



# Quality-related research (QR) research degree programme (RDP) supervision fund – method document

1. The method used to inform the QR RDP supervision fund allocation is described below.

## Population

2. The student data that underpins the QR RDP supervision fund is the HESA Student Record from academic year that is two-years before the funding year – eg. the 2025-26 QR RDP supervision fund is underpinned by the 2023-24 HESA Student Record.
3. To be countable, in the QR RDP supervision fund data summary calculations, a student must meet all the following conditions:
  - a. Research England fundable
  - b. Actively pursuing a Post Graduate Research (PGR) qualification
  - c. Not on an incoming exchange year
4. In this context, a student is considered to be inactive if they are dormant or intercalating for the entirety of the reference period. A student is considered to be active if they are not inactive.

## Treatment of formal collaborative programmes

5. **Concurrent supervision.** Though we will take account of the quality profile of the other providers in calculating QR RDP supervision funding, once calculated all funding will be allocated to the reporting provider for distribution as agreed between the providers concerned.
6. **Sequential supervision.** We will split the associated QR RDP supervision funding across the providers, reflecting the formal handover of the student.

## Calculations

7. A student's PGR Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) is apportioned by unit of assessment (UOA), multiple submission (where applicable), and any providers who concurrently supervise them. It is then multiplied by the UOA cost weight, quality score, London weight and the rate of funding. Where a provider who concurrently supervises students was eligible to submit to REF 2021, their quality score and London weight

are used instead of those of the reporting provider for the portion of the provision they supervise.

8. The eligible FTE for each UOA, multiple submission (where applicable) and provider involved in a concurrent collaborative arrangement (where applicable) are adjusted to reflect that providers who were not eligible to submit to REF 2021 will not have a quality profile. The eligible FTE is therefore split only amongst providers who were eligible to submit to REF 2021. It is these adjusted FTEs that are used in the funding calculation.
9. There are three cost weights depending on the subject of research.

Cost band	Subject	Weight
A	High-cost laboratory and clinical subjects	1.6
B	Intermediate-cost subjects	1.3
C	Others	1.0

10. The quality score is the amount of 3\* and 4\* activity as a proportion of the total activity at 2\* quality and above in the provider's [REF 2021 overall profile](#), calculated for each UOA and multiple submission.
11. London weight is 8 per cent or 12 per cent for providers in outer or inner London respectively.
12. The rate of funding is calculated in proportion to London weighted, quality weighted, and cost weighted PGR FTE.
13. Funding will be restricted to UOAs that will be eligible to receive mainstream QR research funding.

### Derived field specifications

14. Definitions for the derived fields used in the QR RDP supervision fund calculations are provided in our technical documentation (see 'HESA Post-Collection outputs QR RDP technical document').