

Annex B

Steering group membership and terms of reference

Membership

Professor Roland Levinsky (chair), Vice-Provost and Head of Graduate School, University College London

Professor Richard Balment, Dean for International and Graduate Education, University of Manchester

Professor Mary Bownes, Institute of Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Edinburgh

Mr Robson Davison (observer), Department for Education and Learning, Northern Ireland

Dr Jonathan Grant, Head of Policy, The Wellcome Trust

Mr Richard Hancock, Head of Research Policy, SHEFC

Ms Ann Hughes, Head of Funding, HEFCW

Professor Stuart Laing, Director of Academic Affairs, University of Brighton

Mr John Rushforth, Head of Research Policy, HEFCE

Mr Tom Sastry (project manager), Policy Officer, HEFCE

Mr Phil Sooben, Head of Postgraduate Training, ESRC

Professor Stephen Tomlinson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wales College of Medicine

Consultancy team

Dr Janet Metcalfe (project manager) educational consultant

Mr Quentin Thompson, educational consultant

Professor Howard Green, Chair, UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE) and Dean of Graduate School, Staffordshire University

Professor Stuart Powell, UKCGE Executive Committee and Dean of Research, University of Hertfordshire

Dr Hichem Trache, Lecturer, University of Nottingham

Ms Clare McCauley, administrator, UKCGE

Ms Kathryn Brown, administrator, Leeds Metropolitan University

Terms of reference

The Steering Group is asked to advise the Chief Executives of HEFCE, HEFCW and SHEFC on the practical means of implementing the following recommendation arising from the Review of Research:

The HEFCE, together with the Research Councils and other stakeholders such as industry and charities, should develop minimum requirements which departments would need to satisfy in order to be eligible for HEFCE funding for postgraduate research training. The research assessment process should be extended to establish whether departments comply with these minimum standards.

The Steering Group is asked to advise on:

- The approach to a good practice guide for HEIs on postgraduate research training
- Possible indicators of good practice
- Threshold standards
- Assessment and assurance systems utilising standards
- Funding implications.

This will be a three-stage process with:

Phase one a review of good practice in HEIs, requirements of research funders, and identification of indicators that might form the basis of possible threshold standards

Phase two would be, in consultation with all interested stakeholders, developing these indicators into threshold standards, and how such standards might be deployed

Phase three would be assessing the costs of implementing such a system and possible funding models to support it.

At the end of each phase the steering group will be asked to advise whether to proceed to the next phase.