Regulatory Framework for Professional Doctorates

1. Successful completion of programmes subject to this framework will result in the award of Professional Doctorate.

2. Taught modules offered for credit as part of a programme of study leading to the award of a professional doctorate are subject to the requirements of the Credit Framework and the Code of Practice for the Quality Assurance of Taught Programmes.

3. The component elements of professional doctorate programmes consisting of independent research study resulting in the production of a thesis are subject to the requirements of the Regulations for Research Programmes of Study and the Code of Practice for the Quality Assurance of Research Programmes.

4. The taught component and the research component of a professional doctorate programme will be regarded as separate stages of the programme.

5. The taught component of the programme may consist of one or more stages. The minimum requirements for progression between the taught stages of the programme will be as set out in the Credit Framework. Any additional requirements will be set out in the approved programme specification.

6. Students may be permitted to progress from the final taught stage of a programme into the research stage while ‘trailing’ a number of failed credits, provided that:
   (a) the trailing of credits is not specifically denied in the relevant programme specification; and
   (b) the proportion of trailed credit is not in excess of the limit established by the Credit Framework for ‘trailing’ credits (i.e. up to maximum 25% of the credits for the stage).

   Credits trailed into the research stage of a programme must be successfully retrieved by the candidate prior to the submission of the doctoral thesis for examination.

7. Students who complete the taught stage(s) of the programmes but fail to complete the research stage may be eligible for a fallback award provided that:
   (i) the student has achieved the volume of credit required for the award; and
   (ii) the outcomes for such an award are set out in the approved programme specification for the Professional Doctorate and are consistent with the University’s existing requirements for such awards.

8. The minimum credit requirements for the Professional Doctorate and any associated fallback awards will be as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Minimum number of credits required</th>
<th>Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional Doctorate</td>
<td>540</td>
<td>At least 510 credits at level M (7) or above including at least 360 credits at level D (8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallback MA/MSc/MRes</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>At least 150 credits at level M (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallback PG Dip</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>At least 90 credits at level M (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fallback PG Cert</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>At least 40 credits at level M (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Programme Structure

The following diagram depicts the structure of the programme:

10. With regard to the application of APE/CL, the proportion of credit that might be awarded via this means will be determined with respect to the taught components of the programme rather than with respect to the total credit value of the professional doctorate award.

11. Students who successfully complete the Masters by Research may elect to transfer into a relevant PhD programme rather than continue on the Professional Doctorate programme.

May 2012