

## City University London

In its special review of Research Degree Programmes (RDPs), the QAA commended City University London for its good practice in:

- managing the balance between central and local provision
- the procedures for validating RDPs at partner institutions and
- the engagement of Schools across the University in compiling the report itself through the provision of feedback from Schools during the process of the special review.

In support of its strategic aims,<sup>i</sup> City University London operates a devolved structure that comprises a core overarching institutional framework designed to assure academic standards and quality enhancement within which Schools may deliver effective and exciting provision locally that meet internal, national and international needs. As part of the University governance structure, where the terms of reference of the School Committees reflect the terms of reference of Senate Committees, City University London additionally operates a delegations framework where responsibility for strategic decisions is vested in individual academic leads. This permits individuals to implement appropriate policies and processes efficiently and effectively without the need for Committee intervention but with the benefit of advice from relevant Committees as appropriate too. The University's institutional arrangements for governance and management of research degree programmes reflect the need to provide an infrastructure that supports the diversity of its provision at School/Departmental level whilst also ensuring quality assurance and enhancement of research degree provision across the University as a whole.

The research environment for students at City University London operates both within this framework of institutional governance and within the context of the University

Strategic Plan and the University Research Strategy. The University Research Strategy was revised and approved by Senate in June 2004 and was re-designed to support and develop a high-quality research environment through a series of research related initiatives including the introduction of University Research Studentships, University Fellowships, the availability of pump-priming funds specifically for (although not exclusively) early career researchers, University Research Days and an Annual meeting with the PVC for Research. The initiatives have been designed to foster a research environment in which both research staff and research students may share research findings, current and proposed work, and create opportunities for forging multi-disciplinary collaborations.

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<sup>i</sup> This vision is underpinned by four strategic goals:

- To meet the changing educational needs of individuals, employers and society
- To improve further our excellence in education, especially professional education and to extend the range
- To increase high-quality research activity that influences strategy, policy and practice
- To enhance our reputation and effectiveness