

Student Experience Forum
Tuesday 12th March 2024
12:00 pm
Blackett 1004

Panel:

Student Liaison Officer – Yasmin Andrew (YA)
Deputy Head of Department (Education) - Carlo Contaldi (CC)
Senior Tutor – Sebastien Guenneau (SG)
Head of Year 1 – Stuart Mangles (SPDM)
Head of Year 2 – Henrique Araujo (HA)
Head of Years 3 and 4 – Yvonne Unruh (YU)
Senior Education Administrator – Kayleigh Murphy (KM - Secretary)

Deputy Head of Department (Education) Update

CC presented on the main topics raised at the exit interviews which are held for final year students. There was a general appreciation for the nature of the Department and the research project opportunities offered. Students appreciated the broad range of topics taught and the UROP projects run over the summer. Students reported feeling better prepared than their peers when graduating and cited the problem solving and computation skills learnt for this. There was consensus for the number of UROP projects offered to increase, the number has doubled in the past four or five years with 115 offered in 2023. YA is working on monitoring and centralising the system for Physics UROP.

More frequent feedback was also requested by students. Work is ongoing to improve the feedback given to students. The issues around workload should have been addressed for the current second and third year students.

One student present noted that they are retaking Year 2, and it is a lot better now compared to when they first took it two years ago. Notable changes are the electives not running in Term 3 and the Computing project being moved to Term 3. Changes to Lab assessments are also improvements.

CC shared a presentation on the Autumn Term MEQ results for all taught modules in Physics. The response rate is very low so does not provide quantifiable data at the module level; however, it is useful at the year level. The trend for all years is very good with improvements in the results seen. The changes made seem to have been impactful and the Department will continue to make improvements.

It was noted that advertising the MEQ is difficult as students receive an individual link for the survey.

Senior Tutor Update

SG informed students of the new Faculty Wellbeing Advisor, Syeda Razzak, based in Blackett Room 306. Meetings with Syeda will remain confidential except in extreme circumstances. The [Physics Circle of Care](#)

(Sebastien Guenneau, Derek Lee, Yasmin Andrew, Mery Fajardo, Derryck Stewart and Carl Paterson), should remain the first point of contact for mitigating circumstances requests. Mitigating circumstances requests should be made through the [Zinc system](#). Additional Exam Arrangement requests need to be made through Mery Fajardo.

Students should inform their Head of Year if they have not yet met their Personal Tutor.

Year 1 students will soon be invited to meet with their Personal Tutor to go through their Mechanics exam scripts. This will be the only time they get to see an exam script. Personal Tutors can give students general exam technique tips.

A student present noted the need for a syllabus for modules. Staff are aware of this and YA stated that some of the mapping work for maths taught across the years has already started and it was presented at the last Teaching Committee. CC is leading on a project to build a syllabus for all core content of the degree programmes.