

ACADEMIC COUNCIL DELEGATION FRAMEWORK

ACADEMIC DECISIONS		DECISION MADE BY			
		Governing Body	Academic Council	Committee	Vice-Chancellor ¹
Academic Regulations Policies Procedures Good Practice (RPPG)	Approve RPPG governing partnerships & programmes			Partnerships Board (PB)	
	Approve RPPG governing research & knowledge exchange (R&KE) having consulted the section of Student and Academic Services that deals with regulation to ensure consistency, where appropriate, across research degrees and UG/PG taught			Research & Knowledge Exchange Board (R&KEB)	
	Approve RPPG governing research ethics			Research Ethics Board (UREB)	
	Approve other RPPG within Student Success Board remit including student admission, conduct, exclusion and expulsion			Student Success Board (SSB)	
	Approve derogations to RPPG within Student Success Board remit			SSB	
	Approve Good Practice and Procedures			Programmes & Partnerships Management Committee (PPMC) Learning, Quality & Regulation Committee (LQRC)	
Committees	Approve Academic Council terms of reference & composition	GB			
	Establish/discontinue committees and ad hoc working groups reporting to Academic Council. Approve their terms of reference & composition		AC		

¹ The Vice-Chancellor can delegate these decisions in their executive delegation framework

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	Approve the terms of reference and membership of the Sub-strategy Steering Groups			SSB PB R&KEB	
	Establish/discontinue Faculty and other committees reporting to Academic Council Committees. Approve their Terms of Reference & Composition		AC		
	Establish/discontinue working groups in Faculties to improve performance in Graduate Outcomes KPI, BAME Award Gap or Access & Participation			Faculty Student Success Committee (FSSC)	
	Approve sub-committees or ad hoc working groups within Faculties reporting to the Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC)			Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC)	
	Establish sub-committees and working groups to facilitate the working of the Committee			Faculty Research Degrees Committee (FRDC) ²	
	Establish sub-committees to approve amendments to modules and minor amendments to programmes			Faculty Programmes & Partnerships Management Committee (FPPMC)	
	Appoint/remove Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all Academic Council committees and working groups, unless Chair/Vice-Chair is specified in the Committee's terms of reference		AC		
Other Governance	Approve the Academic Council delegation framework		AC		
	Approve the assurance to the Governing Body that academic governance		AC		

² The Faculty Research Degrees Committees (FRDCs) exist to oversee the registration, progression and recommendations for the award of research degrees for research students in Faculties. They report to University R&KE.

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	including the standard of University awards, the student academic experience and student outcomes are adequate and effective and meet OfS conditions for quality and standards				
Academic Organisation	Approve mergers, incorporations of other entities into the University & major institutional alliances	GB			
	Open/close/name Faculties	GB			
	Open/close/name organizational structures below Faculties (other than Research Centres)				VC
	Open/close/name Research Centres			R&KEB	
Strategic Direction	Approve the University Strategic Plan	GB			
	Approve Academic sub-strategies supporting the University Strategic Plan	GB			
	Approve plans to implement their academic sub-strategies including the approval and closure of projects			R&KEB SSB PB	
	Approve plans to implement the University's sub-strategies in their Faculty where the sub-strategy is within their remit			Faculty Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee (FR&KEC) FSS Faculty PPM	

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External Reviews e.g., QAA, PSRBs	Approve action plans following external reviews within their remit			R & KE Student Success PB	
Research	Give ethical approval for research proposals for experiments, investigations and procedures covered by the Research Ethics Policy			UREB	
	Give ethical approval for research proposals for experiments, investigations and procedures delegated to FRECs under the Research Ethics Policy – <i>UREB can consider & change these decisions. FRECs can also refer decisions to UREB which are difficult and contentious</i>			FREC	
	Approve the arrangements for internal research student surveys			R&KEB	
	Approve institutional research partnerships			R&KEB	
	Approve arrangements for internal periodic reviews of research excellence			R&KEB	
	Approve arrangements for external R&KE assessment - Research Excellence Framework & Knowledge Exchange Framework			R&KEB	
	Approve university plans to improve quality & standards of research degrees and research & knowledge exchange generally. Approve actions plans to mitigate risk.			R&KEB	
	Approve Faculty plans to improve research & knowledge exchange and research degree provision within the Faculty			FR&KEC	

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Educational Partnerships & Programmes	Approve business cases for new partnerships. Give final approval to new partnerships following due diligence by PPMC.			PB	
	Approve the expansion, suspension and discontinuation of partnerships recommended by PPMC.			PB	
	Approve new programmes and the suspension or discontinuation of programmes (including degree apprenticeships); escalate decisions by exception to PB where PPMC considers PB's approval is necessary, e.g. for ethical, reputational, financial or academic quality reasons, or because PPMC considers that there are significant strategic implications			PPMC	
	Arrangements for the oversight and risk management of partnerships			PB	
	Recommendations from PPMC to improve the quality of partnerships and programmes			PB	
	Approve amendments to programmes and modules (except where approval has been delegated to Faculty PPMCs in regulations, policies and guidance approved by PB on the recommendation of PPMC); escalate by exception to PB where PPMC considers necessary			PPMC	
	Approve student mobility partnerships (e.g. student exchanges); escalate by exception to PB where PPMC considers necessary			PPMC	
	Approve faculty plans to implement the Partnerships sub-strategy			FPPMC	

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Development of all Existing Educational Programmes	Approve regulations, policies and procedures related to programme and module changes including whether changes can be approved by PPMC or Faculty PPMC			PB	
	Approve changes to modules and minor changes to programmes where delegated in regulations, policies and guidance approved by PB on the recommendation of PPMC.			FPPMC	
	Approve major changes to programmes; escalate decisions by exception to PB where PPMC considers PB's approval is necessary, e.g. for ethical, reputational, financial or academic quality reasons, or because PPMC considers that there are significant strategic implications			PPMC	
	Approve special schemes of study for individual students			LQRC	
	Approve arrangements for annual programme reviews			LQRC	
	Approve arrangements for risk based programme reviews			LQRC	
	Approve the arrangements for internal student surveys and any resulting institutional action plans			LQRC	
	Approve institutional plans to improve the quality of programmes			SSB	
	Approve action plans to improve performance and mitigate risks			LQRC	
	Approve plans to improve academic quality & standards and mitigate risk in the Faculty			FSSC	
Approve action plans to improve institutional academic quality and standards and mitigate risk			SSB		
Approve arrangements for any external reviews of educational quality & standards and any resulting action to be taken			SSB		

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		Governing Body	Academic Council	Committee	Vice-Chancellor ¹
	Approve Plans to improve Graduate Outcomes KPI and employability			Employability	
	Approve the University's Access and Participation Plan	GB			
Integrity of Academic Awards excl. Research Degrees	Approve student awards and their classification and progression			Progression & Award Board	
	Approve external examiners presented by Faculty Student Success Committees			LQRC	
	Appoint chairs of Progression & Award Boards			LQRC	
	Approve responses to external examiners' reports				VC
Research Degrees	Ratification of research student awards – Doctorates, MPhil & Higher Doctorates. The latter are recommended by the Higher Doctorate Panel			FRDC	
	Approval of Professional Doctorates. The credit for the research phase is confirmed by FRDC			Faculty PDP&AB ³	
	Approve programmes of work for students undertaking research degrees			FRDC	
	Approve the arrangements to assess students who wish to transfer from MPhil to PhD and approve transfers			FRDC	
	Arrange with R&KE the assessment and award of Higher Doctorates			FRDC	
	Appointment of research supervisors & examiners			FRDC	
	Approval of interruptions, time extensions, mode changes and withdrawals for research students registrations			FRDC	

³ Faculty Professional Doctorates Progression & Award Board

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	Approve examination arrangements for research students in accord with Academic Regulations			FRDC	
Student Recruitment	Approve the University's strategy for Home and International student recruitment and decisions relating to it (e.g. setting entry tariffs); ensure that the Finance Committee and the GB are informed about major strategic decisions			PB	
	Approve university academic information for publication				VC
	Approve Principal Conditions of Registration				VC
	Approve Student Protection Plan	GB			
	Approve Degree Outcomes Statement	GB			
Other Staffing Matters	Approval of honorary visiting professors on the recommendation of the Academic Promotions Panel.		AC		
	Approval of professors emeritus on the recommendation of the Faculty Pro Vice-Chancellor (to be reported to Academic Council)				VC
	Appointment of Visiting Fellows			Faculty R & KE	

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