

Postgraduate Research Students, University of Galway

National Student Survey

School of History and Philosophy

2025-6 Action Plan

	Category	Actions	Responsible	Status*
1	Consideration of Withdrawal from Programme	The report indicates that none of the given grounds for withdrawing from the programme have been considered by students. We will maintain strong contact with PGR students to ensure satisfaction with programmes.	Postgraduate Programme Directors	In progress
2	Supervision	The report indicates a high level of satisfaction with the level of supervisory support available to students. Although most students in History and Philosophy are supervised by one supervisor, co-supervisory arrangements are in place for projects that would benefit from them and where the requisite supervisory expertise is available. Supervisors in the School will continue to direct students to the Researcher Development Centre (RDC), which is supported by the offices of the VP for Research and Innovation and the Dean of Graduate Studies. Supervisors and GRC members will also continue to advise students about relevant generic skills modules offered to graduate students in the CASSCS. Programme handbooks will continue to be updated by Programme Directors with relevant information for the	Postgraduate Programme Directors, Supervisors, GRC members	In progress

		convenience of students, GRC members and supervisors.		
3	Funding	The survey indicates a decline in the number of students who are funded by scholarships. The School will continue to advocate for students in this respect and to aid them in their scholarship applications.	Head of Graduate Studies, History and Philosophy staff	In Progress
4	Research Culture	The results here are mixed with a significant number of students clearly of the view that more can be done to improve the research culture in the School. The School will continue to provide opportunities for PGR students to interact with one another also between the two disciplines.	Head of Graduate Studies, PG Programme Directors History and Philosophy research seminar organizers.	In progress
4	Progress and Assessment	The report indicates a high level of satisfaction in this area. At School and Department level students meet with the Directors of the PG programmes for a specific department-related induction and are provided with a PhD course Handbook, both of which they find extremely helpful. No particular issue in relation to this category has arisen in the School	Head of Graduate Studies, PG Programme Directors	Complete
5	Research Skills	Students have expressed a high degree of satisfaction in this area. Students in History and Philosophy are directed to the Research Development Centre and relevant generic skills modules are offered on the Structured PhD programme. Information is provided in the programme handbook	Head of Graduate Studies, Postgraduate Programme Directors, Supervisors, GRC members	Complete

6	Other Transferable Skills	The survey shows increased satisfaction of students in this area. Students are directed to the Research Development Centre to draw up a personal development plan and to take training workshops in highlighting transferable skills and CV building	PG Programme Directors	In Progress
7	Responsibilities and Supports	Students seem to be aware of their responsibilities as postgraduates and of their supervisor's responsibilities. In both History and Philosophy, these responsibilities are clearly outlined in the postgraduate handbook given to all postgraduate students and available online on the Postgraduate Studies web page. Students seem to be less aware of other support channels in the university. Information about these supports is made available to students of Philosophy and History in the programme handbook. The various support channels in the university need to make more of an effort to communicate with postgraduate students in the different Schools and Departments	PG Programme Directors, Supervisors	Complete
8	Personal Outlook	High level of Satisfaction reported in this section. The School will endeavour to maintain high levels of support for students.	Postgraduate Programme Directors	Complete
9	Development Opportunities	In this section there is overall good satisfaction reported. Two areas of concern, however, would be a relatively low number reporting support to publish and a sizable increase in the	Head of Graduate Studies, PG Programme Directors, Supervisors	In progress

		number who report lack of support to communicate to a non-academic audience. The School will endeavour to provide opportunities to discuss publishing and impact possibilities to PGR students.		
10	Motivations	PGR students report being primarily motivated by interest in their subject. It would be helpful if there were more diverse motivation for study, as for example being motivated to study with a particular academic. We will explore how we may help colleagues to do more to attract PGR students to work with them.	Head of Graduate Studies	In Progress
11	Career	The results seem to show uncertainty as to the career route PGR students wish to take. The School will liaise more intensively with Career services to help students in thinking about their future careers.	Head of Graduate Studies, Programme Directors	In Progress
12	Overall Experience	Students in History and Philosophy are mostly satisfied with their experience. More could be done in particular with regard to the research culture, advice on careers and professionalization more generally. There School will consult with students in attempting to address these issues.	Head of Graduate Studies, Programme Directors	In Progress