

CDTMC Open Meeting 11 July 2022

Attendance

Name	CDT	Attendance
Allaby, Robin	NERC CENTA	online
Attridge, Nicola	PGR Finance, Doctoral College	<i>Apologies</i>
Blakeman, Sally	MRC DTP	<i>Apologies</i>
Botcherby, Pierre	M4C & CADRE	<i>Apologies</i>
Branch, Daniel	Doctoral College	In person
Brown, Steven	AS	<i>Apologies</i>
Burns, Jennifer	M4C & CADRE	<i>Apologies</i>
Chennery, Kelly	DCS	<i>Apologies</i>
Coaffee, Jon	MGS	<i>Apologies</i>
Coles, Stuart	SMM	online
Connaughton, Colm	MathSys	<i>Apologies</i>
Corre, Christophe	Synbio	<i>Apologies</i>
Day, Emilie	AS CDT	<i>Apologies</i>
Dianati, Mehrdad	FMT	<i>Apologies</i>
During, Bertrum	FMS	online
Elliott, Charles	MASDOC	<i>Apologies</i>
Ferhatosmanoglu, Hakan	DCS	<i>Apologies</i>
Glover, Nicola	NERC CENTA	In person
Hamilton, Ian	FMS (student rep)	online
Hatton, Kerrie	FMT	online
Holcroft, Sarah	R&IS	online
Kermode, James	Hetsys	<i>Apologies</i>
Kimura, Tomomi	R&IS	online
Kirwan, Kerry	SMM	<i>Apologies</i>
Knight, Helen	HetSys & DST	online
Lin, Xiaodong	TRANSFORM	<i>Apologies</i>
Luckhurst, Helen	SMM	<i>Apologies</i>
Macpherson, Julie	DST	<i>Apologies</i>
Mason, Rachel	FMS	online
Mawby, Philip	FMT	online
Meyer, Caroline	PVC (Research)	<i>Apologies</i>
Millar, Jonathan	MRC DTP	In person
Millichap, Rachel	FMS	In person
Morris, Beverley	MGS	In person
Ntoukakis, Vardis	MIBTP	<i>Apologies</i>
Papavasileiou, Anastasia	FMS	online
Perkins, Jade	MathSys	online
Robson, Heather	TRANSFORM	In person
Rochford, Luke	FMT	In person
Skelhorn, Ashleigh	MGS	In person
Staunton, Julie	HetSys	online
Steel, Mark	FMS	online
Tildesley, Michael	MathSys	In person
Vipond, Rebecca	Doctoral College	In person
Walker, Deborah	MASDOC	<i>Apologies</i>
Wright, David	M4C	online

Minutes

[CDTMC Membership, Terms of Reference, Minutes and Agendas](#)

[CDT Contacts](#) (staff only)

Key Travel has been causing some concerns (timescale, availability etc), recently discussed at Senate. Specific PGR concerns are small travel budgets and longer-term fieldwork placements. FinRegs approval to not use KT can be requested individually but is time consuming. It is likely not possible for a blanket agreement to avoid KT for all PhD students. There has been a temporary relaxation of the requirement for European travel and/or accommodation bookings under £500 to be booked via Key Travel, effective from 20th April 2022.

ACTION: Doctoral College to speak to Finance to investigate how to facilitate getting approval to not use Key Travel in certain circumstances in shorter timescales.

Sharing administration/management best practice and data that are consistent between different CDTs, but go beyond what is already centralised (e.g. eVision, SITs) would be valuable for current/new staff and for feeding into new bids and projects. The CDT Admin Forum is extremely useful for sharing ideas and information but can be put to more purposeful use. Students should also be consulted widely and in multiple formats to feed into institutional learning for the whole lifecycle of CDTs. Programme set up, including training mode (1+3, integrated) can be advised on at bidding stage. Could internal CDT funding be used in a more experimental way?

ACTION: Doctoral College to create a central repository for CDT shared ideas, data and FAQs, with input from CDT Admin Forum. Possibly also check and challenge conversations.

ACTION: Doctoral College to highlight to CDT staff where centrally held data can be accessed, e.g. institutional EDI data.

ACTION: Doctoral College to identify key induction points for CDT staff to complement existing departmental and HR processes, in particular introductions to Legal & Compliance, EDI, Immigration, Admissions, Student Records

ACTION: Doctoral College to facilitate student consultation where requested (survey or focus group).

ACTION: Doctoral College to undertake market research (UK and international) to pull together ideas to improving CDT model.

ACTION: Doctoral College to continue to construct CDT Institutional model, to be reported to CDTMC in 2022-23 AY.

EDI is clearly a focus, but there is little guidance on what actions to take from funders. Councils take different views on e.g., ringfencing awards, though it is legal if evidence based. This links to ongoing Research Culture work (Sotaro Kita leading). Support for WP/EDI students when they join programmes must also be robust and easily accessible. Measuring success and outcomes at an institutional scale is needed.

ACTION: BGS EDI working group to continue to pull together different PGR related EDI initiatives and growing knowledge base, to be shared upon request when PIs write new bids.

International Recruitment remains a key issue. UKRI 30% OS quota is useful for recruiting international talent, but sometimes programmes struggle to recruit 70% home to enable full 30% OS (Engineering, WMG, Social Sciences). In Engineering/WMG key issue is low level of stipend compared to industry and therefore lack of interest. We need to accurately describe the value proposition of undertaking PGR degrees beyond finances. The cost-of-living crisis is having a universal impact.