

Volunteer Officer Report March 2019

Jasmine Ahad – PGR Officer

What has been worked on in the past month?

I have collected a lot of thoughts and opinions regarding PGR mental health issues and I have brought these to the attention of Student Wellbeing. We both agreed there are resources available to PGR students however this is not advertised as so, which was one of the main concerns among those who came forward to discuss PGR mental health issues. After speaking with nearly all colleges, the idea of encouraging supervisors to attend a workshop or training session with the new online ethics system and general confirmation of studies issues was received in a positive light. This should help PGR students have more faith in their supervisors with enquires as well as be more likely to be approved and begin their research sooner. This workshop will most likely be open to students so they can also attend.

I have been working with the PGT Officer in creating a quiz for PG students to help the PG community to become closer. Plans are still underway and being finalised for this.

Successes from the past month and any Repts Wins

The PGR Showcase was a success with a large number of students showing up to learn about other PGR students' research and to listen in to some great talks.

When meeting with the Doctoral School they agreed supervisors may need training and within that training, there will be a subject regarding mental health for PGRs. This is a great step in ensuring a PGR's student's first point of contact has some training if needed with regards to mental health.

Plans for next month

I will be working closely with Wellbeing to aid in raising awareness regarding PGR mental health and ensuring awareness is present around the University with regards to who PGR students can see and the resources available.

I will be working towards providing some form of information/signposting to PGR students who may be having issues regarding pay/working conditions when teaching or demonstrating.

I will also be working with the Doctoral School to advertise the upcoming PGR Student Forum and the two PG Focus Groups to ensure we get as many students as possible to get a wide view on representation and how we can improve the PG academic experience.