

Annex K
Research Councils/AHRB requirements for postgraduate funding

1. Institutional requirements for research degree programmes (RDP)							
	AHRB	BBSRC	EPSRC	ESRC	MRC	NERC	PPARC
QAA Code of Practice required	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Submission rate 4 yr target (approx)	70%	70%	80%	75%	70%	80%	3 yrs
Sanctions applied at	<50%	<70%	<60%	non submission	none	<80%	
Average time to submission					3		3 incentive
Attrition							
Complaints & appeals statistics							
2. The research environment							
Pre-recognition of departments				3 (5yrly)			
Departmental visits	informal	sampling by review committee	HEI interface managers	5-7 HEIs per yr	informal	top 20 HEIs	informal
RAE minimum		3a				3b	
Peer review	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
RC/AHRB related research activity	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Volume of grant funding		3	3	3	3	3	3
No. of publications		3		3	3		3
No. of research active academic staff & fellows		3		3	3	3	3
No. of postdoctorates		3		3	3	3	3
No. of students		3		3	3	3	
Support, facilities, specialist staff, library	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
3. The selection, admission, enrolment and induction of students							
Qualification (or APL/APEL) for PhD registration	Masters	2.1	2.1 norm	recognised Masters	2.1	2.1	2.1
Named student on proposal	3			3			
References	3			3			

3. The selection, admission, enrolment and induction of students (continued)							
	AHRB	BBSRC	EPSRC	ESRC	MRC	NERC	PPARC
National competition	3			3	3	few awards	3
Algorithmic quota / Doctoral Training Account ¹			3 (except Maths)			3	
Peer review of student research projects	3	3 (~30%)		3	3		3 (<12%)
Departmental induction				3			
4. Supervisory arrangements							
Team of supervisors (recommended)				3			3
Named main supervisor	3	recognised list	3	3	3	full staff member	3
Scholarly standing	3	3			3		
Maximum number of RC students		1 per yr					
Supervisor monitoring & training		3		3	3		3
New supervisor training		3		3	3		3
RC Code of Practice for supervision			3	3	3	3	3
5. Initial review and subsequent progress							
Recommended monitoring & assessment procedures		3	3 ¹	3	3		3
External to supervisory team			3				
Independent mechanisms to assess progress			first year ¹		3		first year
Annual reports/confirmation of satisfactory progress to RC/AHRB	3	3	3 ¹	3	3	3	3
Final report to RC/AHRB	3		3 ¹	3	3	3	3

¹ Under the Doctoral Training Account system institutions have greater discretion on monitoring and assessment procedures.

6. The development of research and other skills							
	AHRB	BBSRC	EPSRC	ESRC	MRC	NERC	PPARC
Joint Statement of Skills Requirements	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Required level of skills training provision	reviewing	template	Research Councils Graduate Skills Programme	recognised Masters	outline statement	outline statement	outline statement
Identified on project proposal	3	3			3		3
Research training support grant	reviewing	3	3	3	3	3	3
Opportunity to present work (nationally)		3				3	3
Funds for national conference attendance		3	3	3	3	3	3
Seminar programme		3		3	3		
Cross departmental activities				3			
Maintain record of progress			3		3		3
7. Feedback mechanisms							
Feedback on induction process						3	
Annual student feedback questionnaires	reviewing		reviewing			3	3
Exit interviews/questionnaires	reviewing						3
Ad hoc surveys			3		3		
First destination statistics	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Longitudinal studies (ad hoc)	reviewing		3			3	
Annual departmental feedback						3	
8. Appeals and complaints mechanisms							

Involvement by exception	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
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