

Covid-19 – Week Four Check In Survey: Response from the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies

Our PGR DoS has been having very regular meetings with PGRs (to avoid loneliness) and many of our PGRs are teaching with us, so we treat them differently (a bit more like colleagues) so this was discussed with them at one of these meetings (rather than via email), alongside anything else they wanted to raise. I also participated at the start of Nov. meeting to thank them for their teaching, and told them that the Y1 responses in the survey showed that they were very appreciative of their efforts. Results from the UG survey were discussed with PGRs who teach at a teaching workshop.

Only 5 of our PGRs responded to the survey and all were satisfied with supervision, so it was not very informative. The only comment arising was one student mentioning more social activities. This had been mentioned by others in the regular meetings, and since this survey has been undertaken, we have scheduled a lot of new activities, both social and academic. The PGR rep has instituted a weekly coffee and cake. The PGR DoS has added extra sessions to our teaching workshops, and scheduled a separate publications workshop, and job strategies workshop, all in discussion with students so that they can inform the priorities and focus. PGRs are aware of these new activities through emails and the regular meetings with the DoS.

Given our attempts to include the PGRs in decisions about them, we felt it was more appropriate to discuss the survey and jointly come up with actions at the regular meetings rather than us sending an email.

Best wishes,
Maria

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