For APRC APRC.13.05.**11**
16th May 2013

Case for Exemption from Minimum Period of Registration
(College of Medical and Dental Sciences)

1. Purpose of Paper

APRC is invited ***to consider***, and if thought appropriate, ***to approve*** a proposal from the College of Medical and Dental Sciences seeking exemption from Regulation 7.4.3(b) regarding minimum periods of registration for students on a programme of study. The exemption will apply in perpetuity with immediate effect.

2. Proposal

The College of Medical and Dental Sciences is seeking exemption from Regulation 7.4.3(b) (regarding minimum periods of registration) for students on the one year MRes programme in Biomedical Research. This will permit them to submit their thesis, which covers two projects (undertaken between October and January, and January and April) before the end of May.

3. Background / Consultation

Regulation 7.4.3(b) states that a student will be expected to submit his or her thesis after completing a minimum period of study – in this case one year. The Regulation also states that cases for early submission are to be made by the supervisor(s) in writing subject to the approval of APRC under delegated authority from Senate.

Students are registered on the one year MRes programme in Biomedical Research (programme 8514) as the first year of a 1+3 route to a PhD, with an expectation that they will start their PhD at the beginning of the next academic year. The aim is to ensure that all elements of the MRes are completed, submitted and examined within the time-frame of one year.

The programme comprises three project rotations. The first two project rotations are written up as a thesis which is submitted by 20th May 2013.

From May students undertake a third project, a 30-credit module, which is written up as a research paper and submitted in mid-August. During late August and September students select their PhD projects and write up a PhD proposal with their prospective supervisor(s) which is then subject to external per review.

4 Arguments to Support Proposal

The one year MRes programme in Biomedical Research (programme 8514) is the first year of a 1+3 route to a PhD. Students are expected to start their PhD at the beginning of the next academic year. The aim is to ensure that all

elements of the MRes are completed, submitted and examined within the time-frame of one year and that they have time to produce a research proposal in time for the new academic year.

The early submission would also reflect the fact that an MRes thesis / project is a less substantial piece of work than a thesis submitted for an MSc by research. In the case of the latter the thesis is usually the only means of assessment whereas an MRes routinely involves other assessments.