

2.3 Quality assurance, enhancement and improvement

The monitoring and improvement of the quality of research provision is recognised by the provider as a priority. A core priority of the monitoring procedures in place involves monitoring across the provider as a whole (cross-institutional monitoring). The quality assurance system for research degree programmes in the provider is coherent, integrated into the wider internal QA system with an overall institutional structure and approach to the quality assurance of research degrees. The system is an integral part of institutional research culture. The quality assurance procedures for research degree programmes:

- enable the achievement of those elements of the mission and objectives of the provider related to research degree programmes including academic and research integrity, and acceptable academic standards and effective processes
- consider risks that arise in the context of research provision. Procedures are developed to mitigate the range of risks identified and risks that may arise in the context of the research project. Such risks may be varied and include fraud, malpractice and plagiarism; difficulties with funding of projects; issues with inadequate supervision; a disconnect with research partners or a breakdown of working relationships; complications with employment-related research projects; student and staff wellbeing.

Procedures are in place to allow all those concerned with research degree programmes to make themselves fully aware of the relevant quality assurance procedures. Documentation is integrated reflecting a comprehensive record of all QA procedures for research degrees and related services. Procedures are available and accessible to all concerned.

For quality improvement, enhancement and evaluation purposes, due consideration is given to all feedback and self-monitoring processes, relevant data and statistics, and the findings of internally and externally initiated evaluations for research degree programmes and related services.

The procedures provide for opportunities for research students and graduates to give feedback on their experience and evaluate the effectiveness of the supporting procedures.