

**School of Environment, Education and  
Development**

**Faculty of Humanities**

**SEED Programme Committee: PGT Geography Programme Committee**

**Date:** 26 November 2025

**Time:** 14:00-16:00

**Location:** Simon Building, 3.44B and [Teams Link](#)

Please send any queries to [seed.hub@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:seed.hub@manchester.ac.uk)

**MINUTES**

**Staff Attendees:** Name (role)

Mark Usher (PD - Environmental Governance MSc), Claire Goulsbra (PD - Environmental Monitoring, Modelling and Reconstruction MSc), Matthew Tomkins (Geographical Information Science MSc), Craig Thomas (MSc Climate Change), James Rothwell (Green Infrastructure MSc), Dominic O'Neill (IAG - Minutes), Will Fletcher (Head of Dept)

**Staff Apologies:** N/A

**(Number) Reps in attendance:** 12

**Name – Year group/Cohort info**

Molly Andrews (MSc Green Infrastructure), Richeal Dogoli (MSc CC: Science, Society and Solutions), Devarsh Sanjay Joshi (MSc Climate Change: Science, Society and Solutions), Alice Nott (MSc Climate Change: Science, Society and Solutions), Ellah Kay (MSc Environmental Governance), Anna Mawdsley (MSc Environmental Governance), Mathew Kiluma (MSc Geographical Information Science), Songwei Li (MSc Geographical Information Science), Dhananjay Singh Madaik (MSc Geographical Information Science), Jay Tenbroek (MSc Geographical Information Science), Tarini Mohil (MSc Environmental Monitoring, Modelling and Reconstruction), Eloise Mustill-King (MSc Environmental Monitoring, Modelling and Reconstruction)

**1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

**N/A**

## 2. Introductions

- Introductions around the room
- Thank you for volunteering
- Programme Committee Meeting important for 'student voice' - to represent cohort
- Feedback is important for continuous improvement of programmes [please be constructive]- for instance, field courses were created based on student feedback

## 3. Minutes/Actions of the last meeting

None provided

## 4. Rep Consultation

### EMMR Feedback

- Concerns about the delay in the release of feedback on Canvas

**CG** - Functionality is being investigated by the A&P Team and this feedback will be relayed back to them. For those experiencing issues with submission, they can send their assignment directly to the assessment team by email.

- Concerns raised about tuition fee information online that stipulated those with a first class UGRD degree would receive £3000 off their PGT tuition fees. However they were informed this was not the case and all students can receive an alumni discount instead.

**CG** - This will be investigated as to whether there is incorrect and outdated info online and raised with the relevant teams (**Action 1**)

- Further clarity of marking criteria as students were not clear on what makes a good assignment in some cases

**CG** - Criteria has not changed however explanation as to what constitutes grade excellence by using examples to make it easier to understand could be undertaken. Online resource outlining detailed examples can be looked into also (**Action 2**)

- Fieldtrip issues regarding fence blocking view on trip in Northumberland

**CG** – Advised to keep placements team informed of examples of this but worth bearing in mind they may not have influence over this.

- Concerns about some lectures not recorded

**JR** – Explains recordings not possible in some rooms due to configuration and some lectures have decided to opt out. It is worth speaking to the lecturer in person for what is available.

- Podcast recording on canvas very positive and helpful and resources were well signposted for specific interest. Canvas better than Blackboard in general.

## Climate Change Feedback

- Students happy with course structure overall and professors very engaging
- Students mentioned how physical science aspect being shared can be challenging for students with different academic backgrounds and requested if examples of good assignments could be provided

**CT** - The interdisciplinary nature of the programme with its mix of data and figures is a requirement for MSc however we are happy to look at taking more time out to unpack new concepts and provide examples of essay excellence (**Action 3**)

- Students requested clarity of marking criteria for what constitutes good marks

**CG** – Currently looking at bespoke assessment rubrics and ensure it is provided at the very beginning for the student right at the outset of the programme (**Action 2**)

**WF** – Added that he generally provides bespoke rubrics for his marking and finds it helpful for academics as well as students

- Students agreed this would be helpful

## Environmental Governance Feedback

- Positive overall with a good choice of modules and network of support with teachers
- Students suggested more trips abroad for fieldtrips

**MU** – We would be open to incorporating more trips in the calendar, ensuring we balance work in and out of the classroom for students (**Action 4**)

- Students requested more events to address technical aspect of course

**MU** - Programme is generally focused on more technical aspects in semester 2 to not overwhelm students and will have more guest lecturers. Sem 1 is based more on case studies as an entry point to the program.

- Students asked about having more course-specific career advice and networking events with alumni.

**MU** - Career events happening throughout the year and they would be happy to contact career service to ensure it is more bespoke

- Allocation of Academic Advisors was slower than expected

**MU** - AA is a large project due to many students involved but emphasised to please contact academics as they are approachable and to speak to any academic about course work and assignments until AA are assigned

**CG** – Added that academics must await student list coming in after welcome to see who has registered before allocating which may explain some delays

- Desire for academic led seminars for posters and presentations support

**MU** - Presentations seminars are one of the few areas that is student led and is the first time they have tried this this year however we can look to make it more academic led in the future if students prefer this **(Action 5)**

- Query raised by students about language barrier as to whether some course activities could provide handouts to help translate

**MU** - Language barrier conversions being had currently with all walk and talk guides for example, going forward being asked to provide handouts to international students as this was very helpful **(Action 6)**

- Students think Canvas is user friendly but tech issue like timetabling not updated quickly when a lecture is cancelled

**CG** – We could explore the use of listservs in examples like this for communication and any students who do not have access, we will work to ensure that you do **(Action 7)**

- Students desire for more online sessions for those not present in welcome week as well as more Informal events for meeting people during WW

**MU** – WW lectures were recorded and added to canvas for those students to access

**WF** – Stresses importance of giving more feedback to the hub about how they can improve events and are always there to listen to any points you wish to raise about events

## **GIS Feedback**

- Students enjoy the modules and think fieldtrip was overall positive for mingling
- Students request handouts for international student students in practicals to help with any language barrier.

**MT** - Handouts for all practicals is something we can implement **(Action 6)**

- Students find coding challenging particularly for students coming from differing academic backgrounds and would like the pace of teaching slowed down, more drop-in sessions and more GIS online reading resources to gain a deeper understanding of the process

**MT** – Acknowledges the challenges and steep learning curve for GIS but explains that the program is designed in this way to make things easier as the program progresses. He can provide further online materials but everything students need is in understanding GIS teaching module. Video solutions for coding can be explored to further support students and

emphasises the approachability of academics to help students with anything they are unsure of in person **(Action 8)**

- Students requested more detail in assignment feedback to further explain how they can improve

**MT** – Happy to look at the rubrics for semester 2 units to bring clarity on anything students are unclear about which will help understand the feedback they receive **(Action 2)**

- Students requested more department-based activities such as day trips to increase student bonding and confidence

**MT** - Events for whole class is a good idea and there is the student experience fund available for events which open to ideas from students and is worth exploring. **(Action 9)**

**CT** - Email will go out about socials for further bonding spaces outside the lecture

- Students have experienced canvas notification issues on forum spaces

**MT** – Canvas forum notifications may need to be switched on manually, but this can be done through your canvas profile

### **Green Infrastructure Feedback**

- GI meet and greet lunch was not closed off to them so academic needed to monitor lunch and therefore students did not interact as much as they wished to

**JR** – Noted and more collective programme activities could be implemented to allow more bonding/networking amongst academics and students **(Action 9)**

- The modules, computer work and field work are very appropriate and applicable and enjoyable particularly when they are based on local projects

**JR** – Happy to hear this side of course is going very well

- More information requested on dissertation and careers

**JR** – In semester 2, there will be more information provided in relation to carers including more focus on dissertations with a module dedicated to that

## **5. Any other business**

**CG:** PhD sessions available with current PhD students for info on students interested

**CG:** 30<sup>th</sup> Jan having assessment focus group will take place and pilot new system such as assessment guidelines and feedback and linking that to assessment criteria. Survey will go out also for those not wishing to attend

## 6. Date of next meeting

Sem 2 date to be determined

### Summary of Actions List

| Action Number | Agenda Item   | Action   | Lead    | Status/Notes |
|---------------|---|--|---------|--------------|
| 1             | Tuition Fee Information                               | CG – Will investigate with relevant teams’ potential inaccurate information for alumni fees  | CG      |              |
| 2             | Clarity of marking criteria/feed back                 | CG – Use of good assignment examples to be made available online and looking in providing bespoke rubrics (EMMR, EG) MT – Bespoke rubrics to help clarify feedback (GIS) | CG & MT |              |
| 3             | Additional Explainers                                 | CT - Will look to give more time for unpacking new module concepts   | CT      |              |
| 4             | More Field Trips                                      | MU – Will explore idea of more trips in the calendar   | MU      |              |
| 5             | Request for academic led poster/presentation seminars | MU – Open to making these seminars more academic lead  | MU      |              |
| 6             | Request for translation handouts                      | MU/MT – Will provides have handouts going forward for programme activities (EG, GIS)   | MU & MT |              |
| 7             | Timetable Updates                                     | CG – Explore use of listervs for improved timetable coms   | CG      |              |

|   |  |   |         |  |
|---|--|---|---------|--|
| 8 | Further Teaching Resources   | MT – Video coding solutions can be provided to support students and in person sessions  | MT      |  |
| 9 | Diversify social event activities/More wider department activities | MT – Use of student experience fund and suggestions to the student hub<br>JR – Open to doing more collective program activities | MT & JR |  |