

MSc RM: Programme Meeting

Meeting Details

Time: Fri 28th November, 3:00 – 4:00.

Location: Online (Teams) – link circulated with calendar invite.

Attended:

- Amy Barron (Pathway Lead: Human Geography)
- Amy Zhang (Pathway Lead: PPEM)
- Haleema Sadia (NVivo)
- Nahielly Palacios Gonzalez (Reflexivity)
- Negar Monazam Tabrizi (Pathway Lead: International Development)
- Pauline Prevett (Qual)
- Martyn Edwards (Quant)
- Tom Fryer (Programme Director)
- Yaxin Hu (Student Representative)

Agenda

1. Feedback from Exam Board (Pauline)
2. Update on the beginning of the year (Tom)
3. Pathway Lead experiences (Pathway Leads)
4. Student Representative report (Yaxin)
5. Update on faculty approach to research-focussed master's programmes (Tom)
6. Update on MGD160502 – Development Fieldwork (Tom).
7. Recruitment for 26/27 (Tom).
8. Plan for dissertations (Tom & Pathway Leads)
9. Any other business

Minutes

1. Feedback from Exam Board (Pauline)

No issues to raise.

2. Update on the beginning of the year (Tom)

Update on student numbers: 7 students this year (4 HG; 1 PPEM; 1 ID; 1 Ed)

Welcome Week went relatively smoothly. A few issues:

- One issue with student email address, as had previously worked at the university.
- Lots of need to manually enrol on courses in SEED Hub.
- Timetable clashes for several courses as no reading week in Education. Plan to shift this online for 2026/27.

Course updates:

- Research Literacy and Design. Going well and supported by Chloe Fox-Robertson from Geography. Several PhD colleagues also audit - ~ 5.
- Researcher Reflexivity. 3 PGRs audit—1 comes along in-person.

Action: Ensure RLD and RR don't clash with SEED PGR training. TF, PP, NPG to meet in Jan

3. Pathway Lead experiences (Pathway Leads)

Amy Barron: smooth WW; students enjoying Metabolic Manchester, help build community with other HG programmes. Shared other events from Geography. Could we do more on the community building across the whole MSc?

Action: add information about International Society to WW. TF

Amy Zhang: academic advising meetings have happened and sees student in course.

Negar: academic advising meetings have happened.

4. Student Representative report (Yaxin)

Overall things are going well. RLD is going well—friendly class. Guidance for further reading is useful. Felt that the school level welcome was pleasant. HARRP seminars have been good for those that take part.

Ideas to develop:

- More time on mixed-methods in class. Focussed session in class on how to combine this in practice.
- Small group discussions—hard to follow what classmates are saying. Give a short summary to recap key arguments, and bring this back to the overall points.
- Clear information about other events that are happening. Have a more systematic way to share these.

Thanks for these ideas, and responses:

- Guidance on practical implementation of methods is seen in Semester 2: EVDV70021; EVDV70022; EVDV70042.
- Recapping key arguments can be done in class.
- Create a shared canvas community space to share key information about events/seminar series in departments.

Actions:

- Pathway Leads to send TF key seminar series or events in department. AB; AZ; NMT
- Email Jonny to set up canvas page. TF
- Ad hoc events to continue to be circulated by email. All.

5. Update on faculty approach to research-focussed master's programmes (Tom)

There has been a faculty-led review of all research-focussed taught master's programmes.

We were presented with a range of proposals, discussion of the relative merits of each.

Action: Support with marketing the MSc. TF, AB.

6. Update on MGDI60502 – Development Fieldwork (Tom)

Development Fieldwork removed as an optional unit for MSc RM programmes, except MSc RM with International Development. Tom thanked Negar for the support on this.

Action: Update Handbook. Tom

7. Recruitment for 26/27 (Tom)

To be circulated.

8. Plan for dissertations (Tom & Pathway Leads)

Timeline:

- In Week 12, Tom will give students a Research Proposal Template, and introduce the process of ethical review in SEED.
- Students will return this to me, by the start of teaching in Semester 2. This will indicate what topic they want to study.
- Tom will forward these over to relevant Pathway Leads.
- Supervisors allocated by end of Feb.

Key details:

- 1+3 programmes typically supervised by PhD supervisors. When this is not possible, alternative arrangements are made.
- 12,000 words, to reflect standard length of SEED MA/MSc dissertations.
- Dissertation handbook for Pathway Leads to comment.
- Discussion of how to have parity on number of meetings and feedback chapters.

9. Any other business

Thanks to Amy Zhang for work over last few years as PPEM Pathway Lead.