IGC Staff Student Liaison Committee

16th April 2025

Present:

Academic staff

Nick Gilbert

Dasa Longman

Student Representatives

Alba Munoz-Grande

Rory Stewart

Hannah Juellig

Chloe Brotherton

Jesko Wagner

Apologies: Pauline McDonald, Alana Johnson, Joseph Rowland

This was the first SSLC meeting after a year’s absence. After introduction students presented their IGC student survey. Overall, the responding students reported a positive experience. However, the students highlighted a number of areas that could be addressed or improved.

Students requested clear information about the annual leave allowance. Some students also find it difficult to ask their supervisors about holidays. NG confirmed that there is no formal limit for holidays for students. NG acknowledged that this can be confusing and there is suggested 6-8 weeks annual leave mentioned in the student handbook. Students should discuss expectations regarding holidays and working hours with their supervisors during formal discussion. If there are any issues students should talk with their mentors or NG.

Information about student support is detailed in the student handbook, which is can be accessed from the IGC webpage. NG mentioned that the webpage is currently being redesigned to make information more accessible, and asked the students for feedback on the new webpages when they go online.

HJ: students would like for their pastoral committee to contact them at least once a year; NG to speak with Cathy Evans who is responsible for pastoral committees. Action NG.

AMG: survey identified a few instances where students had been harassed because of their seniority level or race. NG: Information about support is on IGC webpage and the University webpage. Students can also reach out to their pastoral committees or PGR directors. RS suggested creating a ‘tell us’ button to report issues, but NG pointed out the difficulty of addressing anonymous complaints. However, NG will consider the feasibility of such a reporting system. Action NG. All students, including visitors, have access to all the same support mechanisms. This is why it is important all students are registered on EUCLID.

The survey indicated that some students are still unsure who to contact for help or support. A new webpage is being created that will provide additional and easier to access information and useful contacts, including EUSA wellbeing service and EID. For mental health support students should use local contacts if comfortable, or University wellbeing service. Overall students are happy with the wellbeing support at IGC. NG: how to raise complaints: try to resolve issues locally, more serious problems should be logged at the university reporting form. All levels of complaints resolution have the same process, info in the student handbook/ web page or contact NG or Patrick Hadoke at the university.

Students are happy with social activities at IGC. Discussion on how to encourage more people, including staff, to participate. NG suggested a new event format where different labs take turns to host social events. NG to contact Helen Nickerson and Stephen Lissaman to get critical mass for IGC social committee. Action NG.

AMG: survey identified that recently some information communicated to students is somewhat inconsistent. NG acknowledged that this has been the case and is due to 50% reduction of staff in student admin. Teaching sessions were sometimes poorly organised – Ian Adams and Alana Johnson to address this. Action IA/AJ

JW: students unsure how to book conference and travel. NG: Students should consult supervisors. Students should join societies that give travel bursaries e.g. Biochemical or Genetics Society. Funding opportunities for students can be highlighted in emails from Daniel Toddie-Moore (Scientific Research and Funding Manager at IGC). Action D T-M.

CB indicated that the HGU stipend enhancement for HGU DTP students is being progressively decreased. NG: students at IGC are all paid UKRI stipend or above and this is due to increase further in October 2025. If students have non-UKRI funding PI must top-up from their grant to UKRI level.

Students are unsure how will IGC restructuring will affect PhD programmes. NG: CGEM, HGU and CRUK will be replaced over time with five or six divisions or themes. Hopefully there will be minimal disruption for students.

Date of next meeting: October 2025