

The Changing Doctorate: Outputs from the QAA discussion responses

Janet Bohrer QAA and
Pam Denicolo University of
Reading



Formal engagement

- QAA: revision of section one Code of practice (influences included *Improving Standards in RDPs* HEFCE 2002 and joint skills statement by the research councils)
 - Special review of research degree programmes
 - Incorporated in the revised institutional audit process from 2006
- Other: Bologna Process, international dimensions, sector wide discussions e.g. *Redefining the Doctorate* (Park 2007)



Understanding Context

- Frameworks developed and revised through sector wide discussion and consultation
 - Discussion paper included 18 questions;
 - Q7-10: summary report to working group revising the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ published August 2008) Descriptors for qualifications at Doctoral level provided as annex (text remains unchanged)
 - Q1: definition of research degree used in the Code of practice

QAA discussion paper about doctoral programmes

- Web based consultation between May - July 2007
- Total of 72 responses; included HEIs, professional bodies, professional groups, individuals
- Full analysis of questions 1, 7,8, 9 and 10 available on QAA website
- Further analysis will contribute to HEA hosted event in Nov about the doctorate

Changing doctorate?

The context of the doctorate is evolving

- 1) how is your institution responding in terms of delivery?
- 2) how do you think assessment should evolve to accommodate this broader remit?