

PGR AND ECR FORUM GROUP

- Postgraduate Researcher and Early Career Researcher Forum Group

MINUTUES FOR THE SECOND meeting of the PGR and ECR Forum group meeting in the 2021-2022 academic session to be held on Monday 28 March 2022 13:00-15:30 hrs online via Microsoft Teams.

RF/RETI/21-22/F2/1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

MEMBERS ATTENDED

Emmanuel	Mogaji	FBUS	ECR Representative
Diola	Bijlhout	FEHHS	PGR Representative
Denise	Miller	FEHHS	ECR Representative
Genevieve	Breau	FEHHS	ECR Representative
Manuela	Carnaghi	FES	PGR Representative (NRI)
Joanna	Miest	FES	ECR Representative (Science)
Emily	Parsons	FLAS	PGR Representative
Maimoona	Amin	FLAS	PGR Representative
Aradhana	Mehra	RETI, GRE	Head of Research & Enterprise Training Institute, Chair
Harvinder	Birdi	RETI, GRE	Researcher Training Officer, Secretariat
Kate	Southgate	RETI, GRE	Training and Research Programmes Manager, Deputy Chair
Paul	Angelo	GRE	Research Development Manager
Emma	Caney	GSU	Academic Communities Coordinator
Nele	Leitolf	GSU	GSU Officer

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Emem	Ekamen	FBUS	PGR Representative
Sofia	Lachhab	FBUS	PGR Representative
Alexandra	Stroleny	FBUS	ECR Representative
Devanshi	Vikamsey	FEHHS	PGR Representative
Bawan	Ahmed	FEHHS	PGR Representative
Louise	Usher	FEHHS	PGR Representative
Ryan	Essex	FEHHS	ECR Representative
Osamh	Alshahed	FES	PGR Representative (Engineering)
Georgios	Kampas	FES	ECR Representative (Engineering)
Kaysara	Khatun	FES	ECR Representative (NRI)
Steven	Harte	FES	ECR Representative (NRI-Deputy)
Camile	Stengel	FLAS	ECR Representative
Bradley	Cory	GSU	Disability Student Representative, Doctoral Society
Rania	Hassan	GSU	President of Doctoral Society
Esther	Olorunsomo	GSU	Academic Representation Coordinator

AWAITING MEMBER NAME CONFIRMATION:

Awaiting	Name	FLAS	ECR Representative
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Items from Chair: -

- 2.1 Minutes of the last PGR ECR Forum meeting held on Thursday 11 November 2021 - were approved
- 2.2 Actions Update was given.
- 2.3 Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee update
 - 2.3.1 R&KE sub-strategy has been presented to the Academic Council and successfully received.
 - 2.3.2 Thank you to the working groups involving PGRs who helped inform and develop the sub-strategy
 - 2.3.3 Last REF results will be released on 9 May 2022. Sector wide results and comparisons will be available 10 May 2022 and will be publically available on 12 May 2022 and the University of Greenwich will then know what grants are awarded.
 - 2.3.4 The Great Cycle, will start looking at future REF targets. If PGRs, ECRs are interested in applying for grants or submitting for the next REF to raise with GRE team.
 - 2.3.5 50% increase in PGR is a target in the sub-strategy and will be backed by funding.

RF/RETI/21-22/F2/3. **Operational Matters**

- 3.1 PULSE SkillsForge Management System update
 - 3.1.1 Testing is currently being done of the overview of the platforms for supervisors and PGRs
 - 3.1.2 Testing is also underway for training booking and management side.
 - 3.1.3 The system will be released in stages and with key dates in mind. Overall end date has moved from August to December 2022.

RF/RETI/21-22/F2/4. **Discussion Matters**

- 4.1 ECR Networks across University
 - 4.1.1 The main functions of the Networks would be on funding opportunities, networking across disciplines
 - 4.1.2 FEHHS have a website for the ECR Networks, where ECRs work on events, meetings and collaborations, mentorships schemes of new ECRs by experienced ECR.
 - 4.1.3 FBUS – ACTION to write to faculty and discuss the setup of an ECR Network.
 - 4.1.4 FLAS has a ECR Network.
- 4.2 PGR Wellbeing Support
 - 4.2.1 PGR student experience working group looks at the whole PGR transition from graduate level throughout their journey undertaking their research study. GSU is also on the working group and are also looking at wellbeing support. The group is also exploring the entry points for PGRs. Looking at gaps across campuses for a standardised student experience. PGR student journey mapping exercise is currently being undertaken. It is important for PGRs to provide feedback on this work so that PGRs can inform their needs so that solutions and improvements can be made to meet the needs. PGRs Members are encouraged to get involved.
- 4.3 PGR student wellbeing survey, FEHHS
 - 4.3.1 All PGRs, EdD students and members are encouraged to complete the survey.

4.4 3MT update

- 4.4.1 Currently faculty heats are taking place and members are encouraged to promote the competition amongst PGRs. The final is taking place on 17 May 2022.
- 4.4.2 The rules are set by University of Queensland and only allow PhD students (not MPhil) to participate in the final competition. However, those not transferred can take part in the faculty heats.

4.5 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey (PRES) 2021 university-level findings; PRES Action Plan consultation

- 4.5.1 FLAS survey highlighted the research culture is poor. It was suggested this may be correct for some departments as the group is very diverse group and also as Covid has left people on their own. However, the result is surprising as FLAS has good collaborations across some departments, and there are networks, spaces etc. available. It was also suggested that the response rate may have not been good and therefore representative of only a small group.
- 4.5.2 It was raised if there has been any discussions on restructuring as FLAS has also gone through a restructure and may not be well represented for PRES.
- 4.5.3 PGR Wellbeing, Library resources were considering areas for improvement.
- 4.5.4 *ACTION*: Members are requested to go through the document and provide any feedback to put into the Action Plan, which will be presented to the Academic Council in April 2022.

4.6 Faculty PGR/ECR and Students Union members update and feedback (All)

- 4.6.1 No further updates from faculties or GSU
- 4.6.2 FES NRI, there will be a new PGR representative for the next meeting.
- 4.6.3 FLAS: glad to see faculties being more streamlined

4.7 RETI Training 2022-23

- 4.7.1 PGR and ECRs are requested to put forward any new ideas for training session topics.

RF/RETI/21-22/F2/5. **Any Other Business**

- 5.1 It was suggested the Forum meetings in the next academic year to be online as they are more preferred and accessible.

RF/RETI/21-22/F2/6. **Forum Meetings** - schedule for academic year 2021-22

1. Thu 11 November 2021, 13:00–15:30 | Microsoft Teams
2. Mon 28 March 2022, 13:00–15:30 | Microsoft Teams
3. Fri 17 June 2022, 10:00–12:30 | Microsoft Teams