SURVEY MONEY RESULTS SUMMARY: PG RESEARCH

Carried out in Summer 2010, the questionnaire was sent out to all PG students with the purpose of identifying how students found out about the school and why they came here.

This is to collect your views (POST GRAD STUDENTS) on your experiences in applying to study at the School of Informatics and to make improvements to this process.

22 RESPONDENTS

![Nationality of Respondants Diagram]

- British, 33.3%
- Greek, 14.3%
- French, 9.5%
- Polish, 9.5%
- US, 4.8%
- Swiss, 4.8%
- Italian, 4.8%
- German, 4.8%
- Polish, 9.5%
- Lithuanian, 4.8%
1. How did you initially find out about the School of Informatics at Edinburgh?

For ‘Other’ answered included: ‘via application procedure for Neuroinformatics DTC’, Studying at Informatics for an MSc, Erasmus placement and studying at Edinburgh as a postgrad.

2. How did you get further information about the School of Informatics at Edinburgh?
For ‘Other’ answered included: ‘emailed my supervisor directly’, ‘talked with my prospective advisor by email’ and ‘prospects website’.

3. What motivated you to study at Edinburgh School of Informatics?

![Motivation Bar Chart]

4. Did you attend a University Postgraduate Open Day?

95% didn’t

One responded commented: ‘it was too early in the year. My decision to study here was made afterwards. Twice- both for MSc and PhD.

5. What information were you most interested in finding out when considering whether to study at Edinburgh?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not very important</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What research topics were available</td>
<td>95.5% (21)</td>
<td>4.5% (1)</td>
<td>0.0% (0)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What funding/scholarships were on offer</td>
<td>86.4% (19)</td>
<td>18.2% (4)</td>
<td>0.0% (0)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to apply</td>
<td>23.8% (5)</td>
<td>38.1% (8)</td>
<td>38.1% (8)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other- please specify</td>
<td>40.0% (2)</td>
<td>40.0% (2)</td>
<td>20.0% (1)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other answers were given as:
- Confucius Institutes in the University of Edinburgh
- Where my husband, then fiance, could find work
- Time scale of study
- Who are the prospective PhD supervisors.

6. What medium do you think is the best to communicate with potential postgraduate students?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>Very useful</th>
<th>Somewhat useful</th>
<th>Not very useful</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A webpage.</td>
<td>95.5% (21)</td>
<td>4.5% (1)</td>
<td>0.0% (0)</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An e-bulletin.</td>
<td>20.0% (4)</td>
<td>50.0% (10)</td>
<td>35.0% (7)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An information pack mailed out.</td>
<td>14.3% (3)</td>
<td>52.4% (11)</td>
<td>33.3% (7)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A visit to the University to speak to staff directly.</td>
<td>66.7% (14)</td>
<td>28.6% (6)</td>
<td>4.8% (1)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other- please specify.</td>
<td>0.0% (0)</td>
<td>0.0% (0)</td>
<td>100.0% (1)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Finally, do you have any suggestions for us on how to improve communication and recruitment of postgraduate students? E.g. examples of other Universities who have done things better?

- The EUCLID system is still a bit clumsy, but thanks to the nice emails from the IGS with reminders etc. the whole process was fairly easy to go through.

- Chances to speak to current postgrads in the same department are very useful.

- I think setting a certain contact person for every applicant is useful, like the Nottingham University.

- No
-I found the DTC course (which I am on) almost by accident, I googled something like PhD, computer, biological, modelling but I so easily could have missed it, perhaps sending information to different undergraduate departments not just computing but for example I studied Biomedical Engineering at Imperial and both the DTC and the Informatics masters are highly relevant, but not necessarily easy to find.

-no

-No.

-no

-Advertising postgraduate opportunities, scholarships and individual positions on research-related international mailing lists might be a good idea.

-ras

-Public events on current research projects, more active communication with undergrads (through lectures, talks or even tutorials); make them see a larger picture of research.

-An easy-to-find webpage that categorizes faculty by area with a brief statement of research interests would have been really helpful. I ended up going through the flat list of all faculty one by one and visiting their personal pages when the link was provided.

-I would not have thought you'd need it.

-it is already done very well

-no idea

-Perhaps cover the cost for students who want to visit for a day and advertise this on the website.

-The staff of UoE may visit other universities to explain their current researches in seminars or short lecture so the potential students could understand them and might be attracted to apply UoE.

-The website did not seem very well structured when I was looking for information, so it took me more time to find out what options/courses are available.

-The online application form is just not working. I've had to fill it in four times for a MSc application and three times for a PhD application. I had to exchange many emails with the support staff to finally get my application
confirmed. Then I somehow skipped the selection process and have been accepted and assigned a supervisor, but the supervisor never heard of me before I knocked on his door and didn’t know I even existed. You should re-implement completely the application form.

END OF QUESTIONS------------------------------------------