**APPENDIX A**

APPROVAL OF OTHER TYPES OF PROGRAMMES

# RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

## PhD, MPhil, MSc/MA (by research)

Proposals relating to programmes leading to the award of PhD, MPhil and MSc/MA (by Research) should be approved by the College Research Committee and recommended to the University’s Graduate School Management Committee. See the Graduate School Quality Assurance page, [Programme Approval](https://www2.aston.ac.uk/current-students/graduate-school/current-students-and-supervisors/quality-assurance/programme-approval) for information.

Programmes with a taught element should also be considered by the College Learning and Teaching Committee. PASC [Programme Approval Steering Committee] is happy to consider and advise upon the taught elements of research programmes.

## Specified Professional Doctorates

Proposals relating to the award of specified professional doctorates should be approved by both the College Research Committee and its Learning and Teaching (or equivalent) Committee and recommended to the University’s Graduate School Management Committee and PASC. New awards will need to be approved by the Regulation Sub-committee of LTC [Learning and Teaching Committee]. As professional doctorates incorporate substantial teaching components, much of the process for design and approval, and related documentation requirements, follows the main Procedures on the Design and Approval of New Programmes (PASC Process Document for New Programmes) and colleagues should refer to these. In addition, a Programme Description, Curriculum Map and Assessment Map are required. These are intended to provide information on the programme structure, including options that might be available and APL opportunities, along with any programme specific regulations. Forms and guidance are available from the [Graduate School Quality Assurance](https://www2.aston.ac.uk/current-students/graduate-school/current-students-and-supervisors/quality-assurance) page.

# AWARDS OUTSIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS (FHEQ)

It should be noted that an award within the FHEQ should be offered in preference to one which is outside the FHEQ, if possible.

## Courses which are not credit-rated

It is the responsibility of the College/s to assure that short courses which are not credit-rated are of appropriate quality. These should be considered and approved by the College LTC and submitted to the Short Course Approval Sub-Committee for a record to be kept.

## Credit rated courses

Any short courses which are credit-rated should be considered by the College LTC (or equivalent) and approved by the Short Course Approval Sub-Committee, a sub-committee of PASC. These are then recorded on SITS**.** This is because credit-rated courses can be counted towards a University award.

A credit-rated short course should have formal arrangements for the assessment of students and external examiners should be used to ensure that the standard is appropriate to the level/credit-rating proposed. This is because the credit can be counted towards an award-bearing programme. New credit-rated short courses approved will be recorded by the Short Course Approval Sub-Committee, reported to PASC via receipt of its minutes and onto the University Learning and Teaching Committee.

Aston University Record of Attendance

Any programme of less than 15 credits at any level

Aston Credit (previously Aston Module Achievement (AMA)

To recognise achievement of Aston modules outside a programme specification. See the web page [Aston Credit and Continuing Professional Development](https://www2.aston.ac.uk/clipp/quality/a-z/ama-recognising-module-achievement) for further information and guidance regarding the approval process and documentation required.