

IGMM Postgraduate Studies Committee

4th June 2019

Present:

Val Brunton

Kathy Evans

Susan Farrington

Nick Gilbert

Alana Johnson (notes)

Pauline McDonald (minutes)

1. Minutes from previous meeting for approval
Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
2. Arising from previous minutes
Eligible IGMM PIs – SF discussed University supervisory rules and regulations with Dr Paddy Hadoke (CMVM Director for Postgraduate Research) to establish which members of staff can be considered as eligible first supervisors. SF reported that it can be difficult to determine eligible supervisors and further clarification is required.
Discussions are ongoing to determine whether PIs can have a lower percentage of supervision recorded in EUCLID, which would recognise that less experienced supervisors are leading on day-to-day supervision for some students.
NG confirmed that Centre Directors decide who is eligible to be recognised as supervisors and that the Board of Examiners would not authorise postdocs to be classed as primary supervisors. NG conveyed his support for postdocs and does not want to impede senior postdocs being recognised for supervising students.
3. HGU update (Nick)
PhD recruitment – 3 students were successfully recruited following the second round of interviews for the HGU programme. There was an emphasis on attracting quantitative applicants, 2 of the 3 students offered places are computational. NG confirmed that if applicants did not have masters or summer projects, their application would have scored slightly less.

IGMM student Twitter account – NG confirmed that this has temporarily been removed, as it is not actively being used.
4. CRUK update (Val)
PhD recruitment - 3 students were recruited and will commence in September. Other new Cancer Centre based students include those funded by the Melville Trust, BBSRC and the University PCDS scheme.

Val informed the Committee about the joint University of Edinburgh/Gdansk ICCVS (International Centre for Cancer Vaccine Science) PhD programme. The programme includes joint supervision for students between Gdansk and Edinburgh, and is open to all supervisors. Supervisors are

required to match fund 50% of the scholarship; Ted Hupp and Kathryn Ball currently have students on this programme.

5. CGEM update (Kathy)

As CGEM do not have a funded PhD programme, no new students are currently being admitted this academic year. It is possible that some new students on the Translational Neuroscience programme may be based at the IGMM.

MD Students- NG confirmed that MD project proposals are signed off at College level by Rob Semple. Once Charlie Lees has completed 'eligible to supervise' paperwork and attended a supervisor briefing session, he can assume a supervisory role for these students.

Action: PM to ensure that ALL students admitted on other PhD programmes, but based at the IGMM are on our radar for inclusion at student events etc.

PM to send emails to MD students, copying NG, KE and Charlie Lees.

PM to contact Kim Orsi (College PG office) to ask when student-admin office should be notified about MD applications.

6. Precision Medicine update (Susan)

PhD recruitment - second round of interviews was held in April, and a total of 22 students have been offered places, all of whom have accepted.

PM newsletter - programme administrators have created a newsletter to send out to students, which will contain material about student events, training and other useful information.

Action: SF to send list of students who will be based in IGMM to student-admin team (5 students in total).

PM to PM to email programme administrators re induction events to avoid clashes in timetable where possible.

7. Student administration update (Pauline)

Early Career Awards – shortlisting panel will meet to discuss submitted applications. Winners will be announced at the end of June.

8. Mental health training (Nick)

Following the recent SSLC meeting in April, students have suggested that supervisors should attend mental health awareness training, and that this should be mandatory to all supervisor. NG confirmed that the IGMM will schedule further mental health awareness sessions, and will encourage supervisors who have not attended this training previously to sign up.

PM reported that she will be working on a student mental health and wellbeing advertising campaign over the summer months.

Asperger awareness training – PM attended this course, which was delivered by the Student Disability Service. PM confirmed that disability awareness training courses are not mandatory for

supervisors. The consensus of the Committee was that more information about schedules of adjustments etc. should be communicated more clearly to supervisors.

SolidariTEA is an event organised by students at Little France. The Committee discussed the possibility of a SolidariTEA event being run on site by POGS.

Action: NG to email POGS re SolidariTEA events.

9. Website

NG & PM will be revising the HGU and IGMM Graduate Research and Training website over the summer months.

10. Any other business

Student mentors – following the last SSLC meeting, student representatives asked about the possibility of having mentors. The Committee agreed that students should be encouraged to register on Platform One, the University's mentoring connections scheme.

Pastoral care – NG reported that the Board of Examiners will be discussing pastoral care for students, with the possibility of implementing specific pastoral support for students. The Committee agreed that this role might be a good fit for postdoctoral fellows.

Action: NG to approach PODS and ask for their thoughts.

11. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed