Plymouth University

Regulatory Framework for Postgraduate Research Degrees

Section 6: Research Training (PGR)

6.1. The Research Training Policy is as follows:

a. to provide a high quality and professional training in research, tailored to the individual needs and aspirations of each research candidate,

b. to supply this training partly through the individual attention of a well-trained, professional, Director of Studies and supervisory team, who will meet regularly with the candidate at agreed times and for set periods in an atmosphere of support, encouragement, constructive criticism and debate,

c. to provide access to a selection of professional level short training courses, comprising both specialist and non-specialist topics,

d. to support the student and supervisor(s) by the actions of a Research Degree Management Unit at DTC level, as appropriate, which will be responsible for regular monitoring and peer review of candidate progress,

e. to require the Research Degree Management Unit to assess an annual candidate progress report or other submitted work - this may be carried out by such means as interview with an internal 'commentator',

f. to provide adequate opportunity for regular oral presentations by research degree candidates of research results to groups of contemporaries and peers within the University,

g. to expect all research degree candidates in the local unit and as many staff as possible to attend and participate in such presentations,

h. to support attendance and delivery of research results by candidates at appropriate external venues e.g. via conference attendance, and

i. to support and encourage the operation of a Postgraduate Society for discussion and representation of student views, for mutual support and development of extra-mural activities.

6.2. Due to the diverse research training requirements within areas of the University, Research Degree Management Units will identify the particular local research training process within their procedures.

6.3. The level and requirements for individual training of candidates will be detailed prior to enrolment, and will be scrutinised at local level.