



DOCTORAL
COLLEGE

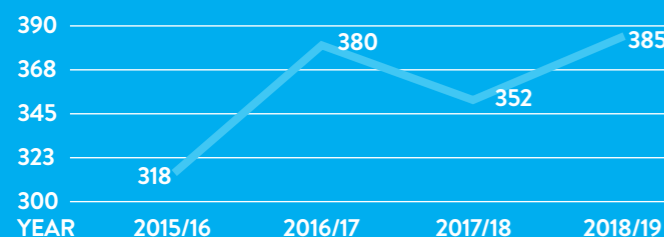
ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19

PGR STATISTICS

1502 CURRENT POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS ON 1 DECEMBER 2018

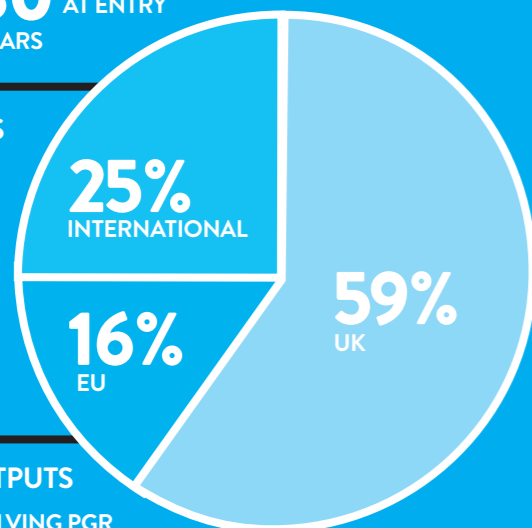
PGR STARTERS



2018-19 COMPOSITION OF STUDENT BODY

56% FEMALE | **30** AVERAGE AGE AT ENTRY YEARS

OUR STUDENTS



RESEARCH OUTPUTS

506 INVOLVING PGR STUDENTS IN 2018-19

255 GRADUATES IN 2018-19

212 PHD (INCLUDING PHD BY PUBLICATION) | **13** MASTER'S QUALIFICATIONS (MPHIL AND MASTER'S BY RESEARCH) | **30** PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES (CLINPSYD, EDD, MD)

FOREWORD



This 2018-19 Annual Report celebrates the achievements of our newly formed Doctoral College.

There is much to be proud of. In 2018-19, we have renewed the funding for our well-established doctoral training collaborations, and will be further expanding our training offer through new programmes. A growing number of PhD projects and studentship placements are co-designed with external partners, which increases the impact of our research, and the professional development of our graduates. The sector-leading Courage project, a fantastic example of collaboration across UEA, has supported an important conversation on wellbeing and mental health in the postgraduate research community, and will be shaping recommendations from the evidence generated by this project. In all of this, we are grateful for the leadership of Dr Nick Watmough in his role as Academic Director for Research Degree Programmes (2012-2019), and warmly welcome Prof Alastair Grant as the first Academic Director of UEA Doctoral College.

The UEA Doctoral College brings together the expertise of our six Graduate Schools, doctoral training partnerships, and professional doctorates. This will allow us to share best practice, and to increase the visibility of our doctoral researchers. As we embark on the next phase of the UEA plan for 2020-25, the Doctoral College sets the foundations for the future of UEA research: building a diverse and interdisciplinary research community, equipped to address the world's most pressing challenges.

Professor Fiona Lettice
Pro-Vice-Chancellor,
Research & Innovation, UEA



On 27 March 2019, UEA launched its Doctoral College.

In terms of the day-to-day activities of postgraduate researchers and their supervisors, the immediate changes will be small. Their academic "home" will remain their School or Institute. Scholarships, personal and professional development and training will continue to be organised at Faculty level. Where the Doctoral College will make a difference is in coordinating activities across our institution to create the best environment for our PGRs to thrive. I hope that over time this will lead to some significant improvements in the experience of our students and supervisors, building on the strong foundation that we already have.

UEA has about 1500 doctoral students; the largest group of researchers in the University by some margin. They contribute substantially to our research output and to the wider life of the University community, and become part of our global network after graduation. In the year ahead, I want to ensure that PGRs are recognised within our academic community, through activities like the Three Minute Thesis competition, and that their successes are communicated widely. A particular focus of our work will be taking forwards the findings of the Courage project to build individual resilience and supportive research communities. Finally, PGR students make a huge contribution to UEA through their work as Associate Tutors; I will ensure that appropriate training and mentoring are provided to PGRs who are involved in teaching, to support their own development and to enable them to make an excellent contribution to our taught programmes.

Professor Alastair Grant
Academic Director,
UEA Doctoral College

UEA DOCTORAL COLLEGE



LAUNCH OF THE UEA DOCTORAL COLLEGE

In 2018-19, we have built on the excellent work of our Graduate Schools by launching the UEA Doctoral College. The launch event, held on 27 March 2019, featured one of our doctoral alumni, Dr Andy Stanford-Clark, Chief Technical Officer of IBM, along with Professor Michael Hornberger (MED), who discussed their own career histories and the impact of doctoral graduates in different employment sectors.

With more than 1,500 postgraduate researchers, the UEA Doctoral College accounts for the largest component of the UEA research community. The new college will create a nurturing environment by bringing together researchers across all of our Graduate Schools, represent the interests of postgraduate researchers within the University and promote the reputation of UEA's postgraduate research education to the wider world.

DOCTORAL COLLEGE TRAINING ROOM AND STUDY CENTRE

Alongside the launch of the UEA Doctoral College, the University has completed the main refurbishment of a dedicated PGR space in Constable Terrace consisting of:

- The Doctoral College Training Room, primarily used for PGR training events for up to 50 students per session; the PGR Directors Conference on 26 September 2018 was the first event held in the Training Room.
- The Doctoral College Study Centre, which includes a social space and a drop-in work area for postgraduate researchers, open 24/7 on card access.

A further phase of work will improve the nearby Doctoral College Meeting Room, which will allow it to hold postgraduate research vivas, whether face-to-face or by videoconferencing.

PRES 2019

A record number of 802 students, representing 59% of the PGR population at UEA, took part in PRES 2019. This data provides critical information to our Graduate Schools, and allows UEA to consistently monitor and improve the environment of our research students. Overall, the vast majority (85%) of our students are satisfied with their programme. Satisfaction with academic supervision remains one of UEA's highest scoring themes, with very positive views on skills and subject knowledge (94%), and the quality of feedback (91%). Notable improvements were observed in relation to professional development, with our students reporting that further contacts and networks are developed in their programme, and that they have increased confidence in their ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences.

Schools and Institute Directors of Postgraduate Research will consider PRES 2019 results to draw up action plans for further changes and improvements, in consultation with the research community – both academic colleagues and postgraduate researchers. Building on this process, other teams within the University (Library, IT, Space Management committees) will be engaged in overarching plans at Faculty and University level.



Doctoral College Study Centre

COURAGE

TO ADDRESS THE UNIQUE SET OF WELLBEING CHALLENGES FACED BY POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS, UEA HAS CO-SPONSORED THE COURAGE PROJECT, ONE OF THE FOUR LARGE GRANTS FUNDED UNDER THE OFS AND RESEARCH ENGLAND CATALYST SCHEME (£150K).

This sector-leading initiative builds upon initial research carried out by UEA SU's Honesty Project, launched in 2015. Courage began in February 2018 under the leadership of Dr John Turnpenny, Associate Dean for PGR, HUM.

COURAGE HAS THREE PRINCIPLES:

- 1 Partnership – between UEA, University of Suffolk and Norwich Bioscience Institutes, and also between academics across Faculties, UEA Students' Union, the Postgraduate Research Service, the Student Support Service, and other teams including Careers Service and Estates
- 2 Leadership by PGRs – Courage depends on 12 PGRs on paid placements in leadership roles, designing, planning, and implementing.
- 3 Addressing both support AND prevention – supporting people affected by mental health or wellbeing issues, developing appropriate skills for stressful conditions, and also addressing things that might cause problems in the first place.

The principles are woven through the different activities within the project. A core strand of work explores the research culture and community, and involves PGR placements based across all Graduate Schools at UEA. Different aspects of the PGR experience and of the research culture were considered, such as the importance of space and place, opportunities for community development across NRP institutions, building a strong research community for part-time PGR students, and optimising approaches for peer-learning.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER WORK STRANDS INCLUDE:

- Accessible, varied and inclusive activities for the research community, which led to the inauguration of the first garden with a Silent Space in East Anglia
- A variety of approaches to building resilience
- Support and training for research supervisors
- Support for PGRs who teach
- A Mental Health Impact Assessment Tool, to assess potential impacts of university policy initiatives, piloted by the PGR Executive in 2018-19
- Research, dissemination and advocacy on best practices pertaining to PGR mental health and effective interventions for the research community. Events include the Courage Festival, held on 11 September 2019 with 75 participants, staff and PGRs from UEA and beyond, and a roundtable dissemination event for senior policy makers to be run with the What Works Centre for Wellbeing.



EXTERNALLY-FUNDED DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

IN 2018-19, UEA HAS MAINTAINED ITS INVOLVEMENT IN WELL-ESTABLISHED DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS (DTPS) AND WILL BE EXTENDING ITS DOCTORAL RESEARCH CAPACITY UNDER SEVERAL NEW SCHEMES.

NERC – ADVANCED RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES (ARIES)

The Advanced Research and Innovation in the Environmental Sciences (ARIES) DTP, led by UEA, was funded in the latest round of NERC Doctoral Training Partnership awards. It draws together expertise from five universities (UEA, Essex, Kent, Royal Holloway and Plymouth), nine research centres, and over forty research-users. ARIES will offer over 75 PhD studentships over five student cohorts, starting between 2019 and 2023.

ARIES is built upon scientific excellence within five overlapping research themes:

- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Marine, Atmospheric and Climate Science;
- Geosciences, Resources and Environmental Risk;
- Environmental Genomics and Microbiology; and Agri-environments and Water

BBSRC – NORWICH RESEARCH PARK (NRP) BIOSCIENCE DTP:

The UKRI-BBSRC Norwich Research Park Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership (NRPDTP) is led by the John Innes Centre, in partnership with the Earlham Institute, the Quadram Institute Bioscience, the Sainsbury Laboratory and UEA. For October 2018 entry, 33 standard and 7 CASE doctoral candidates were appointed. In addition, four UKRI-BBSRC National Productivity Investment Fund CASE projects were defined and recruited to. For the last recruitment to the current funding round, October 2019 start, 29 standard and 14 CASE doctoral candidates have been appointed. The total number of doctoral candidates on the NRPDTP Programme is 184. Joint training, learning and development events have been held with MRC DART and NERC EnvEast/ARIES.

AHRC – CONSORTIUM FOR THE HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS SOUTH EAST ENGLAND (CHASE)

In 2018-19, AHRC has announced the renewal of funding for the Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South East England (CHASE). One of 10 AHRC Doctoral Training Partnerships awarded across the UK, CHASE will support 5 new cohorts of over 50 students every year, which will include funding from Collaborative Doctoral Awards with a range of partner organisations. This year, UEA CHASE students have completed 9 professional placements with external institutions, and two PhD projects were co-designed with partner institutions: the Norfolk Record Office and the Museum of London.

EPSRC – CENTRE FOR DOCTORAL TRAINING IN AGRI-FOOD ROBOTICS (AGRIFORWARDS)

UEA has joined the world's first Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) for agri-food robotics, led by the University of Lincoln and in partnership with the University of Cambridge. The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has awarded £6.6m for the new Centre, which will bring together the largest ever group of Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS) specialists for the global food and farming sectors.

The CDT will provide funding and training for at least 50 doctoral students, who will be supported by major industry partners, including: John Deere, Syngenta, G's Growers, Beeswax Dyson, ABB and the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board.



MRC – DOCTORAL ANTIMICROBIAL RESEARCH TRAINING (DART) ICASE PROGRAMME

In 2018-19, UEA has welcomed the first cohort of students under the DART iCASE programme funded by MRC. These fully-funded studentships focus on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), an area of research excellence across the NRP. Under the iCASE model, PhD projects are co-designed with industrial partners, and students spend a minimum of 3 months at the partner institution. MRC has confirmed funding for two further intakes years in 2019 and 2020.

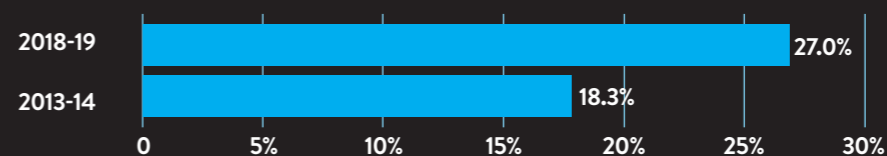
ESRC – SOUTH EAST NETWORK FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES (SENSS)

The South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) DTP, funded by ESRC and composed of 10 universities, has welcomed its second cohort in 2018-19. UEA hosted the SeNSS Summer Conference on 10-12 July 2019, under the theme of Social Science, Social Value and Social Justice. The conference featured a keynote presentation by Professor Todd Landman on 'Using AI to end modern slavery', and included Pathway-specific sessions, interdisciplinary discussions and three-minute thesis and research poster competitions.

WELLCOME 4-YEAR PHD PROGRAMME – EDESIA – PLANTS, FOOD, AND HEALTH

UEA has been awarded a £5.3m Wellcome grant for a new PhD programme starting in 2020. The unique Edesia: Plants, Food and Health programme will advance major aspects of plant-based nutrition and health, from crop to clinic, drawing on the world-class interdisciplinary research expertise of the Norwich Research Park. The rotation programme will support 25 studentships over 5 cohorts in food and health research across the NRP, with students training in a variety of disciplines, from plant science, nutrition and clinical trials, to population-based studies.

PROPORTION OF UKRI-FUNDED PGR STUDENTS AT UEA



PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES

WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY ENHANCING THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL QUALIFICATIONS AT UEA. IN 2018-19, SOME OF OUR WELL-ESTABLISHED PROGRAMMES WERE REVIEWED, AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL TRAINING WERE CREATED IN THE REGION.

NEW DOCTORATE IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMME (EdPsyD)

A first cohort has embarked on the Doctorate in Educational Psychology programme in September 2018. The programme was approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), and offers 10 places per year funded by the Department for Education. This is the first new educational psychology programme to be established in the UK for over twenty years, which will train much needed members of this profession in the region. The British Psychological Society said the course was having “a transformational effect on the community of educational psychologists in the East of England”.

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (PROFD HASC) STARTING IN 2019

We are welcoming a first cohort of 16 students as part of the Professional Doctorate in Health and Social Care (ProfD HaSC) in 2019, a part-time programme delivered over five years.

The Professional Doctorate in Health and Social Care is an interdisciplinary, postgraduate level programme which has been designed to meet the needs of senior health and social care practitioners who wish to develop evidence-based interventions within their own sphere of practice. The applied nature of the programme develops candidates’ research capabilities, enables them to manage complex problems and advance their practice.

DOCTORATE IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY (CLINPSYD)

The ClinPsyD is a three-year professional doctorate, successful completion of which makes trainees eligible to apply for professional registration as a Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) registered Clinical Psychologist. The ClinPsyD is a well-established, practice-based programme within the university, having taken its first intake in 1995, pre-dating the formation of the Norwich Medical School. Most ClinPsyD trainees are employees of the National Health Service (NHS) and the Cambridge and Peterborough Foundation Trust is the host NHS trust employer. The programme was thoroughly reviewed during 2018-19 by a working group including employer and student representation, considering issues such as resourcing, recruitment and programme structure.

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME (EDD)

Since 2015 the Doctor of Education programme has implemented a series of amendments, and is now a 0.4FTE part-time five-year course with an optional year of registration-only. The University reviewed the EdD during 2018-19 and resolved to remove the MEd to EdD transition so that students starting from the next intake in 2020 will register directly on to the EdD with a probationary review, in line with the model for the PhD which has been in place since 2015.

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE PROGRAMME (MD)

The academic year 2018-19 saw the first intake to the Doctor of Medicine programme following revisions made in 2017-18. These aligned the course more effectively with the three-year timeframe available to clinicians during their training, to conduct “out of programme” research. We look forward to working more closely with UEA Health and Social Care Partners to make it easier to do more and better research and innovation together.

PGR CAREER DEVELOPMENT



UEA CAREERS SERVICE HAS THREE DEDICATED PGR CAREERS ADVISERS SUPPORTING THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY OF OUR GRADUATES. DR REBECCA WYAND, DR SUZANNE WALKER AND DR ROSEMARY BASS HAVE ALL WORKED IN ACADEMIA BEFORE DECIDING TO CONCENTRATE ON SUPPORTING OTHERS IN THEIR CAREER PROGRESSION, AND HAVE DELIVERED A RANGE OF INITIATIVES FOR THE PGR COMMUNITY IN 2018-19.



Doctoral placements and internships

Our postgraduate researchers have engaged with a wide range of development opportunities including those integral to the doctorate (such as iCASE studentships), graduate internships, Courage Project placements, or self-directed opportunities

Professional internships and placements provide an opportunity to experience new employment sectors, develop a range of transferable skills, and make valuable connections. An internship can also offer a time to pause and take stock, so that when students return to their studies they are refreshed and re-focused on their research and what lies beyond.

Supporting PGR professional networks

A priority this year has been to forge successful connections and collaborations with colleagues working under the umbrella of the Doctoral College and amongst the PGR student community itself.

Professional development workshops (Applications, Interview Technique, Career Confidence, Moving on in Your Academic Career) give students an opportunity to mix with other researchers from a rich variety of disciplines and backgrounds, and offers a valuable peer-to-peer learning experience. Students often connect with each other following these events (including online through LinkedIn and Twitter), feel less isolated and realise they have much in common.

i-Teams

The i-Teams model, created at MIT, provides groups of research students with the opportunity to work with a business mentor on an innovation project. Dr Rosemary Bass from CareerCentral coordinates iTeams at UEA with colleagues in our Research and Innovation Services: “PhD students benefit from the training provided business skills, but also from facing challenges as part of a multidisciplinary team. Participants grow in confidence and get to apply their skills outside of academia”.

Uniquely at UEA, Technology i-Teams run alongside Heritage i-Teams, which consider how a significant collection, archive or element of historical importance can be developed for the benefit of the local community.

OUR GRADUATE SCHOOLS: 2018-19 HIGHLIGHTS

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Associate Dean: Dr John Turnpenny, PPL
humgrad.school@uea.ac.uk

- The Interdisciplinary Seminar on the theme of Medical Humanities brought people together to discuss detailed research topics, and has acted as a stimulus for closer research cooperation between Faculties more widely. This is research-led innovation at its best.
- The Graduate School Student Forum (GSSF) continues to act as advocate and to hold Faculty, Schools and University to account, working beyond the Faculty with unions, University committees and the new Doctoral College to achieve more than one Faculty can on its own.
- HUM staff and PGRs have been recognised in the Students' Union Transforming Education Awards 2019 and the Student Transformation Awards. Congratulations to all Graduate School staff and PGR nominees, and particularly to our winners Matthew Sillence, Briony Hannell and Andrea James.

MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Associate Dean: Dr Penny Powell, MED
fmh.gradschool@uea.ac.uk

- New initiatives building a FMH-wide research community through the Research Student Forum: student-run monthly "Bitesize" breakfast and lunch clubs, continued support for the annual external guest speaker event (Prof Ben Garrod in 2018/19).
- Over 50 PhD proposals were submitted on a broad range of clinical and biological science topics to a FMH-funded competition, which successfully funded 7 PhD students starting Oct 2019.
- A new professional doctorate in Health and Social Care joins the wide range of postgraduate research degrees on offer in FMH.

SCIENCE

Associate Dean: Dr Samuel Fountain, BIO
scigrad.school@uea.ac.uk

- As part of the ongoing efforts to support SCI staff and students, a new PGR supervisor training package was developed.
- The availability of doctoral training funding under the EPSRC remit has increased, of great benefit to research in the Science Graduate School.
- The Science Graduate School has continued to work with colleagues from ARM and IT Services to examine issues raised regarding the installation of specialist research software and how to ensure that the UEA website developments work for postgraduate researchers.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Associate Dean: Prof Corrado Di Maria, ECO
ssfgrad.school@uea.ac.uk

- We continue to welcome postgraduate researchers from all over the world. Students from 23 different countries join us in October 2019, who will bring the number of different nationalities represented in the Graduate School to 49.
- In 2018-19 we provided an even broader and better range of training to SSF, UEA and beyond, including over 4,000 online sessions to PGRs from 34 other subscribing UK institutions.
- UEA hosted the SeNSS conference, with a rich and varied programme. Much of the focus of the conference was on digital social sciences, highlighting our multidisciplinary focus and our commitment to research that pushes the boundaries of knowledge in the Social Sciences.

NORWICH BIOSCIENCE INSTITUTES

Chair: Prof David Evans, JIC
graduates.nrp@nbi.ac.uk

- A regular and informal meeting with student representatives on the Graduate School Executive has been instigated to enhance communication and interaction with the PGR community.
- NBI Graduate School PGRs had the highest response rate, 67.9%, to PRES 2019 and impressive Researchfish returns, 96% of current students.
- Several PGRs of the Graduate School have won conference awards and prizes and others have been proactive in science communication activities.

UNIVERSITY OF SUFFOLK

Chair: Prof Emma Bond, UoS
graduateschool@uos.ac.uk

- University of Suffolk has retained the HR Excellence in Research Award for a further two years.
- The Brightspace Graduate School space was created, offering a responsive and personalised learning experience with powerful learning analytics capabilities.
- In 2019, 20 PhD fees-only scholarships were introduced and the Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA) scheme was implemented: the first two GTAs have started at the University of Suffolk in the Schools of Engineering, and Arts, Science and Technology.

PRACTICAL UPDATES

COURSE UPDATES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES

- Postgraduate researchers can now study for an MA by Research in all Schools within the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, including the School of History, which was added in 2019.
- Students registering for the Doctor of Education programme from 2019-20 onwards will register directly on to the EdD with probationary review, rather than transferring from MEd.
- We are welcoming the first intake on the Professional Doctorate in Health and Social Care, in the School of Health Sciences, in October 2019.

NEW POSTGRADUATE ADMISSIONS SYSTEM – TARGETX

- During 2018-19 the Admissions, Recruitment and Marketing Division worked with IT and Postgraduate Research Service colleagues to implement a new direct application solution for postgraduate applicants to apply to UEA.
- The system is called TargetX and runs off the well-established Salesforce platform. It has many new features including allowing applicants to apply using mobile phones and tablets, and for us to tailor application forms to specific programmes.
- Postgraduate research applicants have been able to apply through TargetX since August 2019. Training and guidance are being provided to academic and professional colleagues as we phase out ApplyYourself, Connect and AppReview.

NEW INTAKE DATES FROM 2021

- For a number of years the University has had four intake dates for postgraduate researchers: 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October. Some Faculties, Schools and Doctoral Training Programmes restrict this further to only allow starters in October, or only October or January. One programme – the Doctorate in Educational Psychology – has its start date on 1 September.
- There is no change for postgraduate researchers starting in 2020, but from **2021 the main intake dates for PGR will change to 1 February, 1 June and 1 October**. The main reasons for this are to avoid students starting on a date when the University is closed for New Year or Easter, and to reduce their travel costs in coming to the University by avoiding the expensive holiday periods.
- Other start dates will still be possible on an exceptional basis for good reason – submit a concession for approval by the relevant Faculty Associate Dean for Postgraduate Research.

NEW ROLES AND TERMINOLOGY FOR 2019-20

- The duties of the role of Academic Director of Research Degree Programmes (Dr Nick Watmough, 2012-19) now belong to the role of Academic Director of UEA Doctoral College (Prof Alastair Grant, 2019-22).
- The Postgraduate Research Executive will become the Doctoral College Executive with effect from 2019-20.

UPDATED REGULATIONS

- See portal.uea.ac.uk/postgraduate-research/pgr-regulations-and-forms or contact Postgraduate Research Service
- General Regulation 13 (Engagement) has been updated to incorporate GR24 (Fitness for Study); a revised PGR Procedure to reflect this has been developed.
- EdD Award Regulations – updated to reflect the change to direct entry to the EdD with probationary review from 2019-20.
- Instructions to Examiners – minor clarifications around reports and adjustments for disabled students; addition of text following the review of the Doctor of Education programme.
- PhD Award Regulations – information around transfer from MPhil to PhD removed since this no longer applies to any current students.
- Rules for the Submission of Theses for Research Degrees – new, clearer version created which brings two documents together.

UPDATED GUIDANCE

- See portal.uea.ac.uk/postgraduate-research/pgr-regulations-and-forms or contact Postgraduate Research Service
- Two toolkits for PGR Directors were produced and disseminated: one on circumstances affecting study, and one on submission rates.
- New guidance has been produced for internal examiners and supervisors around PGR thesis resubmission.
- New guidance has been produced for Heads of Schools to assist with handling misconduct in research allegations.

FIND OUT MORE

www.uea.ac.uk/postgrad-research

CONTACT US

pgr.enquiries.admiss@uea.ac.uk



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