**Postgraduate Research Students, NUI Galway**

**National Student Survey**

**School of Psychology**

**2024 Action Plan**

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|  |  | **Actions** | **Responsible** | **Status**  **\*Not Started**  **\*In Progress**  **\*Complete** |
| 1 | **Research Infrastructure and Facilities** | *Summary of findings: Above average ratings of satisfaction on many items in this category. Slightly lower rating for: ‘There is adequate provision of computing resources / facilities’*  **Actions:**  1.1 Ensure PGR students have access to necessary and adequate computer equipment within the School  1.2 Continue to support PGR students by provision of high quality research infrastructure and facilities.  1.3 Continue to ensure that PGR students have access to information about how to seek support with computing problems (ISS)  1.4 Continue to encourage communication with PGR students through information sessions and via PhD student representatives to ensure that gaps to specialist resources and facilities are identified and addressed where possible | Director of PGR and School Executive | **\*In Progress** |
| **2** | **Supervision** | *Summary of findings: High ratings of support provided, but slightly lower than average ratings for the College, especially for item: ‘My supervisor(s) help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher’.*  **Actions:**  2.1 Ensure that PGR students and supervisors are aware of the new requirement for all students from AY2023- 2024 to have a Personal Development Plan (PDP). All students to submit their PDP as part of their GRC. Strongly encourage students in previous year to have a PDP.  2.2 Continue to deliver an annual information session for PGR students and supervisors to ensure that they are familiar with University and School guidelines around supervision requirements and supports | Director of PGR | **\*In Progress** |
| **3** | **Research Culture** | *Summary of findings: Ratings within this category were relatively low, but were similar to ratings in the University more widely and in the College. Low scores on ‘I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond..*.’  **Actions:**  3.1 Continue to run the School Seminar Series  3.2 Inform PhD students about other research events being run across the college and the university  3.3 PhD reps will lead on creating a forum to promote regular communication within their PhD year cohort | Director of PGR and School Research Strategy Committee | **\*In Progress** |
| **4** | **Progress and Assessment** | *Summary of findings: Ratings in this category were generally high, but slightly lower ratings than the University and College for items: ‘I understand the required standard for my thesis’ and “The final assessment procedures for my research degree are clear to me*”  **Actions:**  4.1 Deliver annual information session for PGR students and supervisors to ensure that they are familiar with University and School guidelines around the required standards for the thesis and the assessment procedures (i.e. viva) | Director of PGR | **\*In Progress** |
| **5** | **Research Skills** | *Summary of findings: Ratings in this category were generally high, but slightly lower ratings than the University and College for items: ‘My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme’.*  **Actions:**  5.1 Ensure that PGR students and supervisors are aware of the Researcher Development Centre at NUI Galway, which provides regular training for researchers in transferrable research skills.  5.2 Promote communication about relevant training events to PhD students within the School  5.3 Encourage students to propose and organise training events to address skills gaps among PhD students | Director of PGR | **\*In Progress** |
| **6** | **Other Transferable Skills** | *Summary of findings: Ratings in this category were generally high, but slightly lower ratings than the University and College for items: ‘My ability to communicate information effectively to diverse audiences has devel...’.*  **Actions:**  6.1 Ensure that PGR students and supervisors discuss opportunities to disseminate research findings to diverse audiences. | PhD Supervisors | **\*In Progress** |
| **7** | **Responsibilities and Supports** | *Summary of findings: Ratings in this category were mixed in this category. Of note, were low rating on the following items, which is in line with the University more broadly and the College: ‘How aware are you of the various student supports available? (Recreation, healthcare, counselling, etc)’ and ‘My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students’*  **Actions:**  7.1 Establish a team of PhD representatives within the School who meet every month with the Director of PGR programmes, to ensure that issues that are important to PGR students are addressed  7.2 Signpost PGR students to the Graduate Studies Office where they can find information about students supports within the University. |  | **\*In Progress** |
| **8** | **Personal Outlook** | *Summary of findings: Ratings in this category generally high. were mixed. Of note, was a low rating on ‘I am satisfied with my work-life balance’*  **Actions:**  8.1 Ensure that PhD students and supervisors are aware of the importance to building holiday time into the year for PhD students | Director of PGR and School Executive | **\*In Progress** |
| **9** | **Research Funding** | *Summary of findings: Ratings in this category different from University and College norms. We have a lower level of fully funded and a higher proportion of self-funded and employer funded PhD candidates. Where funding is available, lower ratings for “research materials”, “travel to conferences”, “other travel” and “specialists training”.*  **Actions**: Ensure that all self funded students make an application for research funding in the first and subsequent years (where applicable). For example, Irish Research Council Funding. |  |  |
| **10** | **Development Opportunities** | *Summary of findings: Ratings in this category were mixed. Of note, were low rating on the following items: ‘Agreeing a personal training or development plan’, ‘Receiving advice on career options’, and ‘Do you agree or disagree that you have been given appropriate support and guidance for your teaching / demonstration?’*  **Actions:**  10.1 Ensure that PGR students and supervisors are aware of the Researcher Development Centre at NUI Galway, which provides regular training in researcher continuing professional development and careers  10.2 Deliver training in careers for researchers  10.3 Signpost PGR students to CELT, where they may be able to access training in teaching and learning. | Director of PGR, School Executive and School Research Strategy Committee | **\*In Progress** |
| **11** | **Motivations** | *Summary of findings: Highest priorities were (1) My interest in my subject, (2) Improving career prospects outside of academic and (3) Improving career prospects for an academic.*  **Actions:**  None needed. | N/A |  |
| **12** | **Career** | *Summary of findings: Highest priorities were (1) Academic career in higher education (either research and teaching, or teaching only),* **Actions:**  None needed. | N/A |  |
| **13** | **Overall Experience** | *Summary of findings: Above average ratings for item: ‘I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale’, but below average ratings for item: ‘How would you evaluate your entire research experience at this institution?’*  **Actions:**  13.1 Ensure that PGR students have access to appropriate facilities and computing resources.  13.2 Promote events that promote feelings of connectedness to the School and University, e.g. School seminar series, Training events, School Research Day.  13.3 PhD reps will lead on creating a forum to promote regular communication within their PhD year cohort | Director of PGR and School Executive | **\*In Progress** |