

Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES)

The College of Arts and Law PRES actions update April 2012

I am very pleased that we can provide a further update to our College responses to the PRES results. Colleges have been working very hard to address the issues raised in the last PRES which our previous 'You said, we did' pamphlets addressed.

Further developments have now taken place in the Colleges, and I hope that you will find it useful to know what they are.



Professor Brian Ford Lloyd, Director of the University Graduate School

In the CAL response to the PRES outcomes a number of commitments were made, most of which have been implemented; the remaining ones are still in progress.

The first issue was the amount of financial support available to PG students' research activities; this has been increased by nearly 100%. In 2010/11 CAL has distributed £30,600 for individual student research support (same in 2011/12), and £16,781 for project work through the PG Development fund. The budget has been increased to around £30,000 for 2011/12.

Additional support for teaching activities has been implemented through the creation of 24 new PGTA posts throughout the college. An Employability and Careers group is currently being set up to meet in September this year to look into opportunities for occasional part-time work and ways of making them more accessible to CAL PGR

students. A Mature student working group had already been instituted, and a Part Time Student group was piloted.

To further enhance PGR induction, the Speed PhD induction process has been successfully trialled in EDACS, and we are currently engaged in discussion with the school HoPS to roll it out across all of CAL for the coming academic year. Viva preparation follows best practice across the college now, as all students in CAL are offered the opportunity to have a mock-viva when submitting their thesis.

Supervisor Packs have been implemented in January 2012 to ensure supervisors know what to do. In EDACS there was also

a mandatory on-line self-study course for supervisors to make sure they are aware of changes in regulations etc.

The ERI building was designed to be partially open plan and the air circulation is dependent on a degree of 'openness' being maintained. CAL is aware that this is leading to noise disrupting users in the building, including CAL postgraduate students and the College is working with Estates to seek solutions to this issue.

Dr Gavin Schaffer
Director College of Arts and Law
Graduate School

March– May	PRES survey takes place	June	PRES results compiled	July	PRES results discussed at UEB and special meeting of the Graduate School Management Board (GSMB) Findings sent to Colleges, the Guild and Corporate Service teams that support PGRs	Oct	PGR PRES report circulated	Oct– Dec	Actions discussed and implemented	March 2012	Colleges and Corporate Services report back to GSMB regarding PRES actions
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