

Covid-19 – Week Eight Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Economics - PGR

From: Peter Postl

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To: RHES-AFM02@courses.bath.ac.uk

Cc: Subhasish Chowdhury <smc93@bath.ac.uk>; Andreas Schaefer <as3516@bath.ac.uk>;

Nathalia Gjersoe <ng495@bath.ac.uk>

Subject: Week 8 Survey Feedback from your Department

Dear PhD students in the Department of Economics,

I'd like to say a big Thank You to those of you who have once more taken time to complete the University's Week 8 Check-In survey. We have received the anonymous responses from PGR economics students and have analysed them so that we can get a better sense of your experience and take a second opportunity (after listening to your feedback in Week 4) to react to your suggestions for improvement. You can see the headline student satisfaction figures below, along with a summary of the most frequent open comments.

I'd like to give you here a brief outline of how we are responding as a Department:

- We have invited all PGR students to the Department's regular virtual coffee mornings (you are invited to join every second coffee morning, which means one per month). Relevant calendar invites have been sent, and we look forward to seeing you all there.
- We are re-instating for Semester 2 the 'PhD masterclasses' taught by colleagues in the Department as a way of providing you with training opportunities in the main areas of economics research. Your Director of Studies, Dr Subhasish Chowdhury, will be in touch with further details.

I'd like to thank you once again for your feedback and your open and constructive interaction with us. We look forward to continuing to offer you high quality research training, building on all we have learnt so far in this exceptional year, whilst prioritising the safety and wellbeing of our community.

If you have any questions regarding this email, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Take good care of yourself over the break, get some rest, and have a good start to the new year.

All the best,

Subho and Peter

PGR Week 8 Survey Responses

Headline Survey responses (from a total of 6 responses):

- **66.66%** of PGT students say they are **satisfied** (unchanged from 66.66% in Week 4)
- **16.67%** of PGT students say they are **neither satisfied nor dissatisfied** (down from 33.34% in Week 4)
- **16.67%** of PGT students say they are **dissatisfied** (up from 0% in Week 4)

Positive

- The flexible mix of online and in-person teaching
- Supervision, access to online reading materials

Suggested Improvements

- We (PGR) need more opportunity to find and mix in groups of people who are interested in the same research we are. Now that we're mostly online, the number of opportunities to meet other people on the same path as us has drastically diminished
- There should one-year compulsory lectures for First year PhD Students