

Attendance Requirements for Research Degrees

1. The Senate has approved recommendations from the Quality and Academic Review Committee (now disbanded) which modified certain elements of the attendance requirements for research degree students and this note summarises those changes which came into effect from January 2007.
2. The current Public Research Institutions/Industrial Research Laboratories (PRI) scheme has been superseded by the Partner Research Institution (PRI) Scheme: unlike the old PRI/IRL scheme the new PRI scheme can include hospitals and other universities.
3. The attendance requirement for students registered under the PRI scheme will be a minimum of 2 months each year regardless of whether the PRI is based in the UK or overseas: this attendance period is designed to facilitate attendance at the required Graduate Schools' transferable skills courses. Where a Department or Division wishes to register a student under the PRI scheme with attendance that was less than 2 months a case has to be made on an exception basis to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee.
4. The minimum attendance requirement for students registered under the split PhD scheme remains at 12 months over the duration of the normal 36 month registration period; but the requirement that the first 3 months and the last 3 months must be spent at the College has been removed. Previously special permission had to be obtained from the Graduate Schools for a student [whether a split or normal PhD student] to spend the first or last 3 months away from College: it remains necessary for departments to apply for study leave for these periods but approval is delegated to Registry. Departments and Divisions must explain how they will handle the induction and initial research plan arrangements for a student who may not be present, at the College, during the first 3 months of registration.

