

MDCSG
21st Jan 2026

NOTES

In attendance: Elizabeth Cartwright, Helen Baker, AnneMarie Walsh, Alex Hinchliffe, Ruth Whelan, Admos Chimhowu, Rachel Miller, Carole Arrowsmith, David Bechtold, Jon Pittman, Amy Smith, Richard Cotton, Tasleem .

For Item 2 - Panos Karagkounis, Antoinette McKay

For Item 7i and 7ii – Angelo Canelosi

For Item 7iii – Sam Hickey and Osman Ouattara

For Item 7iv – Rosie Haynes, Fiona Lynch and Tom Saunders

For Item 10 – Lynne Bianchi

1. Welcome and Apologies

Noted: Apologies from Georgina Dalton.

2. Researcher development, experience and wellbeing

i. Outcome of Supervisor CDP Research

Received: the outcomes and recommendations from the Supervisor CPD Research Project.

Noted:

- a. That gaps in provision had been identified and it was important to look at how to fill these while mapping to the Good Supervisory Framework.
- b. It was identified that supervisor workload posed a barrier to engagement, indicating a need to position CPD as an important and efficient use of time.
- c. That further work was required to determine how Researcher Development, Faculty Doctoral Academies and NAP teams work together in addressing gaps identified by the project and shaping provision.

3. MDCSG

i. Notes from the previous meetings

Agreed: The notes were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

ii. Matters Arising

Metrics

Noted:

- a. HB held an initial meeting with Ian Bradley and his team, and RDRD has compiled a list of key reporting requirements—some intended to inform MDCSG, and others focused on operational or data quality aspects. HB and AMW are establishing a timeline for the next steps.
- b. Metrics presented to the Research Committee, who were generally supportive. A few comments provided are noted below:
 - Withdrawal rates of PGRs within the first year of their programme. The Research Committee suggested collecting data beyond the first year to enable comparative analysis.
 - Breakdown of funding for PGRs (by sector and funder). The Committee noted that this is incorporated as a design element in the future foundations initiative; however, a timeline or plan of action is yet to be established.
 - Employability and destination data for PGRs. Feedback from the Committee

included a recommendation for HB to contact DDAR, as they may hold a license to access LinkedIn data. The Committee remains supportive and requested that a business case be submitted once relevant figures are available.

c. M2035 Implementation Plan

Agreed - HB is going to upload the document to the MDCSG Teams space (**ACTION – HB to share document**).

d. HSST Professional Doctorate - Flexibility

Noted: that AH consulted with Teaching and Learning colleagues, confirming that there is both policy and precedent for previous awards being accepted as credit or for rescinding exit awards if re-registering on the programme later. Feedback was provided to DB.

4. Recruitment and Admissions - No items

5. Funding

i. Bid Updates

Noted:

- a. FBMH is preparing for the launch of five new Wellcome Trust programme bids and is also working on renewing its MRC DLA.
- b. HUMS currently has an ongoing bid for AHRC Languages funding.
- c. FSE is awaiting the results of their application for the Nuclear Skills Focal awards.

6. Progression and Assessment

i. Policy Review Schedule 2025/26

Noted: the updated policy review schedule for 2025/26.

ii. Posthumous and Aegrotat Degree Policy Consultation

Noted: The policy consultation began last week. AH will provide details to members after the meeting. The consultation ends in February.

iii. MSc by Research Regulations / Policy

Noted: MSc by Research regulations now include detailed grade descriptors, approved by FSE.

Agreed: Approved by MDCSG (**ACTION - AH to prepare paperwork for Senate approval**).

7. Planning and Quality Assurance

i. Extension of CompSci-IIT split-site programme (FSE)

Received: an overview of the justification for renewal of the IIT split site programme **Noted:**

- a. Approval has already been granted at the Faculty level by JP and RW; the original paperwork and rationale for the extension are attached.
- b. The initial agreement, established five years ago within Computer Sciences, has proven highly successful: 21 students enrolled, 10 completed the programme and several publications resulted.
- c. The current request is:
 - To renew the agreement, maintaining the same arrangement regarding home fees for European students, with the continued stipulation that no more than

25% of students are from non-EU countries. Alternatively, FSE proposes that full fees could be charged to non-EU students.

- To continue charging only 70% of the home fee, as is standard for all split-site arrangements.

Agreed: MDCSG approval is conditional upon obtaining the necessary signatures and submitting the form to RDRD for EC's signature on the final version (**ACTION – FSE to prepare the final paperwork**).

ii. New Split-Site Programme with Generative Bionics (FSE)

Received: an overview of the proposed new split site programme.

Noted:

- a. that the contract will be similar to the programme with IIT but with differences in relation to the source of funding.
- b. That RDRD will work with the Contracts team to ensure alignment with policy and procedure when that stage is reached.

Agreed: MDCSG approval is conditional upon obtaining the necessary statements and signatures and submitting the form to RDRD for EC's signature on the final version (**ACTION – FSE to prepare the final paperwork**).

iii. New Dual Award with Ghana

Received: an overview of the proposal for a new Dual Award with the University of Ghana as part of the University Africa strategy.

Noted:

- a. Although the one-year residency in Manchester was brief, recruiting high-quality candidates and maintaining a strong supervisory group in Ghana with deep connections to UoM would help ensure PGR success.
- b. That based on experience with existing Dual Awards a harmonized single examination would be advisable.

Agreed:

- a. that the proposal required further detail around the examination process and that discussions should be had with Ghana to try and agree a single harmonised examination (**ACTION – HB to meet with HUMS to work through all feedback and detail prior to approval**).
- b. MDCSG approval was granted conditional upon obtaining the necessary statements and signatures and updating the document following feedback from HB.

iv. International Tuition Fees

Received: proposals for a standardised and transparent approach to PGR fee setting.

Noted:

- a. The paper was shared as a discussion draft,
- b. The paper presented two options:
 - UE-approved default inflation rate to be used each year (this year it's 5%), and faculty planning, PGR, and finance colleagues agree on any exceptions to this default and report their decisions to MDCSG.
 - Each faculty sets its own default inflation rate annually, decides on any exceptions to that default, and reports decisions to MDCSG.

These two options differ from the original proposal by planning/PGR colleagues.

- c. For all options, the proposal is that fees should be determined through market analysis by planning colleagues (recognising the challenges of doing this), along with faculty strategy.

- d. That while alignment with UG and PGT process was generally welcomed it was also agreed that PGR fees came with added complexities and differing financial impacts e.g. investment rather than income.
- e. That the focus should be on faculty strategy leading the fee setting decisions.
- f. Any fee increases would be applied to new intake only, ie there will not be a year on year increase throughout a PhD.

Agreed: MDCSG feedback would be used to create the next draft to be presented to the faculties for approval and then signed off at a future MDCSG meeting (**ACTION – HB and RH new version**).

8. Careers and employability - No Items

9. Activity Reports

i. RDRD Activity Report

Noted: no comments.

10. Any Other Business

i. EDI Questions on the PGR Application Form

Noted:

- a. That since last meeting feedback had been received from colleagues on the proposed new EDI questions and a meeting had been scheduled with Senior Leadership colleagues to agree a way forward.

Agreed:

- a. The inclusion of additional questions is required for both compliance and strategic reasons.
- b. A meeting with the university EDI team will be arranged to discuss the precise wording of the final question set. Each proposed question should be categorised e.g. compliance-related, strategic etc.
- c. A meeting to be held with PJ Hemmaway, Jon Feardon, and Rina Lakhman to discuss technical/resource requirements to update the question set. (**ACTION – HB/RDRD to categorise questions**)

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wed 25 February 2026, 11:00 – 13:00, Roscoe 3.1

Reserved Business

12. PGR of the Year Awards

Agreed: that the Faculty award recipients were approved (**ACTION – AH to feedback to Amanda Aspinall**).