

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH – MAPPING TO THE UK QUALITY CODE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE
Theme – Research Degrees

Expectations for standards

- The academic standards of courses meet the requirements of the relevant national qualifications framework.
- The value of qualifications awarded to students at the point of qualification and over time is in line with sector-recognised standards.

Core practices for standards

The provider ensures that students who are awarded qualifications have the opportunity to achieve standards beyond the threshold level that are reasonably comparable with those achieved in other UK providers.

Common practices for standards

The provider reviews its core practices for standards regularly and uses the outcomes to drive improvement and enhancement.

Expectations for quality

- Courses are well-designed, provide a high-quality academic experience for all students and enable a student’s achievement to be reliably assessed.
- From admission through to completion, all students are provided with the support that they need to succeed in and benefit from higher education.

Core practices for quality

- The provider designs and/or delivers high-quality courses.
- Where the provider offers research degrees, it delivers these in appropriate and supportive research environments.
- The provider supports all students to achieve successful academic and professional outcomes.

Common practices for quality

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/quality-code/advice-and-guidance/research-degrees>

The guiding principles given here are not mandatory for any provider. They are a concise expression of the fundamental practices of the higher education sector, based on the experience of a wide range of providers. They are intended as a framework for providers to consider when establishing new or looking at existing higher education provision. They are not exhaustive and there will be other ways for providers to meet their requirements.

Guiding Principle	Mapping to the University’s policies and/or practices	Additional notes
1. Provision of information is clear and accessible to research students and staff.	Key information is published on the University website: Postgraduate degree finder provides information on programmes - https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/degrees Postgraduate research application information - https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/research Postgraduate research regulations/policies - https://www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/policies-regulations/research-students	

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	<p>Admissions policies, including postgraduate admission, and recognition or prior learning - https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/admissions/policies-procedures</p> <p>Researcher development information - https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles</p> <p>Each postgraduate research degree programme publishes a handbook containing key information – Programme and Course Handbook Policy: https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/progcoursehandbooks.pdf</p> <p>The Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students provides information on roles and responsibilities: www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/copsupervisorsresearchstudents.pdf</p> <p>The Doctoral College webpages provide a central ‘hub’ of information for postgraduate researchers, supervisors and other staff. https://www.ed.ac.uk/doctoral-college</p>	
<p>2. The research environment is supportive and inclusive for all research students.</p>	<p>Information on postgraduate research - https://www.ed.ac.uk/doctoral-college https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/applying/research</p> <p>Information provided at College level - https://www.ed.ac.uk/arts-humanities-soc-sci/research-ke https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/our-research https://www.ed.ac.uk/science-engineering/research</p> <p>Researcher development information - https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/postgraduate/doctoral</p> <p>Information and support on research integrity -</p>	

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	<p>https://www.ed.ac.uk/research-support-office/research-integrity</p> <p>The University was reaffirmed as a leading UK research university in the Research Excellence Framework - https://www.ed.ac.uk/research/assessment</p> <p>The University considers themes arising from the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) at an institutional level.</p> <p>The University considers themes arising from Internal Reviews, including postgraduate research, at an institutional level.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing https://www.ed.ac.uk/students/health-wellbeing</p> <p>Equality and diversity https://www.ed.ac.uk/equality-diversity</p>	
<p>3. Supervisors are appropriately skilled and supported.</p>	<p>The Postgraduate Degree Regulations state the requirements for supervisors training (Regulation 37): http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/22-23/regulations/PGDRPS2022-23.pdf</p> <p>The Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students provides information on roles and responsibilities: www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/copsupervisorsresearchstudents.pdf</p> <p>The Doctoral College has a page for supervisor support and development https://www.ed.ac.uk/doctoral-college Supervisor training, skills development and events are provided at institutional level by the Institute for Academic Development: https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles/supervisors</p>	

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<p>4. Research students are afforded opportunities for professional development.</p>	<p>Researcher development information - https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/research-roles https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/postgraduate/doctoral</p> <p>Professional development opportunities are available through cohort-based centres for doctoral training. A list of these can be found on the Doctoral College webpages. https://www.ed.ac.uk/doctoral-college/doctoral-training-centres</p> <p>Support for PGRs who teach - https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/learning-teaching/staff/tutors-demonstrators</p> <p>Annual progression reviews afford an opportunity for all students to discuss professional development and training needs. Information is available in the Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students (Section 3) - https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/copsupervisorsresearchstudents.pdf</p>	
<p>5. Progression monitoring is clearly defined and operated.</p>	<p>Annual progression monitoring is defined in the Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees: https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/pgr_assessmentregulations.pdf</p> <p>The University has an online annual progression monitoring system: https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-systems/support-guidance/students/postgraduate-research-annual-review-form https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-systems/support-guidance/academic-staff/pgr-supervision https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-systems/support-guidance/admin-support-staff/pgr-annual-review-information</p>	

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	<p>The Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students (Section 3) provides guidance on annual progression monitoring - https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/copsupervisorsresearchstudents.pdf</p>	
<p>6. Higher education providers offer clear guidance and processes on assessment for research degrees.</p>	<p>The criteria for the award of postgraduate research degrees is provided in the Postgraduate Degree Regulations: http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk</p> <p>Assessment processes, regulations and guidance are provided in the Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees: https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/pgr_assessmentregulations.pdf</p> <p>Additional guidance for postgraduate research degrees: Including publications in postgraduate research theses - https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/publications_in_thesis.pdf Guidance on videolinked oral exams or vivas - https://www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/policies-regulations/regulations/additional-guidance/viva-by-video-link Thesis preparation and assessment information is provided in the Code of Practice for Supervisors and Research Students - https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/copsupervisorsresearchstudents.pdf Additional guidance is provided on the thesis lay summary, the signed declaration and thesis format - https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/lay_summary_in_theses.pdf https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/thesis_signed_declaration.pdf https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/thesisbinding.pdf Additional guidance for staff is provided on when to consider using a non-examining chair for the viva and having two external examiners for research degree assessment - https://www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/policies-regulations/regulations/additional-guidance/non-examining-chair https://www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/policies-regulations/regulations/additional-guidance/two-external-examiners</p>	

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	Thesis and viva training is available from the Institute for Academic Development - https://www.ed.ac.uk/institute-academic-development/postgraduate/doctoral/advice-support/writing-up	
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