

JANUARY 2018

TLSO Bulletin

The Bulletin of the University of Manchester's Teaching and Learning Support Office

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Staffing news

We recently welcomed back Becky Allen to the TLSO to take on the new role of Teaching & Learning Co-ordinator (Student Engagement). Becky will be working with the Peer Support / student engagement area of the office.

Simon Kohn has recently joined the Distance Learning team as Study Advisor. As the first of our Distance Learning Study Advisors, Simon will be the first point of contact for our distance learning students for all non-academic queries. Simon will also be working closely with School admin teams to support them in the non-standard elements of setting up and managing DL courses in Campus Solutions.

Matthew Makin joined in January as Teaching and Learning Assistant, and his main area of work will be around External Examiner administration.

We welcome Becky, Simon and Matthew to the TLSO and look forward to working with them.

TLSO website/policy and procedure changes

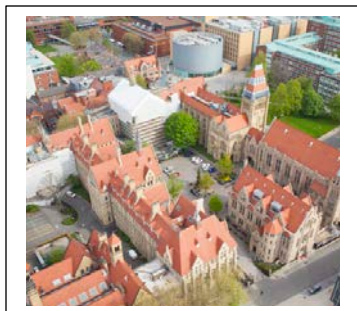
- **Updated academic appeals and complaints forms**

The academic appeals and complaints forms have been updated with a link to an up to date list of Faculty contact details. Schools are requested to start using the updated versions of the forms in place of the older ones. The academic appeals form can be found on the academic appeals webpage:

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/academic-appeals-complaints-and-misconduct/academic-appeals-procedure/>

The student complaints form can be found on the student complaints webpage:

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/academic-appeals-complaints-and-misconduct/studentcomplaintsprocedure/>



CHERIL 2018/19 grant call

CHERIL oversees a competitive research grant open to academic and professional support staff, who wish to investigate aspects of teaching and learning (in a broad sense). The grant facilitates research into aspects of teaching, learning and assessment, which enhance teaching and the student experience at University of Manchester. CHERIL usually awards 10-14 grants per academic year; up to £20,000 (although smaller grants are more usually awarded).

The funding round will officially open at the CHERIL Conference on January 30th 2018 and closes April 30th (noon). (Please note that the CHERIL Conference is now full).

Successful applications will be notified by the end of May 2018 with a view to projects beginning in September 2018.

Further details and application forms will be available on the day of the conference from the CHERIL stall, in the Harwood room of the Barnes Wallis Building. Application forms and further details will also be available from the CHERIL website from January 31st 2018.

<http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/cheril/grants-and-awards/cheril-grant-award-call/>

The Peer Support programme

- **Happy New Year!**

The start of the New Year gives everyone the opportunity to celebrate what they have already achieved this academic year and think about what they hope to attain next year. Here at Peer Support we are busy looking at the Reward and Recognition of our students ready for Semester 2.



- **Peer Support Heroes**

Last year saw the launch of Peer Support Heroes. Student Coordinators are given the opportunity to highlight any work done by the student supporters every month. The winners are announced in our fortnightly communications to the student supporters, explaining what the recognised Peer Support Heroes have done! This is a really nice way to recognise some of our most committed students on a frequent basis which can be a challenge when you have a team of nearly 2000!

- **Outstanding Contribution Awards**

We are also looking forward to receiving nominations for the Outstanding Contribution to Peer Support Awards. Students and staff get the opportunity to nominate others for going above and beyond in their leadership, commitment and innovation to the Peer Support schemes they work in.

Semester one has already given many Peer Support schemes a chance to shine, with an astonishing amount holding end of semester one events, including:

- Maths PASS and Mechanical Engineering PASS enjoyed end of semester meals to reward their PASS Leaders

The Peer Support programme (continued)

- Aerospace Engineering PASS held an awards ceremony where they gave out prizes for engagement from PASS Leaders
- German Peer Mentoring, Italian Peer Mentoring, French Peer Mentoring and Spanish, Portuguese and Latin America Studies Peer Mentoring all got together to host a European Food Evening to allow everyone to try some local cuisines and provided an opportunity to build relationships with people from different degree programmes

Beyond this we will also be rewarding our Wellbeing Champions, Volunteering Champions and students who completed our Basic Life Support (BLS) training, all of whom come under our broader 'Peer Support' umbrella. You can read more about what they do in the October edition of the Peer Support [newsletter](#).

- **Celebration Evening**

Of course this all leads up to our big end of year event, Celebration Evening! We're already planning the event, printing certificates and ordering decorations for our annual celebration of everything our students do to contribute to Peer Support. The date is saved in our diaries make sure it is in yours as well - **2nd May 2018!**

Periodic and Institutional Reviews

This month's updated review schedule for internal programmes and collaborative provision for the next six years is available below:

- [Periodic and institutional review schedule](#)

Information from the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)

- **Student improvement or grade inflation?**

Data published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency for 2016-17 shows that 26 per cent of students gained a first class degree, an increase of two per cent from the previous year, and an increase of 18 per cent from 2012-13. Further information is available from the QAA website:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/newsroom/new-project-to-look-at-grade-inflation#.WmcZNlpGUK>

- **QAA publishes evidence to the Education Select Committee**

The QAA evidence to the Education Select Committee's inquiry into value for money in higher education is now available to read on the QAA website:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/newsroom/qaa-publishes-evidence-to-the-education-select-committee#.WmcaWnlpGUK>

Contact

If you are from a Collaborative Partner and you are having difficulties accessing any of the linked documents or web pages, please also contact Miriam Graham (m.graham@manchester.ac.uk).

The TLSO website is available at <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/tlso/>



If you are aware of other staff members who would like to be added to the TLSO Bulletin mailing list to receive future editions of the Bulletin, please contact Miriam Graham (email m.graham@manchester.ac.uk).

