

School of Natural Sciences (SNS)

Category	Actions	Responsible	Status*
1. Research Infrastructure & Facilities	Students are overall satisfied with facilities and infrastructure; however, responses show slightly lower satisfaction than the College and University in the area of access to the specialist resources and facilities necessary for research.		
	Consult with HOS, CTO, and PhD students regarding specialist resources and facilities necessary for research	GS Dir SNS HOS SNS	*Not Started
2. Supervision	Students show overall satisfaction with supervision, but scores are lower than the University average in levels of support for research, feedback provided, and training and development needs.		
	Encourage staff to avail of research supervision training	GS Dir SNS HOS SNS	*Not Started
	Encourage staff to review UG/SNS PG guidance for supervisors to help manage expectations and meet requirements	GS Dir SNS HOS SNS	*Not Started
3. Research Culture	Scores in this area are low compared to the averages at College and University Level		
	SNS Research seminar series reinstated	R&I Dir SNS	*In Progress
	Research seminars run by units such as Ryan Institute, Curam etc. will be more widely disseminated to our research students.	GS Dir SNS	*In Progress
	Student-led seminar series has been rolled out in Physics	Head of Phy	*In Progress
	Student seminar series and journal club have been started in ELS	GS Dir SNS R&I Dir SNS	*In Progress
4. Progress & Assessment	Scores in this area are strong compared to the averages for COSE and UG for induction, and requirement and deadlines for formal monitoring process, but lower scores were received for understanding of required thesis standard and final assessment process		
	College and School level inductions to outline expectations for degree completion	Vice-Dean CoSE, GS Dir SNS	*Not Started
	Reminder to GRCs to review students' plans and ensure that in particular completion plans are reviewed and achievable	GRCs	*Not Started
5. Research Skills	Scores in this area are lower compared to the averages for COSE and University except for understanding of research integrity.		
	Continue to include the mandatory research integrity training as part of the PGR degree.	Supervisors, GRC	*In Progress

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	Continue to promote current training opportunities within PGR, assess additional training needs	GS Dir SNS R&I Dir SNS	*Not Started
6. Other Transferable Skills	Scores in this area are strong compared to COSE and university averages.		
	Promote support, resources and Professional Development Seminar Series provided by Researcher Development Centre and encourage engagement with Research Community Portal.	GS Dir SNS R&I Dir SNS	*In Progress
	Encourage supervisors to review the resource and training options with PGR students	Supervisors, GRC, GS Dir SNS	*Not Started
7. Responsibilities & Supports	Scores overall high for responsibilities, but students are not aware of the supports available to them.		
	Increase visibility of resources available and access to services. Increase inclusion of Support Wheel provided by Student Services in information to PGR students. And enhance visibility through posters across the School as well as creating and including relevant slides in all presentations to this cohort.	GS Dir SNS SNS admin team	*In Progress
	Encourage supervisors to highlight student support services	Supervisors GS Dir SNS	
8. Personal Outlook	SNS scores are comparable to the University averages, but there is lower satisfaction with life nowadays for SNS PGR students.		
	Refer them back to student supports available (Support Wheel)	GS Dir SNS SNS admin team	*In Progress
9. Research Funding	Overall, SNS PGR students receive funding for their research, which generally includes both stipend and fees and other costs.		
	No actions are identified based on data.		
10. Development Opportunities	SNS scores are above average in this section and generally positive, apart from the career development plans		
	Review training provided to demonstrators and address training gaps as relevant	GS Dir SNS Heads of units/module owners	Not started
	Ensure CDP is in place as part of GRC process and teaching requirements are discussed	GS Dir SNS	*In Progress
11. Motivations			
	No actions are identified based on data.		
12. Career	Detail on career choices provided.		

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	Encourage initiatives to inform students about possible options. Panel discussions with or talks by graduates.	GS Dir SNS R&I Dir SNS	
13. Overall Experience	Overall, PGR students in SNS have above average satisfaction of the overall experience at UG and most are confident that they will complete their degree in the expected time frame		
	Time management and project planning to be included in school induction materials to ensure students are empowered to finish their projects within the time limits Implement University strategy actions regarding PhD completion		