

University of Glasgow**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 26 January 2018****Summary of Postgraduate College Annual Monitoring Summaries
2016-17****Dr Richard Lowdon, Senate Office****1. Process**

As in previous years, the Postgraduate Annual Monitoring Summaries for each College were submitted to the Senate Office two weeks in advance of the January meeting of ASC. The College Summaries have been reviewed by the Senate Office in order to identify any common themes – these are presented below. Following its consideration of the College Annual Monitoring Summaries, ASC is asked to confirm that the themes identified below are an accurate reflection of the issues raised by the Colleges. The Senate Office will then seek updates and responses from the relevant sources to these University-wide matters.

2. Key Themes

The Postgraduate Annual Monitoring Summaries contained many of the themes reported through the Undergraduate summaries. These themes included:

- Suitability and quality of teaching spaces
- Student mental health
- Staffing
- EvaSys
- MyCampus
- Moodle

In addition to the themes identified in the Undergraduate Reports, individual comments were received on the following topics:

- Assessment and feedback
- Student writing support
- Provision for online Masters programmes
- Recruitment and marketing system
- IT and library facilities
- Postgraduate bursaries

3. Assessment and Feedback

The School of Critical Studies highlighted concerns about the 15-day turnaround for marking. Clarification was sought on how the 15-day turnaround articulates with staff annual leave, particularly within the Christmas and Easter vacation when staff take leave outside of semester teaching but marking has to be undertaken. The School also noted that the tight deadline placed particular demands on staff who were part-time and those who had caring responsibilities.

4. Student writing support

The School of Education expressed concerns that part-time students were disadvantaged as a result of writing days and writing support provision only being offered during the week.

5. Provision for online Masters programmes

The School of Critical Studies (specifically Creative Writing) highlighted concerns about the provision and infrastructure for its online Masters programmes. In particular, concerns were raised about the obligation to use WebEx, the limitations of Skype for Business, insufficient licenses, and limited storage space for recordings.

The School of Modern Languages and Cultures expressed the need for stable webinar platforms for their Teaching English for Academic Purposes Online programme. The School noted that Big Blue Button had crashed on several occasions, which resulted in webinars being interrupted or cancelled.

6. Recruitment and marketing system

The School of Culture and Creative Arts raised concerns about the new system for online review of MLitt applications and the ability to access and review applications.

The School of Modern Languages and Cultures expressed concerns about the offer letters and application process for online students and suggested that a review of the process was required to make it more relevant. Concerns were also noted about the frequency of email and application monitoring over the Summer, which has resulted in processing delays.

7. IT and library facilities

The School of Interdisciplinary Studies raised concerns that the IT service at the Dumfries Campus was provided through the University of the West of Scotland, which led to greater complexity for students in relation to login details, printing accounts, file storage and website access. Students had also expressed concerns about library facilities provided by the University of the West of Scotland, particularly in relation to opening times.

8. Postgraduate bursaries

The School of Humanities expressed a need for greater funding of PGT bursaries to enhance marketing and recruitment. It was suggested that income gained from increased student recruitment could be invested to create more PGT studentships.