

03 February 2011

**Request for Exemption from 2011/12 Regulations governing the maximum
period of study permitted for programmes prescribed for research degrees of the
University**

Purpose of Paper

1. APRC is asked to **consider**, and if thought appropriate, **approve** an exemption from the 2011/12 Regulation 6.2.3 (a), for the degree of MD for implementation in 2011/12.

Proposal

2. That current students (i.e. those admitted to the MD degree programme before 2011/12) are exempted from the approved changes to the degree of MD in the 2011/12 Regulations, which were approved in the APRC of 06 October 2010 (minute 10/28 refers):

6.2.3 (a) The minimum and maximum periods of study permitted for programmes prescribed for research degrees of the University shall be:

<i>Award</i>	<i>Minimum period</i>	<i>Maximum period</i>
<i>One-year MRes</i>	<i>1 year (full-time)</i>	<i>2 years (full-time)</i>
<i>One-year MPhil (Mode A)</i>	<i>1 year (full-time)</i>	<i>2 years (full-time)</i>
<i>One-year MPhil (Mode B)</i>	<i>1 year (full-time)</i>	<i>2 years (full-time)</i>
<i>MMus</i>	<i>1 year (full-time)</i>	<i>2 years (full-time)</i>
<i>Two-year MPhil</i>	<i>2 years (full-time)</i>	<i>3 years (full-time)</i>
<i>Professional Doctorate</i>	<i>3 years (full-time)</i>	<i>4 years (full-time)</i>
<i>PhD</i>	<i>3 years (full-time)</i>	<i>4 years (full-time)</i>
<i>PhD with Integrated Study</i>	<i>4 years (full-time)</i>	<i>5 years (full-time)</i>
<i>EngD</i>	<i>4 years (full-time)</i>	<i>5 years (full-time)</i>
<i>DDS</i>	<i>2 years (part-time)</i>	<i>6 years (part-time)</i>
<i>MD</i>	<i>2 years (part-time)</i>	<i>6 4 years (part-time)</i>

3. That the maximum registration period for current students on the MD programme remains at the previous maximum of 6 years (part time).

Background

4. A paper was submitted to the APRC of 6 October 2010 requesting that the maximum period of registration for the degree of MD be reduced to 4 years (with the write-up period being 2 years), as this is consistent with other Medical Schools. It was noted that this is too long a time period when considering that many of the registrants will have returned to full-time clinical duties on completion of the 2 years of normal registration. A write-up period of 2 years allows for the research work undertaken for the thesis still to be current at the point of submission.

5. The request to amend the Regulations from 2011/12 was approved by APRC, and it was acknowledged that an exemption for current students from this amendment would be necessary, so that they are not disadvantaged.

Argument to Support Proposal

6. Current students on the MD programme will have been working to the previous maximum registration period of 6 years, and indeed, may have already exceeded the new maximum registration period of 4 years. If the maximum registration period for students currently on the degree of MD remains at 6 years, this would ensure that those students are not disadvantaged.

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