



**College of Health and Agricultural Sciences
Graduate Research Programme Board**

Terms of Reference

Approved by Academic Council Executive Committee, 13 March 2018

1. Purpose:

The Board bears overall responsibility for research graduate education and graduate research students within the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences. The Board will ensure the alignment of strategic direction and academic plans for the graduate research provision of the College, and will promote the effective delivery of quality programmes and the best possible experience for the students within the Colleges and Schools. Schools and Research Institutes are responsible for the design and delivery of graduate research programmes and for the welfare of graduate students. The role of the Board is to:

- (i) Discharge a number of important statutory and academic governance functions on behalf of the University on the delegated authority of Academic Council;
- (ii) Facilitate the development of a coherent strategy for graduate research education within the College;
- (iii) Promote and enhance the quality of graduate education and the graduate student experience.

2. Terms of Reference:

The Board shall, subject to review by the University Programmes Board and the Academic Council:

- 2.1. Promote excellence in the development and operation of graduate research programmes within the College.
- 2.2. Make recommendations to the University Programmes Board regarding the structure and content of graduate research programmes and any special regulations or policy relating to such programmes.
- 2.3. Be responsible for graduate research programmes and graduate research students within the College and in so doing shall:
 - (i) Support Schools and Institutes in the development of Thematic Graduate Research Programmes in consultation with the College Vice-Principal for Research & Innovation;
 - (ii) Assist Schools, Institutes and Programmes in the overall design, development and

- delivery of structured graduate research programmes;
 - (iii) Adjudicate on student applications for leave of absence from and transfer between graduate research programmes;
 - (iv) Approve the progression and/or transfer of graduate students;
 - (v) Approve the appointment of supervisor(s) and advisor(s) for research students, and appoint Doctoral Studies Panels;
 - (vi) Assure the quality of the supervisory arrangements for graduate research students;
 - (vii) Review and approve students' requests for accreditation of prior learning as guided and advised by the appropriate School(s);
 - (viii) Review and approve students' requests for credit for modules taken outside UCD as guided and advised by the appropriate School(s).
- 2.5. Admit students to graduate research programmes in accordance with the University's regulations and policies, and assist in the maintenance of their student record.
- 2.6. Where a student's performance is deemed unacceptable make recommendations to the Academic Council, or its relevant subcommittee, regarding a student's eligibility to continue in the programme.
- 2.7. Monitor graduate research student progression and completion rates.
- 2.8. Maintain appropriate links with undergraduate and graduate taught programmes in consultation with the College Vice-Principal for Teaching and Learning and the Chairs of the relevant Programme Boards.
- 2.9. Identify opportunities and make recommendations for both external and internal institutional collaboration to the University Programmes Board.
- 2.10. Approve the appointment of internal examiners and recommend the appointment of external examiners to the Academic Council Committee on Examinations.
- 2.11. The Board shall support the development of strategic and operational plans for graduate education within the College. These plans shall be prepared within the overall planning framework for the University, Colleges and Schools.
- 2.12. The Board shall, within the resources made available by the University and the Colleges, ensure that appropriate supports are in place to meet the welfare, pastoral and academic administrative needs of research students registered to the programmes.
- 2.13. The Board shall work with the University and the relevant College(s) to promote the programmes both internally and externally.
- 2.14. The Board shall be chaired by an appointee of the College Principal.
- 2.15. The Board shall support Schools in fostering fruitful relationships with external and professional bodies, other stakeholders and alumni relevant to the programmes.
- 2.16. The Board may form such and so many sub-committees as it deems necessary to execute its functions and discharge its responsibilities. The Chair shall be entitled to chair, or nominate the chair, of any sub-committee established by the Board.
- 2.17. The Board shall, on the delegated authority of Academic Council, provide oversight for

specified responsibilities relating to graduate research students in the School of Agriculture and Food Science; Schools of Veterinary Medicine; Medicine; Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems; and Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science. These responsibilities are the admission of students; applications for leave of absence, requests for transfer; exemptions; extensions of registration and appointment of external examiner and internal examiners. The Board's membership shall include the appropriate representation of these Schools.

- 2.18 Consider, in addition, such matters as the Academic Council or Academic Council Executive Committee, or the University Programmes Board, or College Principal and/or Executive may refer to the Board.
- 2.19. The Board is, in all its activities and decisions, subject to review by the University Programmes Board and the Academic Council.

3. Constitution:

Ex Officio Members:

Chair (nominated by the College Principal)

Director of the Graduate School

Director(s) of Research Institute(s) associated directly with College

Nominated Members:

School Graduate Co-ordinators within the College (nominated by Head of School)

2 Graduate student representatives (nominated by SU)

Representative Members from Schools

Head of School / Dean of Agriculture or nominee

Head of School / Dean of Medicine or nominee

Head of School / Dean of Nursing or nominee

Head of School / Dean Public Health, Physiotherapy, Sports Science or nominee

Dean of Physiotherapy or nominee as appropriate

Dean of Public Health or nominee as appropriate

Head of School / Dean of Veterinary Medicine or nominee

Co-Opted Members:

The Board may co-opt additional non-voting members to ensure appropriate expertise is available to conduct its business effectively.

4. Conduct of Business:

- 4.1. The Board should meet at least 2 times per semester and meetings shall be aligned to the schedule of meetings of the appropriate University Committees.
- 4.2. The meetings of the Board shall be convened by the Chair, with a minimum of seven days notice of a meeting.
- 4.3. Where a nominated School representative is unable to attend a meeting, a delegate may be identified in advance of the meeting, subject to approval by the Chair. Recommendations from a School will not be approved unless a representative from the School is present at the meeting.

- 4.4. The Chair of the Board may make decisions in regard to the programmes within the remit of the Board, or the students applying to or registered to those programmes, on the delegated authority of the Board.
- 4.5. In the conduct of its business, the Board shall engage in open and frank dialogue and, wherever possible, arrive at decisions on a consensual basis.

5. Quorum:

A meeting shall be considered in quorate when one third of the members entitled to vote are present or represented.

6. Board Secretary:

Administrator of the College of Science Graduate Research School