NUI Policy, Regulations and Procedures

for the approval of NUI Research Degrees in the Recognised Colleges

November 2021

Ollscoil na hÉireann
National University of Ireland

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1. Introduction

1.1 The National University of Ireland (NUI) is a university established under the Irish Universities Act 1908 and restructured under the 1997 Universities Act. NUI comprises, in law, four autonomous constituent universities. Separately from these, NUI is a Designated Awarding Body (DAB) named in the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012 (hereafter referred to as the 2012 Act) with the authority in law to award degrees and other qualifications.

1.2 NUI is also empowered under its charter and by statute to recognise other institutions of higher education, referred to as Recognised Colleges, and to award degrees and other qualifications in those institutions.

1.3 The Senate is the Governing Body of the National University and approves the recognition of institutions as Recognised Colleges of the University. The Senate also approves all academic programmes leading to qualifications of the University in the Recognised Colleges.

1.4 This policy refers to the awarding of research degrees in the Recognised Colleges. The associated regulations and procedures are intended to ensure that these Colleges offer high academic and student support standards in research degrees that are comparable to those in the NUI constituent universities and reflect good practice nationally and internationally.

1.5 This policy and associated regulations and procedures should be considered as supplementary to NUI's regulations and procedures governing the approval of taught programmes leading to NUI degrees and other qualifications in the Recognised Colleges.[1]

1 NUI (2020), Regulations, Procedures and Guidelines for the Approval of New Programmes and Changes to Existing Programmes in the Recognised Colleges

2. Scope

This policy, regulations and procedures apply to (i) institutions that are currently Recognised Colleges of NUI, including those with separate awarding body status, and (ii) institutions that wish to apply for recognised college status and intend to provide taught and research programmes leading to degrees and other qualifications of the National University.

This policy, regulations and procedures apply to all research degrees awarded by NUI. A list of these degree awards is provided in Appendix 2.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the policy, regulations and procedures for Recognised Colleges intending to provide academic programmes and training leading to research degrees as part of a culture and strategy for research in the institution.

4. Quality Assurance

NUI is a designated awarding body under the 2012 Act and as such is responsible for approving and overseeing Quality Assurance and Enhancement policies and procedures in operation in Recognised Colleges that are also Linked Providers of the University.[2] These policies and procedures must include QA provisions for research degrees.

As an awarding body with Linked Provider institutions, NUI is also required to comprehensively review the effectiveness of the quality assurance provision in Recognised Colleges (which are also 'linked providers'). This will include the effectiveness of quality assurance procedures in relation to research degrees.

NUI's QA procedures are based on a specific set of standards and guidelines developed and published by QQI, in consultation with NUI, and provide a statutory framework for the review of the quality assurance provision in the Recognised Colleges.[3]

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2 Where a Recognised College is also a designated awarding body under the Qualifications and Quality Assurance (Education and Training) Act 2012, the responsibility for approval of its quality assurance procedures lies directly with QQI.

3 QQI (2019), Statutory Guidelines for the Review of Linked Providers by the National University of Ireland

5. General Policy Principles

5.1 These regulations apply to all research degrees awarded by NUI (See Appendix 2) with the exception of NUI Degrees in Published Work which are governed and administered separately.[4]

5.2 For the most part, policy and procedures relating to the submission of research programmes for NUI Senate validation mirror those already in place for the submission and validation of taught degree programmes, however there are important additional components and stipulations that are specific to research degrees. These are set out in sections 6 and 7.

5.3 The defining feature of a research degree programme is the high volume of learning and associated (ECTS) credit that is awarded for original research undertaken by the student. For programmes leading to doctoral degrees in particular, it is expected that the original research will contribute to the development of new knowledge in a chosen academic discipline or on an interdisciplinary basis.

5.4 Recognised Colleges approved by Senate to offer programmes leading to NUI research degrees will be required to:

a) demonstrate a culture of excellence in research linked to their strategic objectives.

b) ensure the quality of postgraduate programmes of research and training meet the standards for the award of research degrees, at either masters or doctoral level.

c) manage a learning environment with a high-quality infrastructure to support postgraduate research students through expert and committed supervision and access to a wider research community both nationally and internationally.

4 NUI (2018), Degrees on Published Work awarded by the National University of Ireland: Regulations, Criteria, Guidelines and Application Procedures

d) The quality of supervision provided to postgraduate students undertaking a research programme is paramount. NUI's statutes (1908, as amended) commit the University to ensuring that Recognised Colleges uphold the quality of teaching personnel and this extends in the contemporary higher education environment to research supervision as a core function of the institution. NUI will seek to be assured that the standards of academic and pastoral supervision and support in place in the Recognised College are comparable to those in operation in the constituent universities

e) Ensure a robust quality assurance system is in place to underpin the provision.[5]

5.5 NUI is responsible for ensuring that the standards and quality of research programmes and training leading to research degrees satisfy national and international good practice and are consistent with comparable standards in the constituent universities.

5 NUI (as a DAB) is required to approve the quality assurance and enhancement provision in Recognised Colleges (as "Linked Providers"). In the case of Recognised Colleges with the status of a DAB, the quality assurance and enhancement provision is approved directly by QQI.

6. Regulations governing approval of NUI research degrees in the Recognised Colleges

6.1 Recognised Colleges that propose to offer research academic programmes and training will be required to submit their regulations and procedures governing research degrees for academic review and approval by Senate.

6.2 A Recognised College will be required to update its quality assurance policy and procedures to incorporate the quality assurance of its research degree provision in circumstances where it has not previously offered research degree programmes. Updated QA procedures will be subject to approval by Senate.

6.3 NUI's regulations and procedures governing the approval of taught programmes will broadly apply to programmes leading to research degrees.[6] Adapting these accordingly, NUI will seek to ensure that:

a) effective methods to support both the research activities and the students enrolled in research degree programmes are established and maintained, to ensure the standards and quality of the research in the Recognised Colleges satisfy national and international standards and requirements[7] and are consistent with comparable programmes offered in the NUI constituent universities.

b) the marks and standards governing research degree programmes are robust and consistent with those in the NUI constituent universities and benchmarked appropriately to the NFQ.

c) all programmes leading to research degrees in the Recognised Colleges are subject to appropriate external and independent academic review.

d) proposals for the introduction of new research degrees are supported with a range of documentation to be submitted to the Registrar before a recommendation for approval is made to NUI Senate.

6 NUI (2020), Regulations, Procedures and Guidelines for the Approval of New Programmes and Changes to Existing Programmes in the Recognised Colleges, p. 11.

7 QQI (2019), Ireland's Framework of Good Practice for Research Degree Programmes

e) NUI will establish appropriate timelines with the Recognised College to facilitate each stage of the review process prior to approval. Recognised Colleges must be cognisant of the timeframe required for the design, review and approval of a programme, through the NUI Senate, before it is offered formally to students.

6.4 Recognised Colleges are required to:

a) publish academic regulations for all research degrees offered.

b) put in place clearly defined structures covering all academic matters relating to the progress and assessment of students on programmes leading to research degrees. These include, but are not limited to, robust supervisory arrangements, monitoring of progress against specific criteria and benchmarks, and appropriate examination arrangements for all research degrees.

6.5 All research degree provision offered in the Recognised Colleges will be aligned with the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ), ensuring that the programme learning outcomes linked to taught module components are consistent with national and published NFQ Awards Standards at Level 9 for master's degrees and Level 10 for (i) traditional and structured doctoral degrees and (ii) Professional Doctorates.

7. Proposals to offer NUI research degrees: procedures for the approval by Senate

7.1 Procedures for the external review of submissions

a) Proposals for new research degrees must include a brief summary of the structures and standards in place in the institution to support the application in question and include relevant and appropriate links and references. See Appendix 1.

b) Where taught modules are included in a research degree programme and lead to additional minor, special purpose or supplemental NUI qualifications these will require approval for use either as part of the research degree programme or as an additional component to the programme. To note: Stand-alone modules that do not lead to NUI qualifications do not require Senate approval.

c) These taught components (typically < 60 ECTS), where they lead to a separate qualification, will require the support of an extern assessor who is expert in the relevant discipline area. The extern assessor can be (i) appointed independently by the Recognised College or (ii) acting as an extern examiner appointed by NUI for an existing programme in a related discipline area in the Recognised College.[8]

d) NUI will schedule an independent academic peer review of the proposed degree programme and will seek to ensure that the final panel composition is in line with sectoral expectations on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, including but not limited to gender balance.

e) The review will be undertaken by a panel of no less than three members, all of whom will be independent of the Recognised College, with verification of no known conflicts of interest.

8 For full information on the procedures for approving short programmes, see NUI's Regulations, Procedures and Guidelines for the Approval of New Programmes and Changes to Existing Programmes in the Recognised Colleges, *p. 13*.

f) The Review Panel will be appointed by NUI and will be chaired by a senior academic, independent of any NUI member institutions, with significant experience and expertise in programmes and training, preferably at an international level, leading to research degrees. The other Panel members will comprise two senior and experienced academics in the area of research (and where relevant, professional practice), one of whom will be drawn from the NUI constituent universities and the other to be proposed by the Recognised College.

g) For some professional research degrees, participation by professional, regulatory, or statutory bodies may be integral to the accreditation process. In such cases, the Recognised College must demonstrate institutional oversight relating to the professional and/or statutory body.

h) All programmes leading to NUI research degrees, and to be delivered jointly with collaborative partners, are subject to the same approval process as those to be delivered entirely by the Recognised College.[9]

7.2 The approval by Senate for a Recognised College to offer a new research degree

In cases where a proposal to offer a new research degree has satisfactorily undergone an external review and a set of recommendations have been made, the Senate may:

a) Approve in full.

b) Approve subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. Conditions are requirements, which must be met by the Recognised College prior to the admission of a student onto the research programme.

c) Approve subject to minor amendments to be completed as soon as possible and suggested recommendations for improvement which should be considered by the Recognised College at its discretion.

d) Withhold approval pending further consultation with the Recognised College.

9 Recognised Colleges should refer to the following for guidance: NUI (2013), Quality Assurance for Collaborative and Transnational Provision of Academic Programmes Leading to NUI Qualifications and IHEQN (2013), Guidelines for the Approval, Monitoring and Review of Collaborative and Transnational Provision

7.3 Implementation of process to offer programmes leading to the research degree

a) The NUI Registrar will inform the Head of the Recognised College, in writing, of the Senate's decision regarding the approval to offer a new research degree.

b) The Recognised College will submit final programme documentation (incorporating any proposed amendments) to the NUI Registrar within an agreed timeframe.

c) A start-date for the research programme will be confirmed.

d) A periodic review of the research provision leading to the NUI research degree will be provisionally scheduled within the first five years of the programme.[10]

10 Please see NUI (2019), Guidelines, Criteria and Procedures for the Periodic Review of Programmes Leading to NUI Degrees and Other Qualifications in the Recognised Colleges

Appendix 1: Application for approval of a research degree of NUI, in a Recognised College

1. Recognised Colleges should be familiar with recent developments in research education and training in Ireland and adopt a framework of good practice for research provision that is comparable to the NUI constituent universities and in line with the wider higher education sector. This will also be reflected in the quality assurance and enhancement of their research provision.

In particular, Recognised Colleges should refer to the following for guidance:

HEA (2015), National Framework for Doctoral Education

QQI (2019), Ireland's Framework of Good Practice for Research Degree Programmes

QQI (2017), Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines developed by QQI for Providers of Research Degree Programmes

2. The proposal document regarding the introduction of a research degree in a Recognised College will include a summary of the structures and standards in place in the institution to support the application in question and include relevant and appropriate links and references.

The following headings may be useful as a starting point and indicate the range of areas that should be addressed in the proposal. They are taken from Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education[11]. Depending on the discipline area of the research degree programme it may be necessary to widen the scope and include other criteria[12]. The list below is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

- Institutional organisation
- Recruitment, admission and general arrangements
- Induction and communication
- Supervision and supervisor(s) (including arrangements for Doctoral Studies Panels)

11 IUQB (2009), Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education

12 Taken from QQI (2012), Research Degree Programme Policy and Criteria

- The Student
- The Project
- Professional Development (including transferable skills training)
- Monitoring Progress (including arrangements for Stage Transfer Panels and so on)
- The Dissertation
- The Examination
- The Graduation
- Data records and reporting on PhD programmes

The application should also include appendices detailing the academic regulations governing research degrees in the institution with links to all relevant policies, procedures and guidelines to each specific research degree being offered.

3. Where taught modules of a research degree lead to additional minor, special purpose or supplemental awards these will need to be approved for use either as part of the research degree programme or as an additional component to the programme. Please refer to NUI's Regulations, Procedures and Guidelines for the Approval of New Programmes and Changes to Existing Programmes in the Recognised Colleges for further details.

Appendix 2: Types of Research Degrees awarded by NUI

The following table sets out the different types of research degree provision that are offered in NUI's constituent universities and recognised colleges today. This list is subject to review and updating as required:

Type of programme	**NFQ Level**	**Leading to NUI Research Degree**	**Short Title**	**Typical Duration (Academic years)**
Research masters programme	9	Master of Research	MRes MPhil	1-2 years FT (3-6 trimesters) 15 months to 3 years PT (5-9 trimesters)
Doctoral programmes	10	Doctor of Philosophy	PhD	Typically, **2 stages** over 3 to 4 years (9-12 trimesters) FT, or 5 to 6 years (15-18 trimesters), PT **Stage 1**: "PhD Track" an initial period of advanced education, training and research 1-1.5 years (up to 5 trimesters) FT 1.5-2.5 years (up to 7 trimesters) PT

Type of programme	NFQ Level	Leading to NUI Research Degree	Short Title	Typical Duration (Academic years)
				Stage 2: Main focus on original doctoral research but may also include further advanced education, research and generic training. 2.5-3 years (up to 12 trimesters) FT 3.5-4.5 years (up to 18 trimesters)
		Doctor of Midwifery	DM	Minimum of 3-4 years FT (9-12 trimesters)
		Doctor of Nursing	DN	Minimum of 5-6 years PT (15-18 trimesters)
	10	Doctor of Philosophy by ▶ Publication ▶ Prior Publication ▶ Published Work	PhD	Minimum of 1 year FT (3 trimesters or 2 years PT (6 trimesters) depending on research experience through published scholarly material.
Professional doctoral programme	10			Range from 3-4 years FT (9-12 trimesters) to 6 years PT (18 trimesters)
		Doctorate in Governance	DGov	4-6 years PT (12-18 trimesters)
		Doctor of Educational Psychology	DEdPsych	3 years FT (9 trimesters) 5 years PT (15 trimesters)

Type of programme	NFQ Level	Leading to NUI Research Degree	Short Title	Typical Duration (Academic years)
		Doctor of Clinical Psychology	DPsych	3 years FT (9 trimesters)
		Doctor of Veterinary Medical Specialisation	DVMS	3-4 years FT (9-12 trimesters)
Practice-based doctoral Programme	10	Doctor of Medicine	MD	2 years FT (6 trimesters) 4 years PT (12 trimesters)

Appendix 3

1. Guidelines and criteria for the appointment of a Panel to review research programmes leading to NUI degrees and other qualifications

1.1 All programmes leading to NUI research degrees in the Recognised Colleges are subject to appropriate external and independent academic review.

1.2 NUI will schedule an independent academic peer review which will be undertaken by a Review Panel.

1.3 The Review Panel will comprise three members (inclusive of the Chairperson). The Chairperson will be nominated by NUI and will be external to and independent of any of the member institutions of the NUI. The Recognised College may propose one panel member, subject to the criteria set out in section 2; NUI will nominate another Panel member, drawn from the constituent universities of the NUI federation and subject to the criteria set out in section 2.

1.4 The Panel will be appointed by the University and will be composed of peer reviewers who are senior institutional leaders from comparable third-level academic institutions and/or, in some cases, from the leadership of external organisations such as Professional Bodies or Business/Industry.

1.5 The Recognised College will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed Panel to ensure there are no potential conflicts of interest.

2. Criteria for the appointment of Panel Members [13]

2.1 A Panel member should be a specialist in the relevant field of study and/or professional practice, and have appropriate Higher Education expertise and experience to adjudicate on comparability of standards for research degrees.

2.2 A Panel member should not normally be appointed from a School/Department where a member of staff in that School/Department is currently serving as an External Examiner for taught or research degrees in NUI Recognised Colleges.

13 QQI (2015) Participating on Evaluation Panels as a Peer Reviewer: Guidelines

2.3 A Panel member may not be involved in the teaching of a subject/degree programme in which they may be called on to moderate.

2.4 A Panel member should not be appointed if their impartiality could be called into question through any foreseen possibility of conflict of interest.

2.5 A Panel member who has retired, but who remains active in academic life and continues to engage in teaching, research or other academic activities relevant to the research degree programme under review, is eligible for appointment to the Review Panel.

2.6 The Panel as a whole should reflect the sectoral expectations on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, including but not limited to gender balance.[14]

3. The Role and Responsibilities of the Review Panel

3.1 The main role of the Review Panel is to independently assess if the academic programme and/or training leading to an NUI research degree is consistent with the culture and strategy for research in the Recognised College, comparable to equivalent standards in the constituent universities and reflective of good practice nationally and internationally.

3.2 The Panel is appointed by the University to make recommendations to Senate in respect of new research degree programmes proposed by the Recognised College.

3.3 The Panel will be provided with the relevant documentation, including material submitted by the Recognised College, on the proposed academic programme and training leading to an NUI research degree. The NUI will issue guidelines in respect of the report.

3.4. The Panel will be invited to comment on any aspect of the research degree proposal document which should address the key areas (as detailed in Appendix 1) consistent with good practice for research degree programmes.

3.5 The Panel will be required to report their findings and recommendations regarding the approval of new research degree programmes to the NUI Registrar for consideration and recommendation to the NUI Senate.

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14 NUI is committed to ensuring that the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion are articulated in the strategies of the NUI Recognised Colleges and are in line with sectoral expectations and reflective of national guidelines. Further information on developments in the university sector are available on the IUA website – https://www.iua.ie/ourwork/diversity-equality/

4. The report of the Review Panel

4.1 As part of the review process, the Panel is invited to submit a detailed report outlining the findings and make recommendations to NUI regarding the approval of the research degree programme.

4.2 Where the panel has specific queries in respect of the programme, NUI will seek further information from relevant personnel in the Recognised College proposing the degree.

4.3 Suggested criteria for the report will focus on the guiding principles for the national framework for good practice established for research degree programmes in Ireland[15].

4.4 The final report of the Panel will be circulated to representatives in the Recognised College to allow for any issues raised to be addressed before a recommendation is made to Senate by the NUI Registrar.

4.5 It should be noted that the Panel report may be:

- Subject to the Irish Freedom of Information Act, 2014[16] and that, accordingly, any person named in the report will be entitled to have access to it.
- Used as part of the University's processes of quality audit and quality assessment.
- Subject to the Irish Data Protection Act, 2018[17] and the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679). Please refer to NUI's general Data Protection Policy, available at www.nui.ie.

15 Details on the guiding principles for good practice in research degree programmes in Ireland are available in the following publications: HEA (2015), National Framework for Doctoral Education and QQI (2019), Ireland's Framework of Good Practice for Research Degree Programmes.

16 Freedom of Information Act, 2014

17 Data Protection Act, 2018

Appendix 4: Guidelines for the award level and award-type assigned to NUI qualifications in the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)

The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) was established in 2003 and is a single structure mechanism for recognising all education and training in Ireland. The framework comprises ten levels, based on nationally agreed standards of knowledge, skill and competence and includes different classes or categories of awards/qualifications. The NFQ, whilst a national development, is also linked to similar initiatives that show how qualifications, or qualification levels, can be compared in other similar systems. Over 150 countries are now developing, or have developed, a national qualifications framework.[18]

1. Award level descriptors assigned to NUI qualifications in the NFQ[19]

Level 9: Master's degree/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate

Learning outcomes at this level relate to the demonstration of knowledge and understanding which is the forefront of a field of learning. The outcomes relate to the application of knowledge, understanding and problem-solving abilities in new or unfamiliar contexts related to field of study. The outcomes are associated with an ability to integrate knowledge, handle complexity and formulate judgments. Outcomes associated with this level would link with employment as a senior professional or manager with responsibility for the work outputs of teams.

Level 10: Doctoral degrees

Learning Outcomes at this level relate to the discovery and development of new knowledge and skills and delivering findings at the frontiers of knowledge and application. Further outcomes at this level relate to specialist skills and transferable skills required for managing such as the abilities to critique and develop organisational structures and initiate change.

18 https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/National-Framework-of-Qualifications-(NFQ).aspx

19 NQAI (2003), Outline National Framework of Qualifications – Determinations made by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland, pp. 20-21.

2. Award-type Descriptors contained in the NFQ which have been agreed between the universities and the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI)

a) **Major Awards** are the principle class of awards made at each level, e.g. Honours Bachelor degree (NFQ: Level 8) or Master's degree (NFQ: Level 9). The learning outcomes associated with these major award-types include many of the sub-strands of knowledge, skills and competence appropriate to the level and should be coherently planned to meet the aims and objectives of the award. Awards of a major-award type will provide learners with the options of (i) progressing to higher-level awards, (ii) transferring to other awards at the same level or (iii) gaining direct transition to employment.

Note: Where a major award is offered at an exit point, e.g. Postgraduate Diploma when exiting a Master's degree, then a separate set of learning outcomes should be included for this programme.

b) **Minor Awards** provide recognition for learners who achieve a range of learning outcomes but not the specific combination of volume of learning outcomes required for a major award. The associated learning outcomes of these awards form a component part of the learning outcomes of a major award.

c) **Special Purpose Awards** are stand-alone awards and recognise a specific or relatively narrow range of learning outcomes.

d) **Supplemental Awards** recognise learning that is additional to a major award and could, for example, relate to the updating of knowledge or skills, or to continuing professional development.

Further information on the National Framework of Qualifications may be found here.[20]

20 https://www.qqi.ie/Articles/Pages/NFQ-Standards-and-Guidelines-.aspx

Appendix 5: References

European Commission (2015), *ECTS Users' Guide*, https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/da7467e6-8450-11e5-b8b7-01aa75ed71a1

ENQA (2015), *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area*, https://enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ESG_2015.pdf

HEA (2015), *National Framework for Doctoral Education,* https://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2017/04/national_framework_for_doctoral_education_0.pdf

IHEQN (2013), *Guidelines for the Approval, Monitoring and Review of Collaborative and Transnational Provision*, https://www.qqi.ie/Downloads/IHEQN%20Guidelines%20Collaborative%20Provision.pdf

IUQB (2009), *Good Practice in the Organisation of PhD Programmes in Irish Higher Education*, 2nd edition, https://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Good%20Practice%20Guide%20-%20In%20the%20Organisation%20of%20Phd%20Programmes%20in%20Irish%20Higher%20Education%20(2009).pdf

NUI (2019), *Guidelines, Criteria and Procedures for the Periodic Review of Programmes Leading to NUI Degrees and Other Qualifications in the Recognised Colleges*, http://www.nui.ie/about/pdf/gvrnce_docs/NUI_Guidelines_External_Review.pdf

NQAI (2003), *Outline National Framework of Qualifications – Determinations made by the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland*, https://www.qqi.ie/Downloads/Determinations%20for%20the%20outline%20National%20Framework%20of%20Qualifications.pdf

NUI (2020), *Regulations, Procedures and Guidelines for the Approval of New Programmes and Changes to Existing Programmes in the Recognised Colleges,* http://www.nui.ie/about/pdf/gvrnce_docs/Programme_Approval_Regs.pdf

NUI (2018), *Degrees on Published Work awarded by the National University of Ireland: Regulations, Criteria, Guidelines and Application Procedures*, http://www.nui.ie/college/docs/published_Work_Regs.pdf

QQI (2019), Statutory Guidelines for the Review of Linked Providers by the National University of Ireland, http://www.nui.ie/about/pdf/gvrnce_docs/Statutory_Guidelines_for_the_Review_of_Linked_Providers_by_the_NUI.pdf

QQI (2019), *Ireland's Framework of Good Practice for Research Degree Programmes*, https://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Ireland%E2%80%99s%20Framework%20of%20Good%20Practice%20Research%20Degree%20Programmes.pdf

QQI (2017), *Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines developed by QQI for Providers of Research Degree Programmes,* https://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Research%20Degree%20Programmes%20QA%20Guidelines.pdf

QQI (2015), *Participating on Evaluation Panels as a Peer Reviewer: Guidelines*, https://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Peer%20Reviewer%20Guidelines.pdf

QQI (2012), *Research Degree Programme Policy and Criteria*, https://www.qqi.ie/Publications/Publications/Research_Degree_Programme_Policy_and_Criteria.pdf

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