Postgraduate Research Students, University of Galway

National Student Survey

School of Psychology

2026 Action Plan

		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.* **Actions:** 1.1 Continue to 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	*Complete (complete denotes an existing process is in operation)
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) provides feedback that helps me to direct my research activities'.* **Actions:** 2.1 Ensure that all PGR students are supervised by at least two supervisors. This will be reflected in an updated version of our School of Psychology PhD handbook. 2.2 Encourage all academic staff have completed PHD supervision training offered via HR Learning and Development Course Registration. 2.3 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	Items 2.1 and items 2.3 *Not Started Item 2.3 *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 'The research ambience in my department stimulates my work" and I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community…"* **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	Item 3.1 ***Complete** Items 3.2 and 3.3 ***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: 'I received an appropriate induction/orientation to my research degree programme".* **Actions:** 4.1 Ensure all students engage with the College Orientation Programme 4.2 Programme Directors of Structured PhD programmes to hold an orientation to familiarise PGR students with programme specific details. 4.3 Continue to 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 and Directors of Structure PhD programmes	Items 4.2 and 4.2 ***In Progress** Item 4.3 ***Complete**
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 University of 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.* **Actions:**	PhD Supervisors	***Complete**

		6.1 Continue to encourage that PGR students and supervisors discuss opportunities to disseminate research findings to diverse audiences.		
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 quarterly 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 and the Support Wheel where they can find information about students supports within the University.		*In Progress
8	**Personal Outlook**	*Summary of findings: Ratings in this category generally consistently higher than across the University and College. One response which scored lower was the rating on 'I feel that my research degree programme is worthwhile'.* **Actions:** 8.1 Ensure that PhD students and supervisors are aware of diverse applications of their research across industry and academia.	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**: 9.1 Ensure that all supervisors discuss research funding with prospective students and where possible make an application for research funding upon applying for the PhD. For example, Research Ireland.	Director of PGR and supervisors	*In Progress
10	**Development Opportunities**	*Summary of findings: Ratings in this category were mixed. Of note, were low rating on the following items: 'Presenting a paper or poster at an academic research conference, Attending an academic research conference, 'Receiving advice on career options'.* **Actions:** 10.1 Ensure that PGR students and supervisors are aware of the Researcher Development Centre at University of Galway, which	Director of PGR, School Executive and School Research Strategy Committee	*In Progress

| | | provides regular training in researcher continuing professional development and careers

10.2 Encourage eligible PhD students to apply for the CASSCS Travel Bursary Scheme.

10.3 A meeting to be held with PhD students to identify barrier to them attending and presenting at academic conferences. | | |

| 11 | **Motivations** | *Summary of findings: Highest priorities were (1) It felt like a natural step for me, (2) I was encouraged by a former academic tutor/supervisor,(3) Professional development or training.*

Actions:

None needed. | N/A | |
| 12 | **Career** | *Summary of findings: Highest priorities were (1) Academic career in higher education and Research Career either in or outside of higher education.*

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' and '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** |