

Evolving Trends in Doctoral Education

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UK Council for Graduate Education

Context of Doctoral Evolution

- **Recruitment Picture**
- **Policy Context**
- **Changes in the Doctorate**
- **Institutional Organisation of Doctoral Programmes**



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Growth in Research Degrees 1999-2005

Final Year Registration	UK Full Time	UK Part Time	Non-UK Full Time	Non-UK Part Time	Total
1999	6016	1494	2833	995	11338
2000	6090	1490	3010	960	11550
2001	6400	2740	4115	865	14120
2002	6460	2670	4200	875	14205
2003	6670	2570	4670	960	14870
2004	6910	2735	4765	840	15255
2005	6870	2770	5160	975	15780
% Increase	14	85	82	-2	39

Policy Background for Doctoral Change

- **Research Councils 'Joint Skills Statement' (2001)**
- **Roberts' Review 'Set for Success' (2002)**
- **UKGrad-Vitae Programme for delivery (2003)**
- **HEFCE Report 'Improving standards in PG Research Degree Programmes' (2002)**
- **QAA Revised 'Code of Practice for Assurance of Quality and Standards in Higher Education' (2004)**

Joint Skills Statement

- **Research Skills and Techniques**
- **Research Environment**
- **Research Management**
- **Personal Effectiveness**
- **Communication Skills**
- **Networking and Team-working**
- **Career Management**



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Roberts' Review 'Set for Success'

- **Significant Increase in Doctoral Stipend**
(2002-3) - £7500 (2004-5) - £10,500 (2008-9) - £12940
- **Enhanced Training in 'Transferable skills'**
Approx 2 weeks per Year for each student
- **Introduction of Four Year PhDs**
Flexible Doctoral Training Account Model of Resource Provision
- **Ring Fenced Monies for Skills Training → 2011**
Roberts' Money for Research Council Students - ~ £800pa



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Evolution of 'Doctoral Studies' I

- **Traditional UK PhD - German 'Humboldt Model'**
 - 3 year Study period
 - No formal taught component
 - Single Component Thesis
 - Apprenticeship for Academia
- **Evolving Traditional Model**
 - 4 year Study
 - Formal Taught element involving discipline based and generic skills usually not assessed
 - Process innovations: Electronic submission, Performance based thesis, Video based examination etc

Evolution of 'Doctoral Studies' II

- **'New Route' Phd**
 - Government driven Quasi-US model adopted by ~20% of UK HEIs but take-up slowed recently
 - Formal taught and Assessed component
 - Masters level exit usually possible
 - Popular with non UK sponsor organisations
- **Professional Doctorates**
 - Based in specific disciplines eg: Education (EdD), Engineering (EngD)
 - Formal Taught and Assessed component
 - Masters level exit possible
 - Research component often work based leading to 'portfolio' thesis
 - Popular as part of work based CPD

Evolution of 'Doctoral Studies' III

- **'Split' Phds**
 - Requires agreement between UK HEI and usually Non UK/EU partner. Not popular with Elite HEIs
 - Dual student registration, often two awards made
 - Study period split between two sites often 1 yr UK followed by 2 yrs in non UK partner
 - Popular with non UK sponsor organisations
- **Under development - Eurodocs**
 - Driven by European 'Bologna' discussions
 - Primary aim to harmonise tertiary education into 3 cycles
 - Should allow simpler international employment in the public sector
 - Unlikely to appear for 5-10 years and probably limited in discipline spread

Institutional Organisation

- **Single Institution-wide Graduate School**
 - Based on US model – First established at Warwick 1990/91.
 - Grown rapidly to cover >50% of HEIs
 - Offers many logistical/organisational advantages
- **Faculty/Department based**
- **Programme Specific**

Typical Costing Scenarios for Lab-based PGR

		Non EU full fee paid	HEFCE funded and Research Council grant	HEFCE funded no grant, fee waived	No HEFCE or other external funding
Income	Fees	36	9		9
	Bench fees	3			
	Research training support grant		3		
	HEFCE supervision payment		21	21	
	Assumed future SRIF income@25% of HEFCE income		5	5	
	Total	39	38	26	9
Expenditure	Costs	87	87	87	87
	Shortfall	48	49	61	78

Exemplar PGR Costing for Top Quartile but Non-Top 20 Institution

Total PGR Cohort = 1250

- 40% Lab Based (Band A)
- 30% Non-Lab Based (Band B)
- 30% Library Based (Band C)

} 30% Overseas
70% Home/EU

Costing Done on Basis of 30% HEFCE/Research Council Funded and 70% Unfunded Figures in Brackets give values if 100% Funded

Total Funding Shortfall = £62.9M (£48M)

i.e. Annual Financial Burden = ~ £20M (£16M)

Conclusions for Future Research Postgraduate Funding

Either

Additional Funding to Support Training
in this Sector of the 'Knowledge Based Economy'

OR

Greater Focusing of Current Funding into Fewer Institutions
Recognising that this may Limit National Training Capacity
at this Level.



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