

**Internal Periodic Review of:**

**Date of review:** 28 – 30 April 2021

**Date of 14 week response:** 26 November 2021

**Date of year on response:**

The School/Subject Area is responsible for reporting on progress with all recommendations, including those remitted to other areas of the University for action. If any recommendation has been fully addressed please record the action taken and date completed. Any barriers to progress should be highlighted on this report.

Recommendation no	Recommendation	Timescale for completion	Comment on progress towards completion and/or identify barriers to completion	Completion date
1	The review team recommends that the School consider the value of a simplified set of PhD programmes, and seek to align them with the future strategy of the School.	By end of 2021/22 academic year	The Director of the Graduate School and Manager have discussed the creation of the recommended simplified set of PhD programmes. It has been agreed that we will propose a PhD in Mathematical Sciences which will be 4 years prescribed period with an additional year to write-up. We have spoken to the Dean of PGR Students regarding the process and to clarify the composition of the programme with regards to credits. The Graduate School Manager will draft the necessary programme proposal paperwork to be discussed by the Graduate School Committee before going to the School's February Board of Studies meeting for discussion and approval before then being sent to CCAB.	
2	The review team recommends that the School consider a sustainable strategy for space requirements of a growing graduate school.	??	We are working towards this recommendation and have implemented some changes in the management of desk and office space in the School. As we are limited in office space at JCMB, students were asked to put themselves into groups of 15-20 and they were then given access to a suite of rooms that they can book space in a least 3 times per week. This system is managed by our PG Student reps. Due to student numbers, we aren't able to give 1 <sup>st</sup> year students specific desks in Bayes so they are asked to hot desk. Generally, there is a lack of space at King's Buildings, and we also believe that the space allocated to the School of Mathematics is considerably less than to other Schools by every metric. Our Head of School has raised this repeatedly with College, proposing that more space is given to the School in JCMB or that unused space in Murchison House is give to the School.	
3		Jan-Feb 2022	There have been discussions about this and potential for an activity in January/ February for all groups has been identified. We	

	The review team recommends that the School consider the introduction of more academic / social events for PhD students, with specific attention to the current first year cohort in order to help in the catching up of any lost cohort building opportunities.		think this would be a good time to hold an event as we would like to use it to encourage integration between year groups, especially between 1 <sup>st</sup> years who are based in Bayes and other year groups based in JCMB. We have recently implemented an academic mentor system whereby all students have been allocated to a staff member from outwith their research group/ theme. The Graduate School will be monitoring participation in activities organised by the mentors who have been given a budget to run events for their mentees. It is hoped this will help with this recommendation.	
4	The review team recommends that the School of Mathematics engage with and encourage all Schools and subject areas within the Kings Buildings campus to advocate to University Senior Management for the re-instatement of the Kings Buildings Shuttle Bus service.	Completed for this academic year. We do not know the long-term answer.	The reinstatement of the shuttle bus has been confirmed for academic year 2021/22.	
5	The review team recommends that students should be explicitly advised and directed toward relevant sources of information on opportunities following from PhD study.	By the end of the 2021/22 academic year	The Director of the Graduate School and Manager met with the School's designated Careers Consultant to discuss ways in which we can better signpost to the Careers' Service and the resources available to students there. The Graduate School will add a section regarding this information on our intranet pages. The information has also been shared with the new academic mentors so that they have this when meeting with later year students who it will be especially relevant. The Graduate School Manager will make arrangements for mock postdoc interviews to be held for those interested in pursuing a career in academia in the summer of 2022. These will be run by the Head of School, Director of the Graduate School and the Careers' Consultant. We have also introduced a Teams site for students participating on our Industry stream where internships, work placements and job opportunities are posted. The School runs employability afternoons which PhD students are invited to attend. The School was given additional funding by EPSRC to fund fellowships for students who have just completed their PhDs- these fellowships have a particular focus on employability and it is hoped will help those who wish to pursue a career in academia.	
6	The review team recommends that the School consider reintroduction of tutor peer review, the implementation of continued tutor training in higher years, and the development of computer lab specific training	Ongoing	The school is beginning to change how it supports and mentor tutors, as well as postdocs who are teaching and new members of staff. It is expected that a new approach to this will be rolled out over the summer.	

7	The review team recommends that the School explore training tutors around the pedagogical use of technology in enhancement of the student experience	Ongoing	Our new tutor meeting and general tutoring meetings have had some focus on specific technology to support the tutors with the new technology that we now use. With the continuation of the pandemic we have not yet reached a near-stable state in understanding what technology we use and when, and so this is still work for the future.	
8	The review team recommends that the School explore extending the good practice of initial meetings with tutors and course organisers to other appropriate courses.	Ongoing	The School's Tutor hub outlines what is expected of tutors and also what support Course Organisers are expected to provide. Course Organisers are encouraged to hold meetings with their tutors at the start of each teaching bloc to go through the arrangements and when these meetings are held, tutors are able to claim hours for them so that they are paid.	
9	The review team recommends that the School consider the introduction of a standardised set of information about courses for tutors.	Completed	The School has introduced a "Tutor Hub" section on the website which all tutors have access to. It contains all the information needed to undertake tutoring work in the School. From how to get a contract to what work they have been allocated. All tutors are directed to this as the Golden Copy so that everyone has the same information and guidance.	
10	The review team recommends that the School of Mathematics reflect on all of the changes that have taken place due to Covid-19, and consider whether there would be benefit in maintaining any of these changes going forward.	Ongoing	The School has seen greater online participation in conferences and workshops and will continue to encourage this as part of our commitment to becoming more sustainable. Within the exam process, there has been a move towards online vivas becoming the norm which the School will also continue to encourage as it means there are no travel costs for external examiners to come to Edinburgh in person. However, if the student and supervisor feel strongly that an in person viva is preferable then this will be allowed. Our industry stream has also seen greater participation from industrial partners in online events as the time commitment to attend is not as great. They will be continuing to promote this by running online and in person events. The School has also invested in equipment and capacity for hybrid seminars (subject seminars and working seminars).	
	Please report on steps taken to feedback to students on the outcomes of the review			
For Year on response only	Any examples of a positive change as a result of the review			