For the Academic Policy & Regulations Committee
February 2013

APRC.13.2.AOB

Request for Exemption from Regulation 6 – Programmes of Study

Topic and Purpose of the Paper

1. APRC is asked to ***consider*** and, if thought appropriate, ***approve*** an exemption from Regulation 6.2.3 (c) for the MRes Food Quality and Health, with effect from 2013/14.

Proposals

2. That the MRes Food Quality and Health is exempt from Regulation 6.2.3 **(c)**, duration of programmes.

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

Award	***Minimum period***	***Maximum period***
One-year MRes	*1 year (full-time)*	*2 years (full-time)*

   Regulation 6.2.3 **(c)**, goes on to state:
   6.2.3 (c) In the case of Registered Students studying on a part-time basis these periods should be extended on a pro-rata basis.

3. Instead, students studying 0.5 fte be permitted a maximum of six years to complete the programme, inclusive of Leaves of Absence, repeats, resits etc.

Background

4. The MRes Food Quality and Health is delivered in collaboration with University of Reading. Reading offer the programme over a maximum of six years, however the University of Birmingham Regulations would set the maximum period of Registration to four years (pro rata two years).

5. The School of Chemical Engineering would like to offer the programme over six years, instead of four, to match the offer by University of Reading.

Arguments to Support Proposals

6. It is important, as a collaborative programme that all students registered upon the programme are subject to the same regulations. It would not be appropriate for a sub-set of students to be advantaged due to the institution with which they are registered.

7. Students on the programme will be working in industry with research projects being intrinsically linked to the work of their employer. For this reason there will be additional constrains on research schedules and data collection which may lead to an extended period of time being required.

8. It is not expected that all students will take the maximum of six years, however it is prudent to both match Reading's offer, and to make accommodations for the specific needs of the MRes Food Quality and Health cohort.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that APRC **approve** the proposal.

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