

1.2 What is the purpose of these guidelines?

These guidelines are to be used:

- by providers when designing, and reviewing, institutional quality assurance policies and procedures for research degree programmes
- as a basis for the approval by QQI of a provider's relevant quality assurance procedures (other than for previously established universities)

These guidelines are not intended:

To prescribe **how** providers are to operate research degree programmes or how they establish their internal procedures. Rather, providers are expected to have internal systems of quality assurance for research degree programmes and related services which are appropriate to their individual contexts and include mechanisms that successfully monitor the effectiveness of those systems.

By providing a common standard these guidelines are devised to promote and enhance an active and supportive academic research environment and community in all providers offering research degrees.