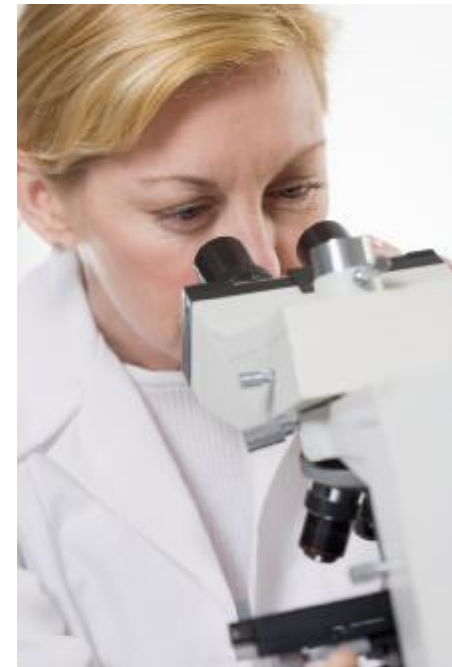
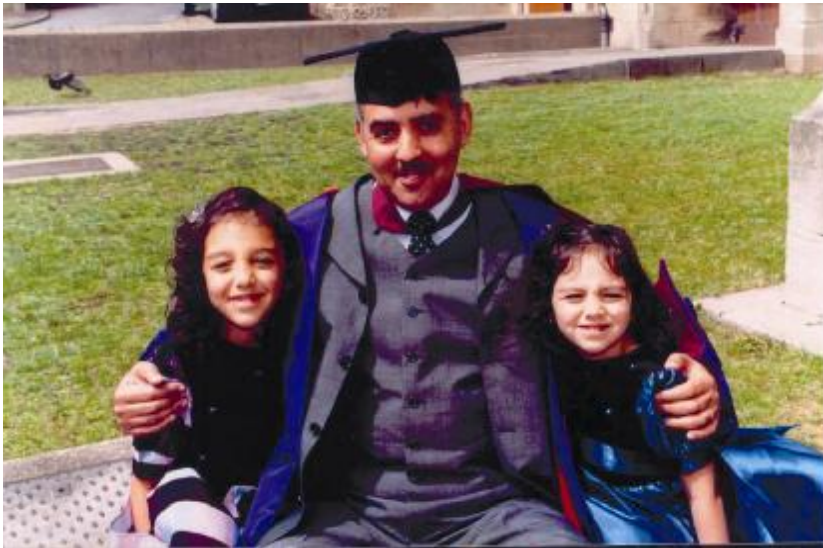


UKCGE Residential meeting: 13 November 2008

Outcomes from the QAA
review of research degrees
and recent audit outcomes



<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews/postgraduate/default.asp>
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviews/postgraduate/wales.asp>

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Background to the review

- 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
- Purpose of the review: to find out how institutions were working with the revised section 1 of *Code of Practice*

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

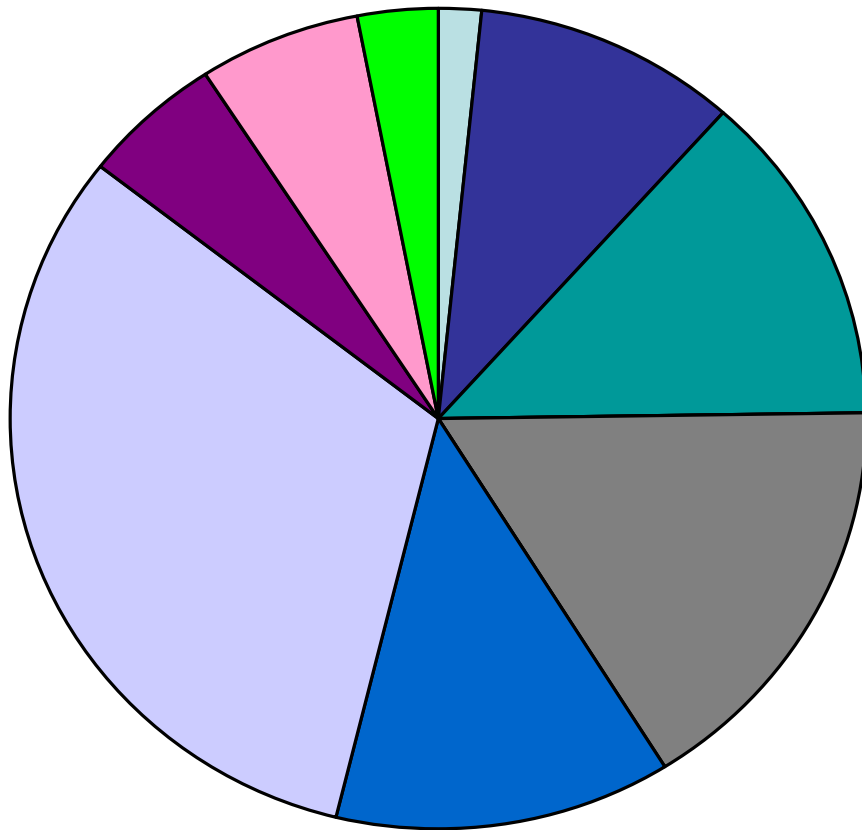
Most examples of good practice found in:










- 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

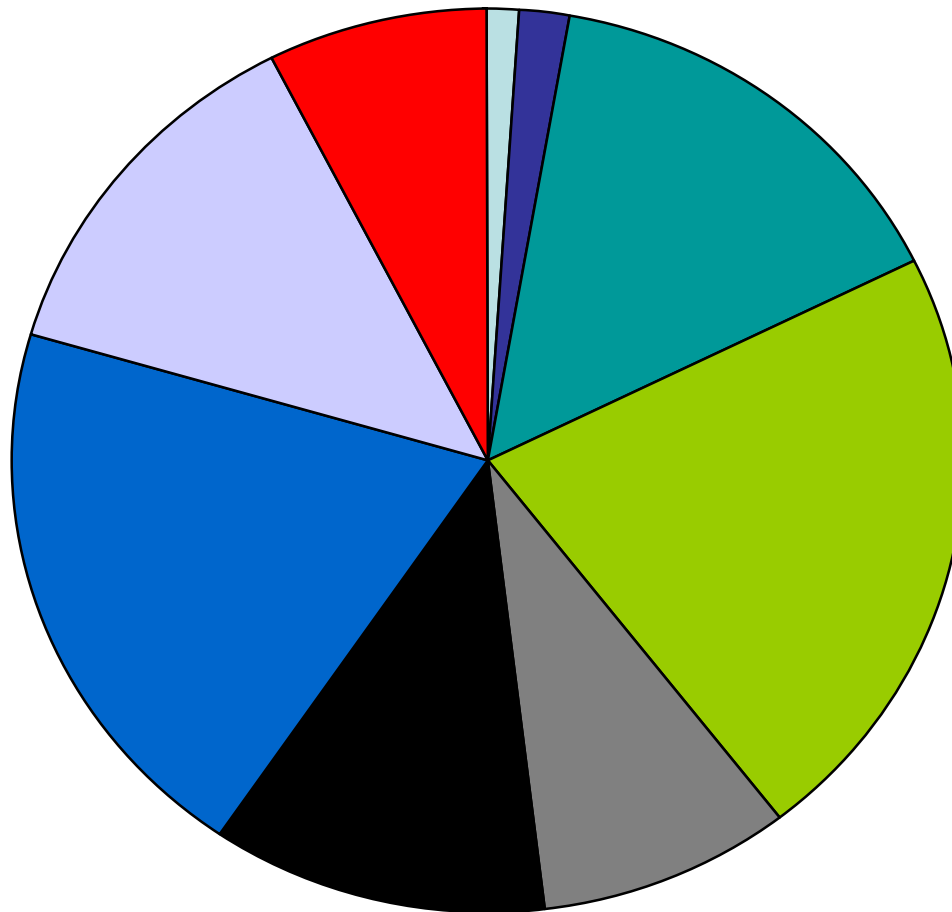


Institutional arrangements	2%	
Research environment	10%	
Admissions, induction	13%	
Supervision	16%	
Progress/review	13%	
Skills development	32%	
Student feedback	5%	
Assessment	6%	
Student representations	3%	

Areas for further consideration

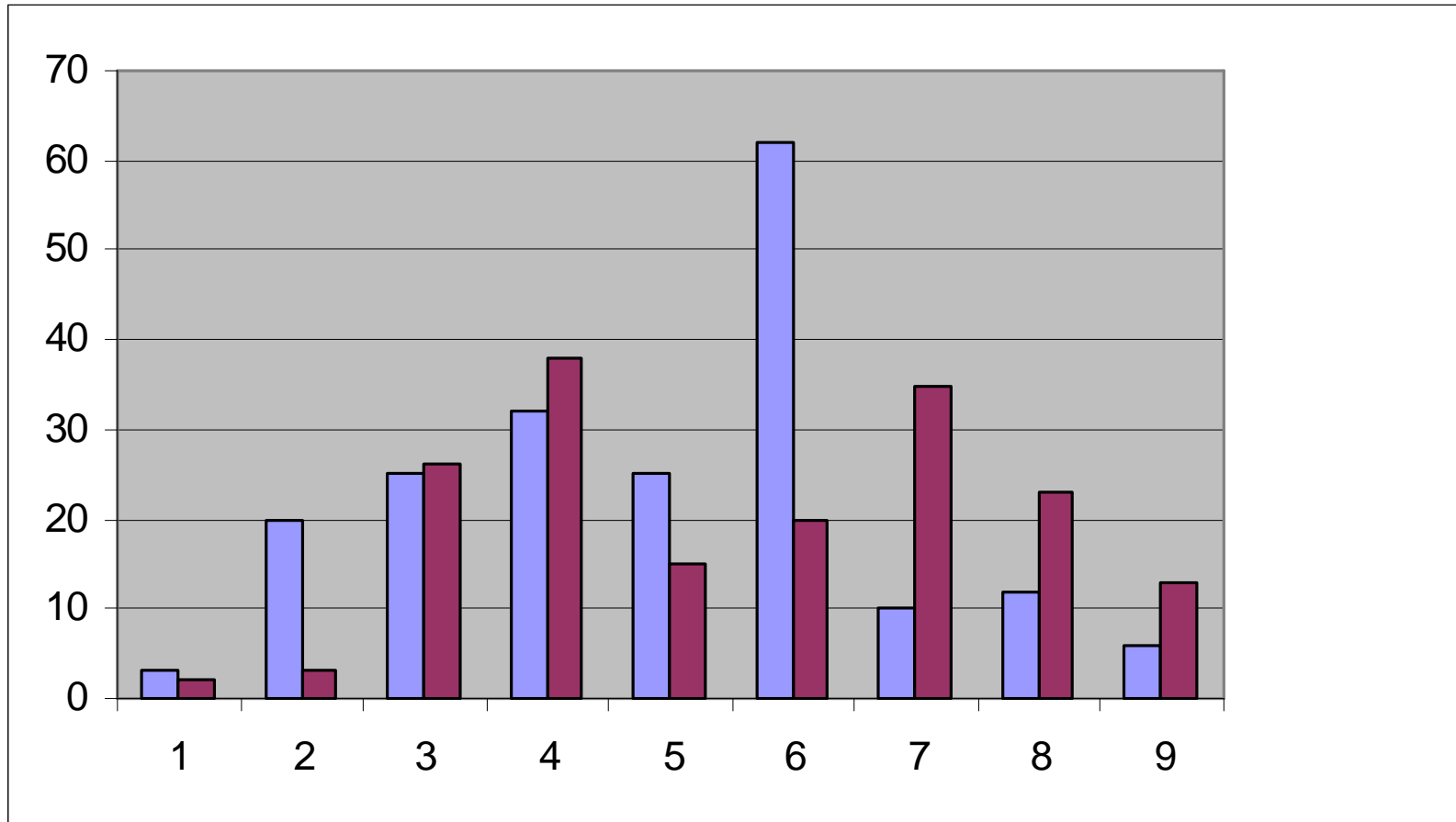
- In all cases the review teams found that, **overall**, the procedures in place to secure and enhance the quality and standards of research degrees were ‘appropriate’ and ‘satisfactory’
- This is not to say that **every** aspect was appropriate and satisfactory ...

Distribution: areas for further consideration



- Institutional arrangements 1%
- Research environment 2%
- Selection, admissions, induction 15%
- Supervision 22%
- Progress / review 9%
- Skills development 11%
- Feedback and representation 20%
- Assessment 13%
- Student representations 7%

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)

Integration with institutional audit...

- 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

35 institutions' reports reviewed

Post - 1992 6	Anglia Ruskin Bath Spa Brighton	Chichester Lincoln Roehampton	
Pre- 1992 13	Bradford Cambridge Exeter Keele Leeds LSE	Loughborough Reading Salford Sheffield Southampton	Sussex York
Small and specialist 15	University of Arts Central Sch Speech/Drama Univ College Creative Arts Univ College Falmouth Institute Cancer Research Leeds College of Music* LSHTM Ravensbourne Coll Design*	Royal Academy Music Royal Agricultural College Royal College of Art Royal College of Music SOAS School of Pharmacy Trinity Laban	*No PGR students
Private	Buckingham		

Overall picture of audit comments (2)

	Good practice	Recommendations
Institutional arrangements	2	5
Research environment	6	1
Admissions etc	1	2
Supervision	1	3
Progress and review	2	1
Skills development	4	3
Feedback mechanisms	1	1
Assessment		1
Complaints / appeals		1

Some details...

- 13 institutions had examples of good practice
- 7 had 'advisable' recommendations
- 9 had 'desirable' recommendations
- 10 institutions had no examples of good practice or recommendations

Comparison of special review and audit outcomes (1)

- Proportionately more criticisms of institutional arrangements in audit
- Areas where least good practice in SR / most recommendations in audit are similar
- Equally positive comments on research environment in both audit and SR
- Three recommendations for better training for teaching in audit; one reference in SR
- Type of institution significant?

Audit PGR results - 35 institutions

