

I have consulted with our postgraduate network and been asked to raise the following points:

- Under 4.5: The PGR students wish to emphasise the importance of a complaints procedure that preserves anonymity. PGR students often have a problematic dual role as both staff and student and may be reluctant to advance an appropriate complaint if they feel it will affect their professional relationships.
- Under 5.1: Some additional consideration may be required upon the establishment of Technological Universities. The primary concern raised is that contractual arrangements in the constituent institutions do not guarantee year-round supervision, which is regarded by students as a possibly significant issue in the Quality Assurance of research degrees in the future.
- Under 5.2, the provision for qualified supervisors is appropriate.
- Under 6.2 - as PGR students often assume teaching role, it might be useful to consider the availability of teaching training or support and/or access to an accredited professional development pathway.
- From our perspective, it would be important to indicate that PGR students are entitled to join a Union (either student or trade) although we recognise that this may not be the appropriate place for such considerations.

More generally:

"We welcome the preparation of clear guidelines for the quality assurance of research degree programmes. The delivery of high-quality research degree programmes is of great importance to a range of high-level system and national objectives, and the draft guidelines provide appropriately for quality of provision".

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