

HSS Board of Studies

Wednesday, 12th November 2025 2:15 pm

Teams | HSS Board of Studies

Attendees

Deborah Wilson (Chair)
Elisabeth Barratt Hacking
Xiao Lan Curdt-Christiansen
Matteo De Tina
Gail Forey
David Galbreath
MariCarmen Gil Ortega
Richard Joiner
Sarah Jones
Peter Lambert
Peter Manning
Polly McGuigan
Ajit Mishra
Haydn Morgan
Katrín Roberts
Michael Stimmelmayer
Pieter Van Ellewee
Andrew Weyman

In attendance

Rachel Acres (Secretary)
Martin Savransky (for item 5152)

Apologies

Florin Bisset
Mariana Bonnouvrier
Emma Carmel
Maria Clutterbuck
Monica Greco
Javier Rivas Ruiz
Yixian Sun
Joanna Syrda
Gervene Teoh
Matthew Wickens
Louie Wickersham

5147.0 Welcome and Quorum

The Chair welcomed members and attendees and made a formal note of attendance to ensure that quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

5148.0 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

5149.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - HSS25/26 - 31

Board of Studies approved the open minutes of the previous meeting of H&SS Board of Studies held on 08.10.25.

5150.0 Actions and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5151.0 Chair's Business

The Chair noted the updates on the below matters:

a) Update on Rule 2 revisions for 2025/26

For information, Registry confirmed that they would not be recommending substantive changes to Rule 2 for 2025/26 and provided the below information. In the two key areas recently considered by Boards of Studies:

Calculators: We will continue with University calculators at this stage. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you if any in-year contingency measures are required.

Invigilation: The current expectations/requirements for Chief Invigilators will remain. An additional statement will be added to enable external recruitment of Chief Invigilators where all other options have been exhausted.

Rule 2 had been updated on the University website.

b) Doctorate in Forensic Psychology - new course approval

Board of Studies approved a Stage 1 proposal for a Doctorate in Forensic Psychology course at its meeting on 2nd April 2025. The committee approved the proposal in principle and at the strategic stage, with flexibility regarding the final award structure. After further consideration, it was agreed to go forward with a single award (with no APL/CPD route) and this would now proceed to Academic Programmes Committee in December 2026.

5152.0 New Course Approvals - HSS25/26-32

Board of Studies approved the for recommendation to Academic Programmes Committee a Stage 1 proposal to an MSc Climate, Sustainability and Social Transformation to commence in 2026/27.

The following points were discussed and Dr Savransky was asked consider any amendments before submission to Academic Programmes Committee:

- Dr Savransky thanked Professor Forey and other colleagues for their contribution to the development of this new cross-Faculty course.
- To consider whether there were any discrepancies in costings across the paperwork and reconfirm staffing on the basis of student numbers, to make sure staffing was sufficient in future.

- To confirm in the paperwork which units were already existing, which were new, and where they would sit in terms of resourcing.
- To further consider library costs and whether £5,000 was sufficient.
- To check on the resourcing allocated for support for the consultancy project.
- The HSS Librarian would send a follow up email to the Dean regarding library costs within new course approvals more generally, to ensure this was considered for future course approvals.

5153.0 Graduate Teaching Assistants Report 2024/25 - HSS25/26-31

Professor Forey introduced the report on GTAs for 2024/25 and thanked the Faculty Assistant Registrar for her support with improving Faculty recording of GTA activity for 2025/26.

GTA leads had now been appointed for all Departments and had recently met together for the first time, sharing ideas, challenges and best practice. A number of workshops would be held for all approved GTAs in HSS, with the first in November 2025 focusing on safeguarding.

It was noted whilst fractional contracts were felt to provide better terms and conditions for students, some did not want to teach as much as was required for this, and preferred casual contracts.

Professor Forey noted she was bringing a business case to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education) for enhanced GTA support

Board of Studies welcomed these changes and the improved support for GTAs.

5154.0 Sub-Committee minutes HSS25/26-33

Board of Studies received the minutes of MRes Programme Policy Committee held on 03.10.25.

5155.0 Any Other Business

There was no further business.