Postgraduate Experience Sub-Committee

2024-25

Committee purpose

Oversee strategies to improve the PGR experience.

All academic committees operate in accordance with the University's governing documents – Charter, Statutes and Regulations – and the Public Interest Governance Principles.

Membership

- Chair (appointed by the Dean of Sussex Researcher School for a term of 3 years plus 2 years upon renewal and mutual agreement)
- Academic representative for the Faculty of Media, Arts & Humanities
- Academic representative for the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine
- Academic representative for the Faculty of Social Sciences
- Academic representative for the University of Sussex Business School
- Head of the Sussex Researcher School
- PGR Representative(s).

In attendance:

- Research & Open Scholarship Senior Manager, Library
- Head of Student Experiential Services
- Senior Research Manager
- Careers and Employability Consultant aligned to the Sussex Researcher School
- Lead Disability Advisor (to cover EDI)
- Faculty-based Research and Enterprise Coordinator (or equivalent) representative
- Researcher Development Coordinator.

Terms of Reference

The PGR Experience Sub-Committee (PES) is a sub-committee of the Postgraduate Researcher Sub-Committee (PGRSC).

a)   To develop, implement, monitor, and keep under review an institutional postgraduate research (PGR) wellbeing strategy, and regularly report on progress to the PGRSC.

b)   To develop, implement, monitor, and keep under review an institutional PGR communications strategy, and regularly report on progress to the PGRSC.

c)   To promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in the PGR space, collaborating with the PGR Recruitment & Funding Sub-Committee as required.

d)   To promote and monitor good practice in PGR supervision, including overseeing the design and implementation of supervisor training.

e) To oversee the institution's biennial participation in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES), analysing the feedback, taking appropriate steps where concerns are raised, and monitoring Faculty and School level responses.

f) To oversee PGR training and development, including:

   i. The design and delivery of a central programme of training and development;

   ii. Establishing mandatory training requirements for all PGRs;

   iii. Monitoring training and support across the institution in order to support communication and engagement;

   iv. Promoting the availability of training across institutional boundaries.

g) Monitoring compliance with any mandatory training requirements which are established for PGRs and/or associated staff groups.

h) Monitoring PGR employment outcomes and steering PGR-focussed employability activities.

i) In relation to any and all of the above, keep under review the relevant regulations, policies and procedures, and make recommendations for changes to the PGRSC, or to the relevant governing body where ownership sits outside the PGRSC's remit.

j) To champion PGRs' contribution towards the institution's research culture and standing.

k) Monitoring sector trends and best practice with a view to ensuring that practice and provision is up-to date and identify opportunities to be sector-leading.