Terms of Reference for PhD Programme Review

The overall purpose of programme reviews is to evaluate their academic quality and to ensure that they meet international standards and the needs of students.

The PhD Review Panel is asked to focus on the following aspects of the programme:

1. Programme design: Are the regulations governing the programme adequate, appropriate and clear? Are the regulations in line with the NZQA requirements and CUAP guidelines?

2. Supervision, Learning and Assessment: What is the overall quality of supervision in the programme and how is this supported and improved? Are assessment methods appropriate and how are they moderated? Do the supervision methods meet the needs of a diverse student body?

3. Candidates: Does the programme attract a wide range of appropriately qualified candidates? Is the programme meeting its objectives in terms of achievement indicators such as pass rates, time to completion? Is the stated graduate profile being achieved?

4. Quality of outputs and outcomes: What evidence is there of the quality of outcomes attained by candidates (e.g. publishing outcomes, post-doctoral fellowships). Is the quality and impact of candidates' research comparable with disciplinary norms in benchmark institutions?

5. Learning and support resources: Are learning resources appropriate and adequate to maintain the quality of the programme? Are the candidate and supervisor support resources appropriate and adequate to maintain the quality of the programme?

6. Programme management, quality assurance and enhancement: How appropriate and informative are the guidance and advice offered to students concerning the programme? How well are programme processes, e.g. application, milestones, examinations, managed? How are feedback and other inputs from candidates, supervisors and other stakeholders taken into account in design and improvements? How is quality monitored and assured, and how are changes and improvements planned and implemented?