ASTON UNIVERSITY

THE SENATE

LEARNING AND TEACHING COMMITTEE

REGULATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The Professional Doctorate Road Map: information for students and staff on Professional Doctorates

A completed Road Map (including as a minimum the headings marked in bold) should be submitted as part of the approval process for new PD programmes.

The University requires that the following items be included in the information for students undertaking a Professional Doctorate:

Aston University Professional Doctorate Programme details applicable to entrants from Date (e.g. September 2010)

programme title: e.g. Doctor of Business Administration

abbreviated title: e.g. DBA

mode of study: Usually part-time as students are expected to be employed. May be block release, distance learning or a mixture of both. Please explain the type of teaching and learning activities students should expect.

language of study if not English: (delete as appropriate)

collaborative partners if applicable: (delete as appropriate)

details of accreditation by a professional/statutory body: Aston encourages staff to seek accreditation for Professional Doctorates by the appropriate professional bodies

criteria for admission:

distinctive programme features: may include key aims for students

reference points used to inform programme outcomes
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, the Aston Qualifications Frameworks, General Regulations for Degrees by Research and Thesis, the rules and Regulations of the appropriate Professional Bodies (please specify)

programme learning outcomes:

- **knowledge and understanding**
- **cognitive and research skills**
- **transferable qualities, skills and other attributes**

The QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications gives the following general information about the outcomes of doctoral degrees:

Doctoral degrees are awarded to students who have demonstrated:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline, and merit publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- continue to undertake pure and/or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches.

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

programme structure and requirements

Please include:

Whether there is a linked award e.g. a pre-doctorate Master's programme. Master's programmes should be detailed in a separate programme specification.

Timescale for completion of programme including timescale for completion of taught and research elements if applicable.

A list of taught modules and assessments including the following information:

Module Title * indicates a module which cannot be condoned	Credits	Level
e.g. Research methods	20	7
e.g. Final Assessment (portfolio)	N/A	8
e.g. Final Assessment (thesis)	N/A	8

programme regulations

Please include information on:

> **Progression point (Senate has indicated that a defined progression point is a requirement for all Professional Doctorate awards)**
>
> **Interim award(s)**
>
> **Final Assessment (thesis/portfolio)**

assessment and feedback strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated including assessment criteria (or where these are if elsewhere e.g. in module guides).

• **module specifications** (using the module specification pro forma) for taught modules included in the PD, if any.

• details of means and forum for student participation/representation including processes for student feedback

• School arrangements for pastoral and academic student support

• statement on rights and responsibilities of students

Information on central services for students including advice for students with disabilities and equal opportunities matters, including religion and belief

Standard text is available on the Registry web-site

• academic calendar

• details of academic appeals and extenuating circumstances processes including student friendly information on understanding extenuating circumstances

• details of procedures for dealing with alleged assessment offences and (student-friendly) information on understanding and avoiding plagiarism and collusion