

UKCGE / QAA joint event
A look at good practice from Special Review
6th December 2007

A quick reminder of the good
practice identified in the
review of research degrees
in 2005-06

Background to the review of research degree programmes

- Sept 2004 – revised section 1 of the QAA CoP on postgraduate research programmes was published
- 2005-06 - the QAA was contracted to manage a ‘special’ review of RDPs
- The purpose of the review was to find out how institutions have addressed the intentions of the revised section of the Code

Broad outcomes

- 124 institutions involved in special review, of which 10 were from Wales, and 114 from England and Northern Ireland
- All institutions received an **overall** judgement of appropriate and satisfactory
- Features of good practice were identified in 85% of the reports
- Areas for further consideration were identified in 81% of the reports

Overview reports - summary of conclusions

- Good practice evident in each of nine areas
- Preparation for review highlighted strengths and areas for more work
- Areas for further consideration common to large proportion of institutions
- Outcomes show section 1 of *Code* can be used effectively by different institutions

Features of good practice

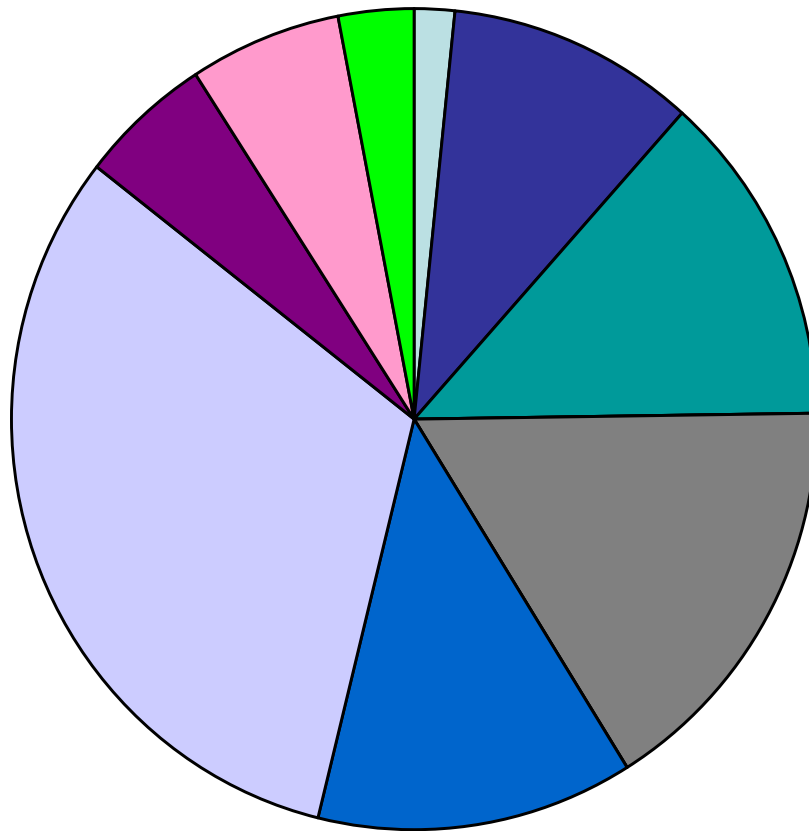
Most examples of good practice found in:

- Development of research and other skills
- Supervision
- Selection, admissions and induction
- Progress and review arrangements

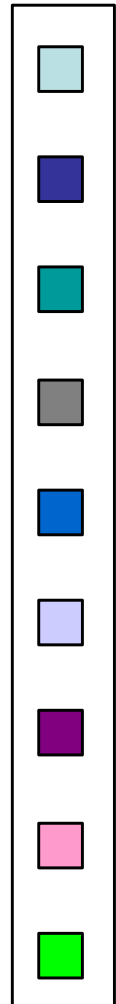
Least identified in:

- Institutional arrangements
- Student representations (complaints and appeals)
- Feedback mechanisms

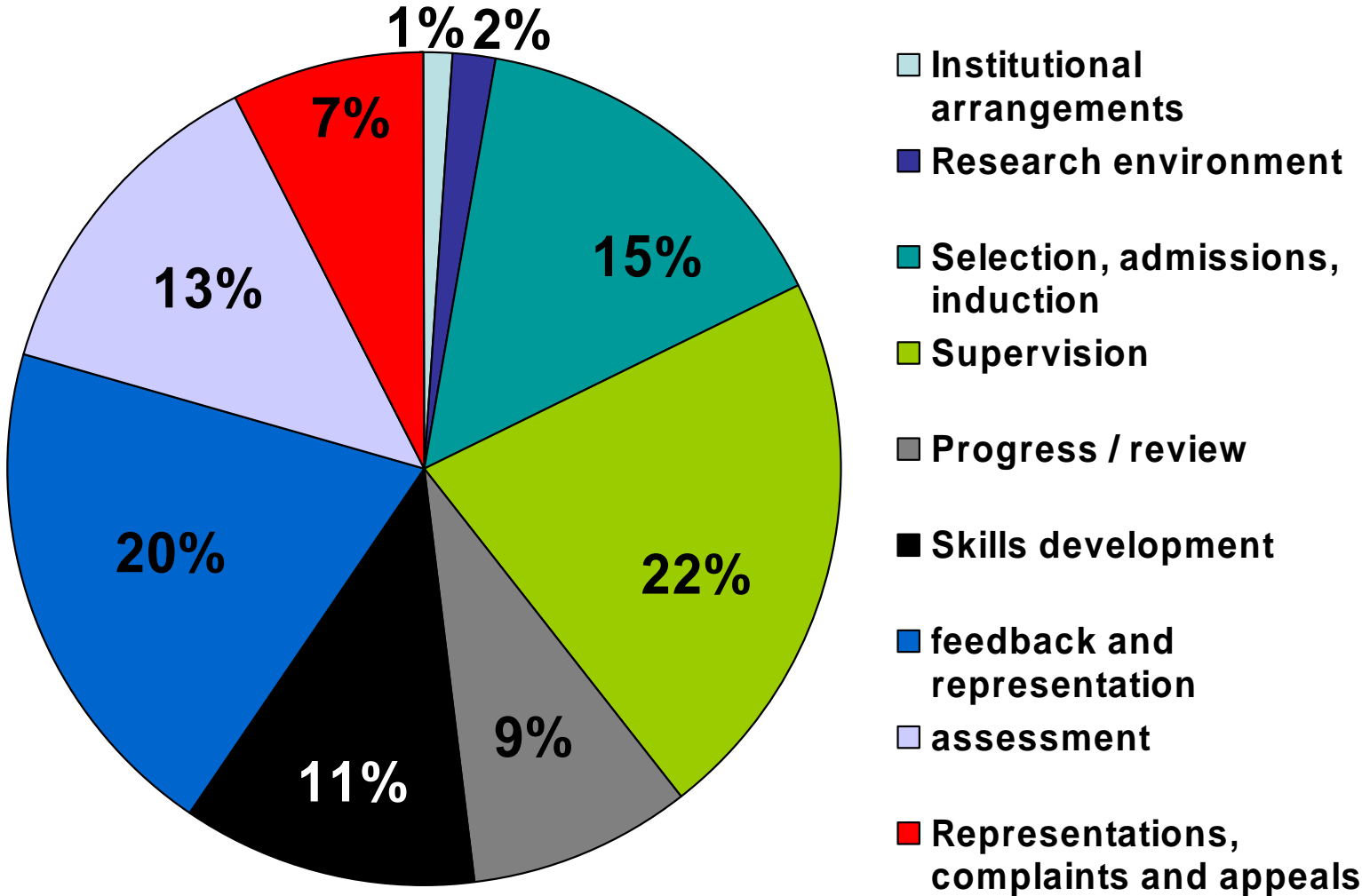
Distribution of good practice examples



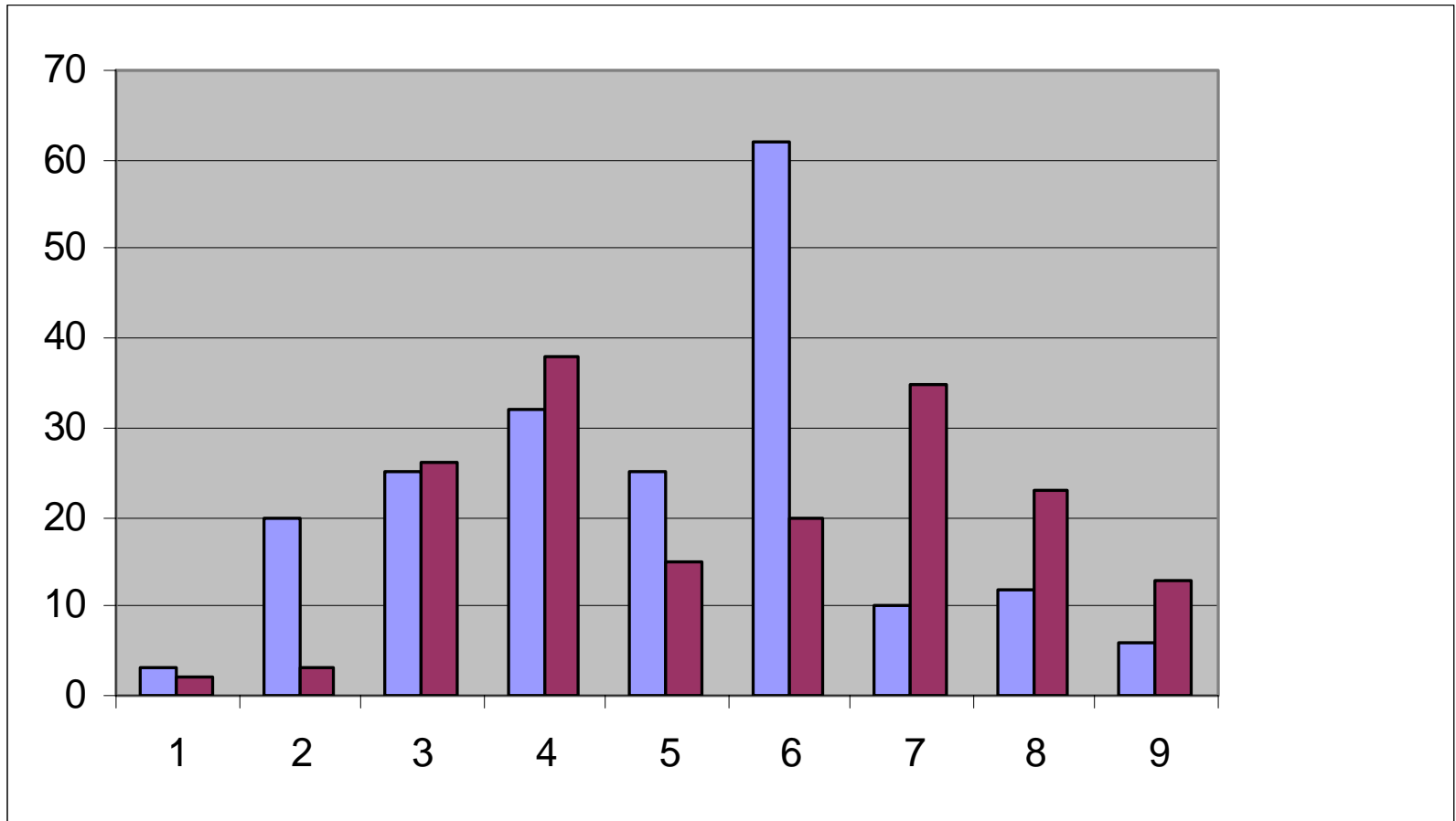
Institutional arrangements	2%
Research environment	10%
Admissions, induction	13%
Supervision	16%
Progress/review	13%
Skills development	32%
Student feedback	5%
Assessment	6%
Student representations	3%



Distribution: areas for further consideration



Comparisons



good practice (195)

further consideration (175)

1 Institutional arrangements

2 Research environment

3 Selection, admissions, etc

4 Supervision

5 Progress and review

6 Skills development

7 Feedback mechanisms

8 Assessment

9 Student representations

(complaints and appeals)

What happens next?

- Review of postgraduate research programmes integrated with institutional audit from 2006-07
- Audit team receive a copy of the institution's special review report
- Section of institution's audit report dedicated to management of PGR programmes and students and academic standards of research degrees
- Relevant pages of Eng/NI Audit Handbook: 5-6, 11-12, Annex B section 6