



Imperial College Graduate Student's Union End of Year Report

The GSU has had an incredibly productive year! Every member of committee has really excelled and it has been an amazing year for improvements to the PG experience both professionally and socially. While there are still problems, we've made great progress in the three main areas we wanted to focus on GSU sustainability, Rep network improvements and collation, and Cohort Building including PG accommodation.

In the words of Prof Debra Humphris, Vice-Provost Education we "have been the most active GSU ever".

Here are some updates from individual members of the committee:

Mohammad Ahmadzadeh: Deputy President (Representation)

One of the key contribution of GSU this year was collaborating with Graduate School for developing the survey for World-Class Research Supervision and also GSU's work towards improving supervision for PG students.

The results of World-Class Research Supervision have been analysed on a faculty by faculty basis and the findings were discussed with AWOs. Following this, number of different approaches and recommendations for improving supervision were accumulated from discussions with AWOs and student forums. The recommendations were presented to the Working Party for World-Class Research Supervision and also the PRQC committee.

Natalie Andrews: Deputy President (Operations)

This year the GSU started events on the very first day of office with a picnic for all postgrad students in the secret garden. This went incredibly well, with around 80 attendees over the course of the evening. We then hosted the postgrad boat party for the first year (normally run by HSC). Although we just broke even on the event due to lower attendance than previous years, the event was enjoyed by all and we had a lot of positive feedback. In fresher's week we hosted bus tours for new postgrad students, which involved taking groups of students all over London on routes planned by us. This was a great event as it was free and gave people a relaxed environment to meet new people. We also helped promote freshers events in H-bar. Since then the GSU pub quiz has been run fortnightly. We have also hosted some of our biggest theatre trips yet. We also attempted to start a new 'Science of brewing' lecture series, starting with Beer. This was one of our best attended events which was thoroughly enjoyed, however we have not been allowed to continue this due to college policies. We invested a lot of time into planning the annual Christmas party, but due to last minute

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venue changes we only sold 2 tickets and had to cancel. Overall, the events this year have been enjoyed by postgrad students, and we have at least broken even (we did not want to profit this year, just make our name more known) however there have been a few problems organising events due to union and college decisions, which has slowed our progress.

Mike Asavarut: Academic and Welfare Officer – Medicine

In this academic year, PG representation in the Faculty of Medicine (FoM) worked in partnership with the academic lead for postgraduate courses and the graduate school to help inform the development of academic and professional curricula at faculty and college level. The AWO has worked with the academic lead for PG courses to establish a faculty-level student-staff liaison group where student reps lead the discussion on the quality of courses and extracurricular activities offered in the faculty. The committee paperwork will be finalized by the end of June 2015, and the first committee is due to meet on either the 22nd or 29th July 2015; the committee will be chaired by the AWO for FoM. Alongside this, the AWO has worked on behalf of the GSU to assure the quality of education and student participation in education development at course, department, faculty and college level. The graduate school and Sue Gibson has been a key partner in empowering PG representation at college level. Overall, the framework for representation in FoM set by this year's work and will surely benefit the subsequent generations of AWOs elected for the faculty.

Rachel Vaux: Academic and Welfare Officer – Life Sciences

As a representative for postgraduates, I have tried to highlight how issues for postgraduates are different from undergraduates. PhD students are part-student and part-staff, so can often slip between the cracks in terms of getting adequate support, while Master's students are often only at the College for a year, so aren't prioritised either. I have helped raise awareness of postgraduate mental health, and the lack of College provided accommodation, with both the Union and College. Education Day and the Rep Conference were particular highlights for me, where I facilitated breakout sessions to discuss issues with both academic staff and students, which was incredibly rewarding and informative.

Ethan Butler: Academic and Welfare Officer – Engineering

Strategic input to the World Class Research Supervision Project

Standard input to PPDC & MQC meetings

Pushed better representation at the FoE by:

- Having the first ever PGT & PGR open forums with the Dean and FoE Administration
- Working with FoE to push the execution of SSC meeting guidelines
- Helped equip the PG Reps with emails and survey data to empower them in meetings
- Encouraged interdepartmental energy event

PG accommodation paper, promotion of surveys, award nominations, ERB.

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Stuart Haylock: Academic and Welfare Officer – Physical Sciences

Postgraduate physical sciences is actually one of the better organised representation networks, which allowed me to focus more of my time on keeping up with college wide PG issues and focussing on a small number of big issues such as cohort building amongst postgraduates and Postgraduate accommodation which I have presented a paper on both to union and college.

I have also presented awards, led a breakout session at Education day, worked with the union on a number of issues and attended many of the GSU's events including going to the GSU pub quiz every month.

Alex Bond: Event's Director

The events side of the GSU has had a fantastic year, running a number of great events that have reached the whole postgraduate community. From boat parties to theatre trips and talks about brewing to our regular pub quiz we've had a great time interacting with the postgraduate students and getting to know what they love to do. My favourite event was the bus tour around London for the new postgrads in October, we got to show people the great sights of London on a budget and had a great time finding out where everyone came from and what brought them to Imperial. It's been amazing fun!

Daniel Benstock: GSU Secretary

In my role as GSU Secretary, I've had a successful year with the administrative side of the GSU. I've organised meetings, taken minutes and booked rooms for our events team. Additionally, I've had an active role in the development of the GSU sustainability strategy for the coming years, which I've enjoyed as it's allowed me to have direct input into how ICU will be run.