

IGC Postgraduate Studies Committee

16 January 2024, 9.30am, C3:02

Present:

Ian Adams

Kathy Evans

Susan Farrington

Nick Gilbert (chair)

Alana Johnson

Pauline McDonald (minutes)

HGU update (Ian)

Recruitment for HGU programme (with rotational element) will close for applications on 17 January. Interviews are set to take place on 28 February, with a view to recruiting 6 students.

As part of a joint initiative with the Max Delbrück Centre Berlin Institute for Medical Systems Biology (BIMSB) in Germany, we are hoping to recruit 2 students into the HGU DTP cohort that will be accepted directly into specific 3.5 year joint PhD projects. These students will not undertake rotation projects. It is anticipated that students recruited through this route will be registered for a PhD at University of Edinburgh, but will spend some time as a visiting student in Berlin to experience a different research environment.

CRUK update (Susan)

Still waiting to advertise the joint Cancer Research UK Scotland Centre PhD programme. SF confirmed that there are 2 positions available and will be targeted to specific themes.

The TRACC programme has been re-funded and interviews are set to take place on 7 May. In 2025, it is expected that the programme will be advertised in Aberdeen, Belfast, Newcastle, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

ECAT CRUK interviews being held in late February.

CGEM update (Kathy)

All going well, 3 students were admitted onto CGEM programme via external funding at the start of the last academic year.

KE acknowledged that PIs need to be more proactive at submitting projects for external funding i.e. EASTBIO, Precision Medicine etc.

Precision Medicine update (Susan)

Closing date for applications was 15 January. Interviews are scheduled to take place at the end of February. In total 26 projects were shortlisted for consideration; 2 from IGC (Greg Kudla, and Peter Hall).

Student administration update (Pauline)

Administration running smoothly across IGC. PM confirmed that 2 PIs submitted projects for EASTBIO programme (D Sproul and A von Kriegsheim). Interviews are due to take place for candidates early February.

Cancer Centre student talks, HGU rotation talks and HGU Christmas talks took place during November/December and were successful, with a good attendance from fellow students and staff.

Staff Student Liaison Committee meeting will be held in February, date tbc.

Pastoral Support Committees (Kathy)

All new students who started in September/October have been assigned mentors and now need to assign mentors to another 3 new starts who commenced in December/January.

KE reported that some mentors questioned why some students are not taking up their offer of PSC meetings, but has assured mentors not to worry if a student does not want/need to meet with their committee.

The committee discussed the student:mentor ratio and agreed that it would be possible to assign one mentor per student, provided they have sufficient experience.

KE confirmed that she is responsible for reporting to PG REC (PG Researcher Experience Committee) about PSCs.

Student/Supervisor Checklist (Nick)

Student-admin team confirmed that there is a poor return of online forms.

The committee agreed that having this structured discussion is beneficial to both students and staff and the form should be completed close to the start of the academic year.

Action: NG to send an email to students at the end of February advising that if students do not submit the online form, student-admin will contact individual students to follow-up.

Any other business

The committee discussed the possibility of having a pro forma template for thesis committee reports and agreed that it would be good to implement a structured form, which could be accessed via the Graduate Research and Training website.

Action: NG to follow-up.

The committee discussed the maximum number of students a supervisor should have. NG confirmed that nothing is set in stone, and should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. However, the recommendation at College is 4 per supervisor.

Date of next meeting - July 2024