

ACADEMIC BOARD DELEGATION FRAMEWORK

Introduction

The Academic Board Delegation Framework, approved by the Academic Board, summarises the powers delegated by the Academic Board.

The University Group's [Articles of Association](#) state that the Academic Board shall “subject to the control and approval of the Board of Governors, oversee the teaching and research of the University Group and its Colleges and be responsible for the academic quality and standards of the University Group and the admission and regulation of Students. The Board of Governors shall receive and test assurance from the Academic Board that academic governance including the standard of University Group awards, the student academic experience and student outcomes within the University Group are adequate and effective. The Academic Board shall provide to the Board of Governors such academic assurance as it may require from time to time”. The Academic Board ensures that the Office for Students conditions of registration for quality and standards are met and provides this assurance to the Board of Governors.

The Academic Board has delegated authority to make academic regulations that regulate the programmes of study and research at the University Group and other matters concerning students.

The Academic Board has approved this framework for delegations to its committees and the Vice-Chancellor. Roles referred to in the Academic Board Delegation Framework will be kept under review and updated in response to changes in roles and structures following the implementation of LASE.

For further information, see the [University Group Delegation Framework webpage](#) or contact the Secretariat team.

This Delegation Framework has the following sections:

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1. Academic Regulations, Policies, Procedures and Guidance (RPPG)

1.1 Approve RPPG governing academic programmes

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board (ESB)** on the recommendation of Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC).

1.2 Approve other RPPG within Education Strategy Board's remit including (but not limited to) student admission, conduct, exclusion and expulsion, academic quality assurance and student contracts

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

1.3 Approve RPPG governing educational partnerships

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Development Board (PDB)** (in the executive committee structure) on the recommendation of Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC).

PDB should ensure effective communication with Education Strategy Board over changes which may have implications for academic quality assurance.

1.4 Approve regulations, policies and procedures related to programme and module approvals and changes

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board** on the recommendation of PPMC

1.5 Approve RPPG governing research and innovation, including for Research Degrees.

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board**

Student Life should be consulted to ensure consistency, where appropriate, across research degrees and UG/PG taught degrees.

1.6 Approve RPPG governing research ethics and research misconduct

- Decision made by: **Group Research Ethics Board (REB)**

REB shall consult with Research and Innovation Board prior to approving any changes to regulations and policies.

1.7 Approve derogations to RPPG within the committee's remit

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC)**

1.8 Approve procedures for considering and determining freedom of speech complaints and appeals and advice, guidance and training on freedom of speech and academic freedom

- Decision made by: **Standing Panel on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech**

1.9 Approve apprenticeship-specific operational policies and procedures within the framework set by regulations approved by the Education Strategy Board and national requirements

- Decision made by: **Apprenticeship Management Committee**

2. Committees

2.1 Approve Academic Board's terms of reference and composition

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors** on the recommendation of Academic Board

2.2 Establish/discontinue committees and ad hoc working groups reporting to Academic Board. Approve their terms of reference and composition

- Decision made by: **Academic Board**

2.3 Establish/discontinue College committees and other committees reporting to Academic Board committees. Approve their terms of reference and composition

- Decision made by: **Academic Board**

2.4 Appoint/remove chairs and vice-chairs of all Academic Board committees and working groups, unless chair/vice-chair is specified in the committee's terms of reference

- Decision made by: **Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer (Vice-Chancellor and CEO)**

2.6 Establish/discontinue task and finish groups to improve performance in the key areas of widening participation via the Access and Participation Plan, eliminating awarding differences, graduate outcomes, continuation, completion and student satisfaction

- Decision made by: **College Education and Student Experience Committees**

2.7 Establish sub-committees to approve amendments to modules and programmes

- Decision made by: **College Education and Student Experience Committees**

2.8 Establish sub-committees or ad hoc working groups within Colleges reporting to the College Research Ethics Committee

- Decision made by: **College Research Ethics Committees**

3. Other Governance

3.1 Approve the Academic Board Delegation Framework

- Decision made by: **Academic Board**

3.2 Approve the assurance to the Board of Governors that academic governance including the standard of University Group awards, the student academic experience and student outcomes are adequate and effective and meet OfS conditions for quality and standards

- Decision made by: **Academic Board**

4. Academic Organisation

4.1 Approve mergers, incorporation of entities into the University Group and major institutional alliances

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors**

4.2 Approve the establishment, discontinuation and naming of Colleges

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors**

4.3 Approve the establishment, discontinuation and naming of organisational structures below Colleges

- Decision made by: **Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer**

The Vice-Chancellor may delegate decisions in the Executive Delegation Framework.

5. Strategic Direction

5.1 Approve the University Group's Strategic Plan including its vision, values, educational character and mission. Set the culture of the University Group.

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors**

The power to approve the Strategic Plan cannot be delegated by the Board of Governors.

5.2 Approve academic sub-strategies (e.g. education, research and innovation, partnerships) under the University Group's Strategic Plan

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors** on the recommendation of the Academic Board

5.3 Approve and monitor Strategic Key Performance Indicators linked to the University Group's Strategic Plan

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors**

Academic Strategic KPIs shall be considered by the Academic Board and Vice-Chancellor's Executive before being recommended to the Board of Governors for approval.

5.4 Approve plans to implement academic sub-strategies within their remit including the approval and closure of projects

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board, Education Strategy Board**

5.5 Approve plans to implement academic sub-strategies in their College where the strategy is within their remit

- Decision made by: **College Education and Student Experience Committees**

6. External Reviews

6.1 Approve action plans following external reviews within their remit

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board, Education Strategy Board (ESB)**

6.2 Approve the University Group's register(s) of Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) accreditations and oversee (re)accreditation processes, associated risk assessment and resulting actions; approve the annual report on (re)accreditation activities and procedures for ESB

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC)**

7. Research and Innovation

7.1 Give ethical approval for research projects covered by the Research Ethics Policy

- Decision made by: **Research Ethics Board**

7.2 Give ethical approval for research projects delegated to College Research Ethics Committees under the Research Ethics Policy

- Decision made by: **College Research Ethics Committees**

7.3 Approve arrangements for internal periodic reviews of research excellence

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board**

7.4 Approve arrangements for the external assessment of research and innovation quality (e.g. the Research Excellence Framework and Knowledge Exchange Framework)

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board**

7.5 Research Excellence Framework (REF): approve the Units of Assessments (UoA) to which submissions will be made, REF UoA statements of intent, the staff included for submission in each UoA and the final REF submission

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board** on the recommendation of the REF Strategy Working Group

7.6 Approve action places to take advantage of opportunities, mitigate risk and improve performance in research and innovation

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board**

7.7 Approve strategic research and knowledge exchange partnerships

- Decision made by: **Research and Innovation Board**

Research and Innovation Board should report to Partnerships and Development Board on strategically significant partnerships.

8. Educational Partnerships and Programmes

8.1 Approve business cases for new educational partnerships. Give final approval to new partnerships following due diligence overseen by Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC)

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Development Board** (in the executive committee structure)

8.2 Approve the expansion, suspension and discontinuation of partnerships recommended by PPMC

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Development Board**

8.3 Approve arrangements for the oversight and risk management of partnerships

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Development Board**

8.4 Approve recommendations from PPMC to improve the quality of partnerships and programmes

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Development Board** and **Education Strategy Board**

8.5 Approve, suspend and discontinue academic programmes, including degree apprenticeships, and award titles

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC)**

PPMC shall escalate decisions by exception to Education Strategy Board where PPMC considers the Board's approval is necessary, e.g. for ethical, reputational, financial or academic quality reasons, or because PPMC considers that there are significant strategic implications. New apprenticeship programmes are recommended to PPMC for approval by the Apprenticeships Management Committee.

8.6 Approve amendments to programmes

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC)**, **College Education and Student Experience Committees (ESECs)**

Minor amendments to programmes shall be approved by PPMC unless delegated to College ESECs in regulations/policies approved by Education Strategy Board.

8.7 Approve modules and amendments to modules

- Decision made by: **College Education and Student Experience Committees**

College ESECs shall report on module approvals and amendments to PPMC.

8.8 Approve student mobility partnerships (e.g. student exchanges)

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Programmes Management Committee (PPMC)**

PPMC shall escalate decisions by exception to the Partnerships Board where PPMC considers the Board's approval is necessary, e.g. for ethical, reputational, financial or academic quality reasons, or because PPMC considers that there are significant strategic implications.

8.9 Approve plans to implement the University Group's Partnerships strategy in the College

- Decision made by: **College Education and Student Experience Committees**

8.9 Approve strategic priorities for apprenticeship development and delivery

- Decision made by: **Partnerships and Development Board**

9. Academic Quality and Standards

9.1 Approve institutional plans to improve academic quality and standards

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

9.2 Approve communications and good practice exemplars to promote awareness and engagement in the areas within Education Strategy Board's remit

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

9.3 Approve the arrangements for internal student surveys and action plans for the improvement of performance

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

9.4 Regularly review the management of academic risk in key areas covered by the Education Strategy. Approve action plans to take advantage of opportunities, mitigate risk and improve performance

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

9.5 Approve plans to improve Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) and policies related to the University Group's VLE and associated TEL tools

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

9.6 Approve arrangements for any external reviews of educational quality and standards and any resulting actions to be taken

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

Accreditation of programmes is delegated to PPMC (see 6.2).

9.7 Approve action plans to improve academic quality and standards and mitigate risk in the College

- Decision made by: **College Education and Student Experience Committees**

9.8 Approve the University Group's Access and Participation Plan(s) for approval by the Office for Students

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors** on the recommendation of Academic Board

9.9 Oversee widening participation across the Group and the systemic delivery of interventions to deliver the Group's APPs. If required, establish and oversee a Working Group to carry out detailed work in the area

- Decision made by: **Education Strategy Board**

10. Academic Awards (excluding Research Degrees)

10.1 Approve student awards and their classification and progression

- Decision made by: **Progression and Award Boards** (Greenwich) and **Assessment Boards** (Kent)

10.1 Approve the appointment of external examiners in the College

- Decision made by: **College Education and Student Experience Committees**

10.3 Approve responses to external examiners' reports

- Decision made by: **Vice-Chancellor and CEO**

The Vice-Chancellor may delegate decisions in the Executive Delegation Framework.

11. Research Degrees

11.1 Higher Doctorates - approve applications and proposed external examiners; approve recommendations of external examiners and confer awards for Higher Doctorates

- Decision made by: **Research Degrees Committees**

11.2 Ratify recommendations for postgraduate awards recommended by College PGR Experience Committees

- Decision made by: **Research Degrees Committees**

11.3 Approve plans for implementing the Research and Innovation strategy as related to postgraduate research, including the approval and closure of projects, and plans to improve the quality and standards of research degree provision

- Decision made by: **Research Degrees Committees**

11.4 Approve arrangements for research student surveys and consider data on the PGR student experience

- Decision made by: **Research Degrees Committee**

11.5 Postgraduate research degrees (other than Higher Doctorates): approve PGR examiners' reports and recommendations; recommend conferment of the relevant award for a postgraduate researcher for ratification by Research Degrees Committee

- Decision made by: **College Postgraduate Research Experience Committees**

11.6 Approve examiners for Masters by Research programmes (MA/MSc)

- Decision made by: **College Postgraduate Research Experience Committees**

12. Student Recruitment

12.1 Approve the University's strategy for Home and International student recruitment and decisions relating to it (e.g. setting entry tariffs)

- Decision made by: **Vice-Chancellor's Executive (VCE)**

VCE must ensure that the Finance and Estates Committee and the Board of Governors are informed about major strategic decisions.

13. Academic Appointments

13.1 Approve visiting professors/scholars/fellows on the recommendation of the College Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean (Greenwich) or Head of School (Kent)

- Decision made by: **Vice-Chancellor and CEO**

The Vice-Chancellor may delegate decisions in the Executive Delegation Framework.

13.2 Approve emeritus professors on the recommendation of the College Pro Vice-Chancellor (Greenwich) or Head of School (Kent)

- Decision made by: **Vice-Chancellor and CEO**

Appointments to be reported to the Academic Board. The Vice-Chancellor may delegate decisions in the Executive Delegation Framework.

14. Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom

14.1 Consider and determine freedom of speech complaints and appeals related to events

- Decision made by: **Standing Panel on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom**

14.2 Approve the University Group's Freedom of Speech Code(s) of Practice

- Decision made by: **Board of Governors** on the recommendation of Academic Board

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