

Terms of Reference for the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (Research)

The role of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee (Research) is to assure Senate regarding the maintenance of academic quality and standards in research, which includes postgraduate research.

The Committee discharges its responsibilities by:

- 1) exercising delegated authority on behalf of Senate for:
 - a) the approval of revisions to existing General Regulations of the University relating to research, including postgraduate research;
 - b) the approval of revisions to research policies and procedures for which Senate is the approving body;
- 2) ensuring that University's quality assurance and academic standards frameworks for research meet the expectations of relevant external national and international quality assurance bodies, and Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies where appropriate;
- 3) scrutinising policy and supporting information related to research quality and standards in order to provide Senate with assurance on research quality and standards, and thereby enable Senate to endorse such assurance onwards to the Board of Governors; including reviewing matters required by statute and regulations related to research;
- 4) assurance of progress in the delivery of The University's Manchester 2035 Strategy for research by annual receipt and discussion of the:
 - a) annual progress report against the University's Research KPIs – associated with preparation of the annual Stocktake Report (the sub-committee may provide comment and input to the draft);
 - b) annual report that proceeds to the Board of Governors
- 5) identify any issues and potential actions required, and advise or make recommendations to Senate accordingly regarding the revision of policies, processes, and the provision of data and analysis;
- 6) function as a key stakeholder for consultation and engagement in the development of research policies and procedures by the Vice-President (Research) and Research Strategy Group;
- 7) receive annual reports from relevant groups within the Research portfolio;
- 8) support the University's core goal of Social Responsibility (including EDI) by seeking to embed Social Responsibility into the committee's activity, and into the maintenance of academic quality and standards in research, which includes postgraduate research. This includes assurance of the University's obligation to secure and promote freedom of speech and academic freedom. [Freedom of speech](#)
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Membership

ex officio (10)

Vice-President for Research (Chair)

Associate Vice-President(s) for Research – Interdisciplinary Research

Associate Vice-President for Research (Manchester Doctoral College and Staff) (Vice-Chair)

Associate Vice-President for Digital Strategy and Business Engagement

Associate Vice-President for Internationalisation

Faculty Vice-Deans for Research (x3)

University of Manchester Students' Union PG Research Officer

Executive Director of Research and Business Engagement

Nominated: (1)

A Head of School nominated by the Heads of School

elected: (6)

Six elected members of Senate (two from each Faculty)

In attendance

Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer (not expected to attend all meetings)

Other PS staff as required.

The Committee shall align its meetings with the business meetings of Senate (currently four per academic year), and will submit a report to each meeting of Senate.

Secretariat to be provided by the Governance Office.