

GSSLC Meeting 2nd February 2016

Membership of Committee

Student Representatives

Diego Solorzano Rueda

Andy Ferrara

Carlo Schwarz

Daniel Diez-Alonso

Antonio Schiavone

Andres Fioriti

Staff Representatives

Heafey, Maryanne

Dutta, Bhaskar (apologies conveyed)

Deven, Natalie

Mukand, Sharun

Kelly Taylor

Sascha, Becker

Smith, Jeremy

Riley, Helen

1. Minutes of the GSSLC meeting held on 8th December 2015

Matters Arising: Visa

The international office was contacted concerning general guidance for Visa questions. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to offer general advice since students face very individual problems. Therefore, it is easier if the student could contact the international office directly.

2. Library Issues

There were no issues raised. However, Helen Riley updated the group on library events which would be relevant to research students. Maryanne would send details of these events to all research students.

3. Computing Issues

There were no issues raised.

4. Curriculum Organisation

Update on third term MRes module

ESRC want that students get some training in philosophical as well as qualitative research methods. Discussions are taking place with the ESRC DTC and it is likely that these will have an impact on what we teach in the module EC9AA. The department tries to find a long term solution and therefore is still working on the concrete schedule for the 3 term module. Students will be sent further details as soon as these are available.

2nd year MRes Module

There is not going to be any change in the titles of the modules offered for the 2nd year MRes, since any such change requires long term planning. The department plans a survey of MRes students for the future to decide how to further develop the modules. The individual content of the modules depends on the available lecturers and the students interest. Furthermore, there is the possibility to form reading groups if some topics of interest are not addressed in any of the modules. Material

within modules will be updated, so if students have suggestions/ preferences as to additional areas to be covered, please can they convey their comments directly to the lecturer concerned.

Help with Stata and Matlab

The first year MRes asked if it would be possible to get some help for STATA and Matlab. Mirko Draca is currently working on STATA teaching videos. Additionally, the research work over the summer will give the chance to extend the knowledge of this programming languages. Finally, a wide variety of teaching videos and materials is available on the internet. It may be that there will be some training as part of EC9AA. In any case students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in this area in the research project they are expected to undertake over the summer (as part of EC9AA).

5. Curriculum Development

There were no issues raised.

6. Teaching and Learning

There were no issues raised.

7. Methods of Examination

Final exams first year MRes

Since the university decides about the dates for the final exams the department has no influence on the spacing of the exams. The department will ask to space the finals for the first year MRes, but so far those kind of requests have always been ignored by the university. Maryanne will email Jo Taylor of the Exams Office to inform him of the students' request.

8. Student Support and Guidance

Availability of more study space

The first year MRes study room is too small for the current cohort and also study space on campus is limited. The department will check if it might be possible to allow MRes students to use empty room on the weekend.

Departmental advice on Phd temporary withdrawal

The PhD cohort asked if there is any advice from the department on the timing for a temporary withdrawal. The department advises students not to withdraw too close to the PhD deadline in September. A withdrawal does not affect any possible applications as a teaching fellow. The students should take into consideration that September is just the hand in date for the PhD dissertation and not for the job market paper. There are at least 2 more months to improve and extend the job market paper.

9. Any other Business

There were no issues raised.