UCL Postgraduate Taught Review
Priorities and next steps

Dr Clare Goudy, Director of Education Planning

Background

- Objective 6 in the Education Strategy 2016-21
- Look at PGT provision in the round
  - What kinds of programmes are we delivering?
  - Are we running those programmes well?
  - How do we induct new students and support them?
  - Are we preparing students well for further research and employment?
- Outcomes to inform revised strategy objective

Consultation: March – September 2016

Senior leadership: Deans, Faculty Managers, Faculty Tutors, Directors of Professional Services

Academic colleagues: Meetings with colleagues at all levels within faculties

Students: PTES results; consultation with UCLU; focus groups

Consultation survey – 364 responses

What did we find?

- The number of programmes we offer is growing significantly;

- We have a lot of programmes and modules with small group sizes;

- Students are concerned about identity and belonging; don't always feel part of a community

What did we find?

- Students would like better induction processes, more careers support and opportunities to develop their academic writing;

- We could do more to ensure students in all disciplines are receiving comparable levels of support and information;

- Personal tutoring needs to be distinctive.

Recommendations

- 4A: Early support for students with careers planning;

- 4B: Greater careers focus in programmes;

- 4C: Applied subjects versus 'research-based university';

- 4D: Review assessment in postgraduate programmes;

Recommendations

- 4E: Standardise induction for students;

- 4F: Improve connections between communications with students at programme level, and centrally (e.g. through MyUCL)

- 4G: Develop a PGT strand of the new Introductory Programme

Recommendations

- 4H: Introduce a 'guided conversations' personal tutoring model;

- 4I: Ensure marks are confirmed as early as possible to ensure students can access transcripts as early as possible;

- 4J: Establish a Master's School on the model of the Doctoral School;

- 4K: Fund the expansion of UCL's academic writing provision (support with essay writing; academic English)

Recommendations

- 4L: Expand UCL's support for international students

- 4M: training for student-facing staff on mental health issues;

- 4N: Develop guidance and toolkits for departments on engaging with alumni.

Recommendations

Have we missed anything?

All are desirable, which are most important?

Questions

- Do smaller class sizes affect your learning? What would the optimum class size be?

- Are you clear about the benefits of studying an applied subject in a research-based university?

- What would you change or improve about your experience at UCL?

- Have we missed anything in our recommendations?

Feedback

What are your top priorities?

Please rank them in order?

Are there any missing?

Questions and further comments or suggestions

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