

PRECISION MEDICINE SSLC

21st February 2024

Attendees: Agathe Bricout, Lauri Tuomisto, Jen McCavitt, Madeline Hayman, Kate Hardman

Apologies: Angelina Kancheva, Rachel Branch

MINUTES

1 Any feedback regarding programme, course or university wide issues

It was reported that many University of Edinburgh students still do not have working Glasgow IDs.

ACTION: PM Team to raise with colleagues at UoG.

UPDATE: Relevant link with information on how to collect UoG cards has been sent.

Glasgow reps reported that additional information would have been useful on:

- Payment of stipends
- 1st year reviews
- How to access the flexible supplement

In general the reps reported that communication at the start of semester was delayed. This was due to unavoidable staff absence, however, they queried if additional support could have been put in place to help cover the absence.

They also suggested that an addendum to the Precision Medicine Programme Handbook would be useful, highlighting differences for University of Glasgow students.

ACTION: PM Team passed onto colleagues at UoG

2 Any feedback regarding courses

Precision Medicine Introduction

The students reported that the 2 hour lecture is intense and suggested the following alternatives:

- Change this to a 1 hour lecture followed by a 1 hour workshop
- Reduce the number of scheduled lectures, students would then attend a number of seminars of their choice. This would allow students to attend lectures/seminars relevant to their project/learning.

They also noted that they found it very time consuming travelling to lectures at the other University. They felt they had more time in the first semester to travel for lectures but that in Semester 2 their projects had started to ramp up, making it harder to travel.

ACTION: Discuss with Programme Team.

UPDATE: The Programme Team have agreed that a 1 hour lecture followed by a 1 hour interactive activity would be more beneficial to students and will implement this delivery for 24/25. We will flag with supervisors that students are required to sometimes travel in order to attend the course, we believe meeting in person is an important aspect of the course and will not be able to alter this aspect of the delivery. The interactive aspect of lectures going forward will also work better with in person sessions.

Precision Medicine Project Proposal

The students reported that they would have liked some additional information prior to starting their report. They found the template useful but would have liked further guidance on style of writing.

Glasgow reps noted that they do not meet their supervisor until mid-October and so have less time to complete the project proposal.

We discussed potentially moving the introductory lecture for the course forward from the start of semester, so as this is moved out of the start of semester when there is an overload of information.

ACTION: Discuss with colleagues re. delivery of course for next year.

UPDATE: The Programme Team have agreed to move the Introductory lecture for the course to start of October, which will hopefully be a better time for students to get the information they need for the course. UoG will flag the timeline of the Project Proposal with supervisors.

Other courses

The students reported that they liked self-directed learning courses best as it allows them to watch lectures at their own pace and best fit the course around their project.

The Glasgow reps noted that the timing of the TNA form can be tricky as not all Glasgow students are in touch with their supervisor when the TNA is to be submitted. Teaching at UoE begins in September, so we need to know any SEM1 UoE course choices as soon as possible following induction so it would be hard to change the timing of this.

ACTION: UoG will speak with UoG supervisors to stress the importance of the TNA and the timeline for completing this.

3 Any other Business

One of the reps reported that there was some confusion among students and supervisors whether a 10 week meeting was required. KH confirmed that this was not required but should the student/supervisor wish to have one then that is fine.

ACTION: PM Team to remind supervisors that this is not a requirement for the PM programme.

KH reported that following a request from a student rep at the last SSLC meeting Precision Medicine branded hoodies will be available from the University Gift shop in the coming months. We will email all students once available.

KH advised that the PM team are in the process of organising some campus specific events for Precision Medicine students and asked the reps for their input on what these events should look like. The overall steer from the reps was that the events should be casual and refreshments would be appreciated. They thought students may be put off attending if they were asked to present.

One of the reps, Rachel Branch, was unable to attend the meeting in person but sent in the following by email:

“My only feedback from the students was that it needed to be clearer about there being a matriculation fee if you have corrections after the viva and it is past the funding period.”

Information on matriculation fees is available on the PM webpages and we communicate this by email.