representatives, nominated annually by the Students' Union	Lynessa Griffith (SPGA) Aakif Rahman (Bayes)
Board of Studies Secretary	
Appointed by the Senate	Mariah Loukou
In attendance:	
Head of Quality and Academic Development, Academic Services	Rafe Smallman
Head of Doctoral College Operations	Marcus Cerny
Doctoral College Officer	Sayeda Begum
The Committee has the authority to invite other members of staff to meetings for discussion of specific matters. This may include colleagues from relevant Professional Services to support development of the programme/s and the student learning experience.	

Equality and Diversity Statement

Members of the Board of Studies are appointed based on their roles in their Schools and Departments. In most cases, the membership of the Board of Studies is role specific and/or experience related and as such, most members represent their areas because of their roles and/or School of employment.

An analysis of membership by protected characteristics will be undertaken yearly, to inform future appointments to the Board and where under-representation of specific groups can be addressed, particularly in relation to gender equality.

Frequency of Meetings

Boards of Studies are required to meet three times per year, or more frequently as appropriate. The Doctoral College Board of Studies Chair makes decisions about PGR progression on behalf of the Board of Studies by considering extension, interruption, and withdrawal requests. Finally, before the end of June, in each year, the Secretary of each Board of Studies is required to submit to the Secretary of Senate a programme of dates of meetings for the new academic year for inclusion in the Calendar.

Quorum

The quorum for a Board of Studies or a Sub-Committee of a Board of Studies shall be 50 per cent of the members. This must include Associate Deans or Research Programme Sub-Committee Chairs representing a minimum of three Schools. In the case of an inquorate meeting, the meeting may be re-convened on a reasonable period of notice no less than a week.

Boards of Studies and their Sub-Committees do not need to have a quorum at the start of the meeting but do need a quorum to make decisions. A conference call from one or more individual Members can count towards the quorum as being in attendance.

Actions by the Chair

. The Chair of a Board of Studies or Sub-Committee of a Board of Studies has power to act on behalf of the Board or Sub-Committee; the exercise of this power will be reported to the following meeting of the Board or Sub-Committee. This authority must be exercised

consistently with the University's duties to secure freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law. Where any proposed action engages Events or Visiting Speakers, the Chair must act in accordance with the University's Code of Practice and its Procedure for Events and Visiting Speakers and must not take unilateral action to restrict lawful speech.

Decisions Out of Session

Decisions can be taken by a Board of Studies or Sub-Committee of a Board of Studies by correspondence and e-mail. In exercising this mechanism quoracy rules apply in that at least 50% of the members must express a view and a majority shall carry.

Record of Decisions of a Board of Studies or Sub-Committee

Decisions of a Board of Studies or Sub-Committee and the reasons leading to particular decisions are recorded in the minutes and should be regarded as public unless the Board or Sub-Committee determines that confidentiality or redaction is necessary for legally justified reasons (for example, to protect personal data, safeguarding, or commercially sensitive information). Any decision to withhold information must be consistent with the University's statutory duties to secure freedom of speech and academic freedom within the law, must not be based on disagreement with lawful viewpoints, and should be applied as narrowly as possible with the rationale recorded.

Minutes of meetings of a Board of Studies shall be presented to the next meeting of Senate together with a report of key items of business (which may be verbal).

Minutes of meetings of Sub-Committees of Boards of Studies shall be presented to the next meeting of the Board of Studies together with a report of key items of business (which may be verbal).

Standing Orders

Boards of Studies operate in accordance with the Standing Orders for Boards of Studies and their Sub-Committees.

Review

Committee membership and meeting dates for the following academic year will be reviewed annually and reported at the final Senate meeting of each academic year.

Approved by Senate: 11.12.19	Revised by Senate: 18.10.24	Approved by Senate: 09.07.25
Revised by Senate: 13.07.22	Revised by Senate: 23.01.2025	

School Research Degrees Programme Committee

Delegated Powers

Schools Research Degrees Programmes Committees are sub-committees of the Doctoral College Board of Studies and have delegated authority for maintaining academic standards and quality for postgraduate research programmes in their respective Schools.

In the event of a cross-School research programme where the host School cannot be easily identified, an agreement would need to be reached and recorded between the two Schools as to which School will have primary oversight and decision making responsibility and the arrangements for ensuring that the other School is appropriately informed and consulted about programme changes (e.g. sending approved papers for information to

their committees).

Terms of Reference of Schools Research Degrees Programme Committees

1. To assure the effective implementation of academic policies and regulations for postgraduate research programmes, as determined by Senate;
2. To engage with the School's academic and research strategy relevant to postgraduate research programmes;
3. To provide direction and guidance with respect to policy and good practice in admissions, with a focus on quality of candidates as well achieving School's programme targets;
4. To consider and ensure equality, diversity and inclusion is embedded in all parts of the application and recruitment process of doctoral researchers;
5. To represent the interests of postgraduate research students within the School; fostering engagement with the student body, through representation and consideration of feedback, in order to support the academic quality of provision and associated student satisfaction;
6. To consider matters raised by programme representatives in order to enhance overall doctoral researcher experience;
7. To recommend approval of the following to the Doctoral College Board of Studies:
 - a. Appointments and changes of category of research degree supervisors
 - b. Registration of staff doctoral candidates
 - c. Transfer of registration from MPhil to PhD
 - d. Applications for a period of suspension
 - e. Annual Progress Reviews
 - f. Changes in mode of attendance
 - g. Changes of supervisory team
 - h. Transfers to writing-up status
 - i. Applications for a period of extension
 - j. Nominations of examiners for viva voce examinations
 - k. Appointment of Chair for viva voce examinations
 - l. Examiners' joint reports and conferment of awards
8. To review the following documentation for the School:
 - a. Annual Programme Evaluations for research degree programmes
 - b. Programme Periodic Review reports for research degree programmes
 - c. PRES and other student survey data
 - d. Statistical data relating to the above approvals

and propose amendments to policy, process and practice, as appropriate;
9. To review and consult on amendments and additions to the regulations, policies and procedures relating to postgraduate research degrees for recommendation to the Doctoral College Board of Studies;
10. To work with the Doctoral College in designing a programme of doctoral researcher development and skills training;
11. To share best practice in postgraduate research provision across the Departments, promoting a coherence where appropriate that enhances the effectiveness and

visibility of the School;

12. To establish sub-committees, or working groups, to investigate particular issues and make policy recommendations that might arise;
13. To oversee, where relevant, the academic quality of those programmes that are accredited by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies;
14. To oversee the academic quality and standards of postgraduate research award partnership provision, where relevant, including liaison with the University's Collaborative Provision Committee on policy development and amendments that cover partnership provision.

Composition

Ex-Officio Members
Programme Director, or equivalent delegate, appointed by the School ADRE (Chair)
Departmental Senior Tutors for Research
Non-Ex-Officio Academic Staff Members
Two academic staff, appointed by the School (all should be Category A Supervisors).
Student Members
Normally Two PGR representatives from each programme overseen by the Committee
Programme Committee Secretary
School Course Officer
In attendance:
Assistant Vice-President (Head of Doctoral College) (or nominee)
The Committee has the authority to invite other members of staff to meetings for discussion of specific matters. This may include colleagues from relevant Professional Services to support development of the programme/s and the student learning experience.

Equality and Diversity Statement

Members of the Committee are appointed based on their roles in their Schools and Departments. In most cases, the membership of the Committee is role-specific and/or experience related and as such, most members represent their areas because of their roles and/or School of employment.

An analysis of membership by protected characteristics will be undertaken yearly, to inform future appointments to the Committee and where under-representation of specific groups can be addressed, particularly in relation to gender equality.

Frequency of Meetings

Research Degrees Programme Committees are required to meet between 3 and 5 times per year. Before the end of June, in each year, the Secretary of each Committee is required to submit a programme of dates of meetings for the new academic year for inclusion in the School's Calendar.

Quorum

The quorum for the Committee shall be 50 percent of the members. In the case of an

in quorate meeting, the meeting may be re-convened on a reasonable period of notice no less than a week.

The Committee do not need to have a quorum at the start of the meeting but do need a quorum to make decisions.

Actions by the Chair

The Chair of the Committee has power to act on behalf of the Committee; the exercise of this power will be reported to the following meeting of the Committee. Where any such action could affect lawful expression, academic freedom, or Events (including those involving Visiting Speakers), it must be taken in accordance with the University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and the Procedure for Events and Visiting Speakers, and this delegated power must not be used to cancel or impose conditions on Events except through that Procedure.

Decisions Out of Session

Decisions can be taken by a Committee by correspondence and e-mail. In exercising this mechanism quoracy rules apply in that at least 50% of the members must express a view and a majority shall carry.

Record of Decisions of the Committee

Decisions of a Committee and the reasons leading to particular decisions are recorded in the minutes and will normally be made publicly available, except where the Committee determines that confidentiality is required for clearly identified grounds such as commercial sensitivity, the protection of personal data, safeguarding, or other lawful and proportionate reasons. Confidentiality must not be used to conceal viewpoint-based decision-making or to suppress lawful expression, and where information is withheld, a non-confidential summary of the decision and rationale should be provided so far as lawful.

Minutes of meetings of a Committee shall be presented to the next meeting of Doctoral College Board of Studies together with a report of key items of business (which may be verbal).

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Standing Orders

School Research Degrees Programme Committee operate in accordance with the Standing Orders for Boards of Studies and their Sub-Committees.

Review

Committee membership and meeting dates for the following academic year will be reviewed annually and reported at the final Committee meeting of each academic year

Approved by Senate: 11.12.19

Revised by Senate: 13.07.22

Revised by Senate to include the Research Degrees Programme Committee Terms of Reference: 12.07.23

Full Regulations re-approved by Senate: 09.07.2025