

This guidance should be read in conjunction with section 12 of the [Policy on Research Degrees](#).

Examiners are formally appointed by the Research Degrees Progression and Award Board (RDPAB), acting on behalf of Senate. Unless a PGR is or has been a member of academic staff (grade 7 or above), at least one internal and one external examiner will be appointed. Where a PGR is or has been a member of academic staff (grade 7 or above), a minimum of two external examiners will be appointed, and an internal Independent Chair. In either case, additional examiners may be appointed where appropriate, e.g. where the thesis topic cannot be adequately covered by a single internal or external examiner. Where three examiners are appointed, normally two will be external.

All examiners must:

- not have played a role in the supervision of the PGR under examination
- possess a research degree or equivalent experience, have 72(xp)35.g above), at least one internally two by RE

of a particular examiner, but these must be declared and form part of the approval process. In some cases, the potential conflict of interest may be considered to be too significant for an examiner to be approved, however where appropriate, strategies for mitigation can be considered.

Potential conflicts of interest could include family or close personal relationships, shared publications or research grants, or other academic or professional collaborations. As a guide, examiners with shared publications or research grants either between themselves, or with supervisors, within the last 5 years would not normally be permitted. However, the questions on conflict of interest in the [Appointment of Examiners form](#) are intended to allow those proposing examiners a space to fully