

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
PGR SCHOLARSHIPS WORKING & ADVISORY GROUP
PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12:00, 02 April 2025, Microsoft Teams

Present	David Leadley	D-PVC Research (Chair)
	Daniel Branch	Academic Director, Doctoral College (Co-chair)
	Nicola Attridge	PGR Finance Manager, Doctoral College
	Natasha Khovanova	Director of Graduate Studies, Engineering
	Tomomi Kimura	Research Strategy & Development Manager, R&IS
	David Lambert	Director, CADRE & M4C
	Lisa Millard	Doctoral Training Manager, Faculty of Arts
	Jonathan Millar	MRC DTP in IBR Director, WMS
	Vardis Ntoukakis	BBSRC MIBTP Director, SLS
Attending	Alan Ashton-Smith	Research Strategy & Development Manager, R&IS
	Sarah Holcroft	Research Strategy & Development Manager, R&IS
	Claire Bastie	Director of Graduate Studies, WMS
	Pablo Becker	Director of Graduate Studies, Economics
	Susan Black	PGR Scholarships Coordinator, Doctoral College
	Louise Bourdua	Director of Graduate Studies, SCAPVC
	Dariusz Ceglarek	Digital Metal CDT Director
	Christophe Corre	Director of Graduate Studies, SLS
	Emilie Day	PG Programmes Administrative Officer, Chemistry
	Ingrid De Smet	Director of Graduate Studies, SMLC
	Kurt Debattista	Director of Graduate Studies, WMG
	Madeleine Fagan	Director of Graduate Studies, PAIS
	Ross Forman	Midlands4Cities Site Director
	Sarah Holcroft	Research Strategy & Development Manager, R&IS
	Andrea Howard	Research Strategy & Development Manager, R&IS
	Nikoleta Jones	Director of Graduate Studies, GSD
	Beat Kumin	Director of Graduate Studies, History
	Nicholas Lawrence	Director of Graduate Studies, English & CLS
	Rebekah Luck-Owen	Postgraduate Admissions Officer
	Daniel Matthews	Director of Graduate Studies, Law
	Philip McCash	Director of Graduate Studies, CLL
	Aysa Ozcan	PGR Development Officer (EDI), Doctoral College
	Anastasia Papavasiliou	Director of Graduate Studies, Statistics
	Rich Rabone	Director of Graduate Studies, Renaissance Studies
	Evgeny Rebrov	Net2Zero CDT Director
	Katarina Sarter	Director of Graduate Studies, IER
	Elizabeth Stanway	Director of Graduate Studies, Physics
	Vicky Strudwick	Head of Research Culture Partnerships
	Louise Sutcliffe	PGR Scholarships Officer, Doctoral College
	Deniz Ucbasaran	Director of Graduate Studies, WBS
Rebecca Vipond	CDT & PGR Scholarship Manager (Secretary)	
Kate Whiston	International Partnerships Manager, ISR	
Ref	Item	
040	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from Alan Ashton-Smith, Lara Barzon, Kelly Chenney, Jon Coaffee, Sharon Howard, James Kermode, Tomo Kimura, Harbeena Lalli, Vicky Panossian, Stephanie Schnurr, Ashleigh Skelhorn-French and Luqman Sudradjat.</p>	
041	<p>Declarations of Interest</p>	

	No new declarations were made.
042	<p>Minutes of last meeting on 02 April 2025</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2025 (042-PGRSWAG2425, Open) were approved.</p>
043	<p>Matters arising from last meeting on 02 April 2025</p> <p>(a) CSC stipend top up feedback</p> <p>The current contract between CSC and Warwick is due for renewal, with Warwick currently providing a stipend top up to the prevailing UKRI rate. Due to the increasing UKRI stipend rate and static CSC rate, Warwick’s contribution to this scheme is increasingly significant (equivalent to a 3.5 year Home fee scholarship). However, ceasing to provide the stipend top up would introduce disparity and possible financial hardship for new CSC scholars.</p> <p>(b) PGR Funding Policy update & comms plan</p> <p>The final draft of the PGR Funding policy was circulated (048-SWAG2425) without discussion and will be published in October 2025. The Doctoral College are creating a comms plan to inform all stakeholders of the upcoming changes early and clearly.</p>
Chair’s Update	
044	<p>Chair’s Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No matters were raised by the chair.
Governance	
045	<p>Membership and Terms of Reference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to the current membership and Terms of Reference were noted.
Finance and Resources	
046	<p>FCCG Report 2024 Q3</p> <p>The Committee received the report (046-PGRSWAG2425, Restricted) and key points and discussions were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been no significant changes to report since April 2025. Discussions on the possibility of charging electricity costs as part of RTP funding for EPSRC training grants continue.
047	<p>2026 Entry Scholarships</p> <p>The Committee received the report (047-PGRSWAG2425, Protected) and key points and discussions were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Doctoral College is overhauling its management of PGR scholarships for 2026 entry to better align funding with institutional priorities and simplify the application process. The Chancellor’s Scholarship budget will now be open to both Home and International applicants and will be divided into four streams: one for each faculty, one interdisciplinary stream. New Faculty and Interdisciplinary PGR Scholarships Management Groups will be established. These groups will: be formed from subsets of Faculty Steering Committees, set annual strategic priorities, determine longlisting nomination quotas for their schools and departments, and assess longlisted applications. The Doctoral College will retain responsibility for managing the overall budget and award process, reporting to PRS.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarships will be allocated via two unified routes, with standardised forms and clear deadlines to reduce administrative burden: application-led and nomination-led (for some collaborative and externally co-funded schemes). PGR scholarships not administered by the Doctoral College and Centres of Doctoral Training are not currently included in this change. However, the institutional landscape of PGR scholarships will be considered when allocating funding from these central schemes.
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
Subsidiary and Sub-Committee Reports	
048	PGR Funding Policy Final Draft The Committee received the report (048-PGRSWAG2425, Protected)
Other	
039	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No other matters were raised.
Next meeting: TBC 2025-26	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
[2022-2023]			
154-Matters Arising	ACTION 1: Doctoral College to lead a working group on PGR Recruitment.	Secretariat, December 2023	Complete
158-DC/CDT Consultation	ACTION 2: Doctoral College can advise when consortium processes are equivalent to Warwick processes in order to reduce duplication for PGRs and supervisors.	Secretariat, on-going	Complete
[2023-2024]			
166-Matters Arising	ACTION 1: Doctoral College to collect data on how often WIF reallocations are required and if the initial allocations process needs changing.	Secretariat, Autumn 2024	Complete
	ACTION 2: URSS is part of Student Experience, could it become embedded into a “Pathways to PhD” new scheme? It was noted that there is not enough funding for URSS. Stats and Physics top-up URSS bursary. Some Warwick UG go to alternative universities for their summer schemes. DC to investigate, could URSS be increased/rebranded/ increased funding?	Secretariat, Autumn 2024	Complete
167-Chair’s Business and Actions	ACTION 1: Email David Leadley with thoughts on the split between rebids and bidding for new ideas.	Members, Autumn 2024	Complete
170- PGR fee income	ACTION 1: Add discounting and waiving of overseas fees to the next agenda.	Secretariat, Autumn 2024	Complete
174-UKRI Audits	ACTION 1: decide what will improve the administrative burden of auditing UKRI training grants for ineligible costs (e.g. additional staff capacity in the DC or RIS).	Secretariat, Winter 2024	Complete
[2024-2025]			
004-Matters Arising	ACTION 1: PGR Scholarships ASC paper to be reported to the next meeting.	Secretariat, April 2025	Complete

	ACTION 2: Department R&IS contacts must be informed as soon as a WIF is awarded to minimise delay in contract negotiations.	PGR Scholarship Officer, November 2024	Complete
	ACTION 3: Doctoral College to discuss with CDT leads and R&IS how to ease the internal approval process so that R&IS colleagues have more capacity to work on the content of bids with PIs, instead of spending excessive time on gaining approvals.	Secretariat, January 2025	Complete
006-Membership & TORs	DECISION: The Committee approved the 2024/25 Terms of Reference.		
	ACTION 1: The Secretariat will recruit additional department and PGR members to the committee.	Secretariat, January 2025	Complete
007-FCCG Report	DECISION: The Committee recommended future financial reports include the central scholarships budget (BGCTS-AW).		
009-Doctoral Access Bursary	DECISION: The Committee recommended the Postgraduate Research Subcommittee of Senate approve the paper to be presented to the Academic Strategy Committee on 25 November 2024.		
	ACTION 1: Discussion of overseas government scholarships where the stipend is less than the UKRI minimum to be added to the next meeting agenda.	Secretariat, April 2025	Complete
	ACTION 2: Secretariat to report back to this committee about the outcome of the Academic Strategy Committee discussion.	Secretariat, January 2025	Complete
021- FCCG Report 2024 Q1	ACTION: CDT staff & PGR Finance to liaise with RTP team about what costs can be assigned to this grant and discuss reallocating budget with EPSRC.	Members, April 2025	Complete
023-2026 Entry Scholarships Overhaul	ACTION: Members are invited to provide feedback to DC about the current frustrations and suggestions for future improvements to how we administer the central scholarships budget.	Members, April 2025	Complete
024-PGR Insurance	ACTION 1: Secretary to investigate what PGRs are told about insurance cover when they join the University.	Secretariat, April 2025	Complete
	ACTION 2: Chair and co-chair to follow up with other committees and colleagues as necessary.	Secretariat, April 2025	Complete
035-2026 Entry Scholarships	ACTION 1: Secretariat to circulate a detailed report on application and award processes to the next meeting.	Secretariat, July 2025	Complete
036-Overseas Government Scholarships	ACTION 1: Members to provide feedback on the CSC stipend top up to the secretariat and ISR.	Members, July 2025	Complete
037- PGR Funding Policy Redraft 2025-26	ACTION 1: Members to review and provide any feedback on the redraft at PGR Funding Policy – October 2025 Update.docx .	Members, July 2025	Complete
	ACTION 2: Secretariat to circulate the final draft of the policy at the next meeting, including a financial forecast and create a student comms plan to disseminate the changes.	Secretariat, July 2025	Complete

Acronym Glossary

AHRC: Arts and Humanities Research Council
ASC: Academic Strategy Committee
BBSRC: Biology & Biological Sciences Research Council
CADRE: Centre for Arts Doctoral Research Excellence
CDT: Centre of Doctoral Training
CIS: Chancellor's International Scholarship
CSC: China Scholarship Council
DEAR: Doctoral Education and Academic Research
DC: Doctoral College
DCS: Department of Computer Science
DFA: Doctoral Focal Award
DLA: Doctoral Landscape Award
D-PVC: Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor
DTP: Doctoral Training Programme
EPSRC: Engineering and Physical Science Research Council
ESRC: Economics and Social Sciences Research Council
FCCG: Financial Control and Compliance Group
HEI: Higher Education Institution
IBR: Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences
iCASE: Industrial Cooperative Awards in Science & Technology
IDG: Information Digital Group
iDLA: Industrial Doctoral Landscape Award
ISR: International Strategy and Relations
M4C: Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Programme
MGS: Midlands Graduate School
MIBTP: Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership
MRC: Medical Research Council
MWA: Monash-Warwick Alliance
PGR: Postgraduate Research Student
PGR-SWAG: Postgraduate Research Scholarships Working and Advisory Group
PI: Principal Investigator
R&IS: Research and Impact Services
RAG: Red Amber Green
RG: Russel Group
RTP: Research Technology Platforms
RTSG: Research Training Support Grant
SELCS: School for Education, Communication and Learning Sciences
SEM: Science, Engineering and Medicine
SJTU: Shanghai Jiao Tong University
SLS: School of Life Sciences
UA: Universal Admissions Course Application System
UKRI: UK Research & Innovation
UoW: University of Warwick
URSS: Undergraduate Research Support Scheme
WIF/WCF: Warwick Industrial Fellowships / Warwick Collaborative Fellowships
WMS: Warwick Medical School
WP: Widening Participation