School of Environment, Education and Development

Faculty of Humanities

SEED Programme Committee: MEd Psychology of Education

Date: Monday 14 April 2025

Time: 14.00-15.00

Online only: Teams: [**Join the meeting now**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_ZTc0NDAzYmEtNzdiZi00MDQ2LTkyYmEtOTA3Y2E0NWI3NTZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22c152cb07-614e-4abb-818a-f035cfa91a77%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e6900cb9-f908-4948-9ee1-76858181492c%22%7d)

**MINUTES**

**Staff in attendance**

Alex Hennessey, Programme Director/ Chair (AH), Clifford Mitchell, MEd (CM), Phoebe Walker-Sharpe, MEd (PW), Soumya Mati, Joint Chief Rep (SM), Ke Zhang, FT Rep (KZ), Sofia Hewitt, FT Rep (SH), Isabel Roberts, Joint Chief Rep (IR), Lima Khan Akter, PT Rep (LA), Shay Ablett, Secretary (SA)

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**

Apologies received: Sarah MacQuarrie (MEd), Garry Squires (MIE DoTL), Amber Thompson (PT student rep), Charlotte Draper (MEd, PT student rep), Phill Evans (PT student rep).

1. **Minutes/ Actions from the last meeting**

AH: Thanked Reps for their previous efforts gathering feedback.

1. **Feedback from Student reps** **and Academics:**

Reps thanked colleagues for sharing the Padlet slides and summarised feedback collected.

**Course content**

Suggested more time should be provided for the Research Analysis Task. AH: noted that adjustments are provided; can be more conscious this for part-time students.

Suggested content could be more varied. AH: explained there is some overlap due to the multidisciplinary nature of the programme and the importance of solidifying foundational knowledge.

Reported that guest lecturers have been useful, however they have not always consistently used recommended language.

Would like to see more lectures focussed on research skills. AH: could provide additional materials to support this; it can be difficult to pitch broad support as dissertation focuses are varied.

**Timetabling**

Noted that many students are struggling to concentrate in the evening lectures. AH: this session accommodates part-time students. Has previously considered reducing the length of the sessions, but this would increase the frequency. Evening sessions are pre-advertised and breaks provided.

Would prefer a room with windows for the evening sessions. AH: noted facilities surrounding the current room are helpful and the difficulty of balancing the size of room required with this.

There is a lack of facilities for refreshments during evening lectures. AH: more Cosy Campus spaces will become available, can work with Reps to readvertise these.

**Assessment**

Students enjoy variety of assessment styles; however, it can be difficult to switch between these. AH: noted that the variety supports different learning styles, and switching between these provides a transferable skill.

More support for critical writing skills/SPSS/psychological writing and knowing how to access these resources would be useful. AH: support is linked on the study skills section of Blackboard, including SEED Study Skills Sessions. Is working to make the academic writing workshop available year-round.

**Assessment feedback**

There has been some concern that feedback is inconsistent with assignment guidance. AH: markers outside of the team must be used due to the size of the programme however they are well trained. Average feedback length is detailed at roughly 600 words. CM: assignments can be marked up to three times so the reliability factor is high.

One student raised concern regarding feedback being factually inaccurate.

Many students have found feedback useful in recognising points for improvement relevant to all assignments.

Students have found the research proposal feedback particularly useful, especially when the marker is the dissertation supervisor.

**Piazza**

Students find Piazza useful for questions.

Would prefer answers not to refer to students by name. AH: complete anonymity is not provided so further support can be provided as required; will ensure not to use names in public answers.

**Blackboard**

Students struggle with navigation, AH: confirmed Canvas will have improved functionality. There will be no access to Blackboard once the licence has expired; all important documentation must be downloaded and there has been communication regarding this. **Action: AH will confirm with SEED Assessment how dissertation feedback will be accessed.**

**General feedback**

Having more access to charging facilities during lectures would be useful.

Would like lecture slides to be uploaded in PDF format. AH: slides can be uploaded as both PowerPoint and PDF; Canvas may allow downloads in different formats.

Not all dissertation supervisors are providing consistent support. AH: students must arrange with their supervisor how the relationship should work. Students are responsible for taking meeting notes. Ethical approval always takes time, but the process is running more smoothly than usual this year.

PT students would like more opportunities to begin their dissertation in first year. AH: the benefits of reading ahead and speaking to academic advisors regarding this can be emphasised.

Students have enjoyed Padlet.

1. **Any other business**

LA some students suggested the social unit would be better delivered in semester 1. AH: not heard this before, can monitor this.

1. **Date and Format of next meeting**

**Actions:**

**Action: AH will confirm with SEED Assessment how dissertation feedback will be accessed.**