

Terms of Reference and Membership 2025/2026

Graduate College Steering Group

1. Summary and Purpose

1.1 The Graduate College Steering Group (GCSG) is responsible to the Research Degrees Committee and Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee. GCSG is responsible for promoting research degrees both internally and externally, giving a voice to research students via an active network of student representatives, providing opportunities for research student training and networking, for building and maintaining a research student community and for ensuring research student entitlements are met. This aligns to the University Research Strategy.

The Graduate Steering Group has delegated responsibilities for certain activities from the Committees which sit within the central structure but do not form part of the central University Academic Governance structure.

2. Frequency of meetings

2.1 At least three times each year; more frequently if required.

3. Duties and responsibilities and authority

3.1 The Graduate College Steering Group shall be responsible for:

- Providing a vehicle for continual development of research student entitlements to ensure a common platform in our student offer;
- Ensuring all research students have a corporate and representative voice that can be heard at a senior level and to develop further a sense of community;
- Oversight of the design, delivery and development of all aspects of research student training that are run centrally, and also oversight of the process of research student supervisor training for academic staff, which will continue to be run by the Research Degrees Team;
- Provide a means of developing strategy regarding research students – for example, overseeing plans to increase the total number of doctoral students, or University-level bids to funding bodies for doctoral studentships;
- Ensure that (a) as many research students as possible who want to teach can do so, and (b) all of these students receive appropriate and timely training to carry out their teaching;
- Facilitate and promote research student cohort identity, networking, and opportunities for multi- and interdisciplinary research;
- Provide strategic oversight for Doctoral Training Programmes to all research students;
- Enable the University to advertise and promote its doctoral programme in a coherent way to an external audience, thereby enhancing recruitment;
- Provide a modest source of funding for social events for research students – paid for out of central research funds;

4. Membership

Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation (Chair)

Three Deans of Research (with one acting as Vice-Chair on a rotational basis) and/or

A Senior Postgraduate Research Tutor representative from each faculty (on a rotational basis)

Chairs of faculty Research Degree Sub-Committees

Director of Researcher Development

Chair of the Research Degrees Committee

Head of the Research Degrees Team

At least one Supervisor representative

At least one postgraduate research student representative from each faculty

Careers Consultant

Others to be co-opted or requested to attend if required.

Graduate College Steering Group: Membership for 2025/2026

NB: Where possible members will attend all meetings of the Graduate College Steering Group, but where this is not possible will ensure that at least one representative from each faculty is present.

Professor Joe Tah	HST Chair	Pro Vice-Chancellor - Research and Innovation
Professor Nigel Crook	HST	Dean Research and Innovation
Professor Sarah Quinton	AHSS	Dean Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation
Professor Koula Asimakopoulou	HST	Dean Research and Knowledge Exchange
Professor Susan Brooks	HST	Chair of Research Degrees Committee /Director of Researcher Development
Professor Dan Lea	AHSS	Senior Postgraduate Research Tutor/PhD Programmes
Professor Christian Ehrlich	AHSS	Faculty Doctoral Subject Co-ordinator
Dr Judie Gannon	AHSS	Senior Postgraduate Research Tutor
Professor Khaled Hayatleh	HST	Senior Postgraduate Research Tutor
Dr Jo Moyle	ASA	Careers Consultant
Babz Clough	AHSS	Research Student Representative
Mitaali Katoch	AHSS	Research Student Representative
Maria de Carli Ball	AHSS	Research Student Representative
Saaed Azhdarnia	HST	Research Student Representative
Marie Rusch	HST	Research Student Representative
Catherine Joyejob	RDT	Head of Research Degrees
Dr Maria Brown	RDT	Secretary