

Number of examiners for members of University Staff

Background to proposed changes

This Regulation requiring one internal examiner and two external examiners for members of staff was introduced in 2003 as a safeguard for members of staff and to avoid any conflict of interest where the postgraduate researcher and examiner worked in the same area or even alongside each other. Increasingly many of the staff currently registered for a research degree are non academic members of staff whose daily work is in a completely different area of the University to their research. It is also common for PGRs to be employed by the University for more than two thirds of their registration as part time Library Assistants or Cleaners. There is no distinction on the type of employment held as the Regulation applies to all those who hold a contract of employment with the University.

Graduate School Management Board reviewed this Regulation at their meeting on 9 March 2011 and recommended that it should be amended to require two external examiners and no internal examiner. This is consistent with the requirement at other Universities.

The second point, 7.4.4 (b) has been deleted as this conflicts with the Code of Practice for the Assessment of Research Degree Theses which states "The lead and co-supervisor(s) shall not be appointed as an internal examiner". In exceptional circumstances, a request for a Supervisor to act as internal examiner would be dealt with a request to the Research Progress & Awards Sub Panel notwithstanding Regulations.

Revised Regulation

7.4.4 Examiners

7.4.4 (a) At least one internal examiner and at least one external examiner shall be appointed for each Registered Student in accordance with the Code of Practice for Assessment of Research Degree Theses. Where the Registered Student is a member of Staff, or has been a member of Staff for two thirds or more of his or her period of study, ~~at least one internal examiner~~ and two external examiners shall be appointed. This requirement shall also apply to honorary members of Staff.

~~7.4.4 (b) A Registered Student's supervisor may be appointed as an examiner only in exceptional circumstances, in which case an additional examiner, internal or external, shall be appointed~~