



IT Services - Research

Research Computing Board – Terms of Reference

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Change Control Table

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1 Executive Summary

This document contains the Terms of Reference for the *QMUL Research Computing Board*. This is a live document, and will be updated through the duration of the Board.

2 Research IT

For the purposes of this document and the Research Computing Board, Research IT is defined as the broad range of IT platforms, methods, and support required to facilitate academic research across the Faculties at QMUL.

Whilst Research IT is to a varying-degree dependent upon the *Enterprise IT* systems at QMUL, owned and managed by IT Services (such as the core network), Research IT is distinguished by being used specifically by the research students and staff engaged in research, rather than the wider QMUL community.

Research IT is also distinguished from Enterprise IT by the data which is created, processed, analysed, modelled, managed and curated.. Whilst Enterprise IT is primarily designed to manage QMUL *business data* (e.g., finance, HR, administrative and teaching data), Research is desgined to manage *research data*.

A more comprehensive definition of Research IT is maintained in the document *Definition of Research IT* (in progress).

3 Research Computing Board Terms of Reference

3.1 Core Objectives

1. A core aim of the Research Computing Board is to facilitate research at QMUL through the use of Research IT facilities, methods and support.

2. A core aim of the Research Computing Board is to ensure that the Research IT service delivered by ITS is: (i) relevant to the requirements of QMUL researchers, (ii) of high quality, and (iii) is cost-effective.

3.2 Board structure and form

3. Membership of the Research Computing Board will consist of the following:
 - a) VP Research (Chair)
 - b) Chair of the Genomics Bioinformatics Steering Group (Richard Nichols, SBCS)
 - c) Chair of the High Performance Computing Steering Group (Richard Nelson, SPA)
 - d) Chair of the Clinical Systems Steering Group (Steffen Petersen, WHRI)
 - e) Chair of the Digital Humanities Steering Group (Eyal Poyel, History)
 - f) Head of School, EECS (Geraint Wiggins)
 - g) Representation from the QMUL Doctoral College (Jon May)
 - h) Representation from *Genomics England* (Tim Hubbard)
 - i) Assistant Director for Research, IT Services (Richard Christie)
4. The membership of the Research Computing Board above can change upon approval from the Board.
5. The Chair of the Research Computing Board is the VP for Research, Prof. Bill Spence.
6. The HPC-SG will run for 2 years, starting in Spring 2016. At the end of the 2-year term, these Terms of Reference will be reconsidered.
7. The Research Computing Board will aim to meet every 3 months.
8. The Research Computing Board will report into the IT Strategy Board (ITSB) and the Vice-Principal's Research Advisory Group (VP-RAG).

3.3 Board Objectives

The objectives of the Research Computing Board are as follows:

9. To monitor and review the provision of IT to research users across QMUL,
10. To report to VPRAG and ITSB; providing annual reports describing this provision and any issues arising from this, and bespoke reports on particular areas as requested,
11. To provide input to ITS relating to maintenance, problems, expected demands and needs of research IT,

12. To review planning and investment cases (PAR and IT Services capital plan), commissioning these if needed, for cases for funding in research IT,
13. To receive reports from the HPC Steering Group, Genomics Bioinformatics Steering Group, and other Groups as requested on issues relating to particular areas of research computing,
14. To work with ITS as needed in the delivery of new research IT systems, providing advice and coordinating the communicating with users.
15. To maintain oversight of the reporting and management structures for research IT, suggesting improvements where needed.
16. To ensure that the Research IT needs of research students are understood and taken into account by ITS-Research.
17. To facilitate and approve a strategy for Research IT at QMUL, and then monitor the performance of ITS in achieving the defined strategic objectives.
18. To provide coordination and support for multi-disciplinary large-scale grant applications that have a significant Research IT component (e.g., awards similar to the EPSRC MidPlus, MRC Farr Institute, and MRC eMedLab medical bioinformatics awards).
19. To identify cross-Faculty research collaboration opportunities involving Research IT, especially with the aim of identifying and pursuing large-scale external funding opportunities.
20. To help facilitate the QMUL research community meeting the open data expectations of funding agencies.
21. To support the information governance needs of those working with confidential research data, and working to minimise the risk of disruption to research by advocacy of information and cyber security best practices.

