School of Informatics

General Meeting

Tuesday 19 September 2017
Student intake 2017/18
Student Numbers

- Undergraduate: 820
  - Year one is 290 max, currently 209 matriculated.
- Taught Postgraduate: 320?
  - Currently 233 matriculated.
- There is growing demand for our courses
  … and there is some pressure to look at non-traditional delivery.
Short term responses
Admissions

- Scheduling a meeting with College
- Reduce the number of applications by improving online information
- Look at caps on admissions to specific programmes
- Deposit, Gathered Field……
Programming Support

- Greatly expanded programming club
- Better resourced aiming at 1 demonstrator per 10 students
- Use cascading to some extent
- Aim to extend to all of years 1 and 2 by 2018/19
Student Support

- Individual
- Study Groups [InfPALS]
- InfBase
- AdHoc Tutorials [Collaborate]
Personal Tutoring

- Maintain or reduce academic staff time on this
- Investigate the use of Student Support Officers
- Investigate their use for MSc cohort
- Potential to reduce academic time involved in “non-academic” activities (e.g. processing Special Circumstances)
Diagnostic Tests

• Look to characterise what students need to take a course
• Ideally on all courses, initially on year 1 and MSc courses with complex prerequisites
• Challenge is how to support after diagnosis
Using Learning Technology More…

• Producing short guides to the University tools specialised for our use…
• Migrate to use more University Tools (because they have a migration path)
• Use more “standard” Learning tools
• Why not use turnitin for all “essay style” submissions (e.g. dissertations)?
University Teachers

- Teaching focused roles
- Delivering teaching and learning
- Developing our approaches to teaching and learning
- Evolving as we learn
PGR Recruitment Summary
September 2017

Nigel Topham
Director of Graduate School
Recruitment summary

- 303 research students currently studying in Informatics
  - From 51 countries: 30% UK, 45% EU, 20% OS

- 81 recruits this year, selected from 678 applicants
  - Applications up 19% on 2016, recruitment up 15%
  - 20% female, 80% male
  - 23% UK, 40% EU, 37% International

- 47 new PhD students, 2 new MScR students
  - Starting Aug (1), Sept (27), Oct-Feb (21)

- 32 new students in Centres for Doctoral Training
  - 17 in Data Science
  - 5 in Robotics & Autonomous Systems (5 more at Herriot Watt)
  - 10 in Pervasive Parallelism

1. IGS recruitment figures compiled 14/09/2017
PGR applications received for 2017 entry

- 19% increase on YTD
- More applications arrived earlier in the year
- Applications continued strongly into Spring 2017
- Increased applications coincided with extra funding, enabling more offers to be made
PGR applications - analysis

- **Highlights**
  - Applications up across all Institutes, from all genders, and in all fees status
  - Data Science CDT remains very popular
  - ANC PhD applications up 91%

- **Lowlights**
  - Robotics CDT (UoE) applications down 39%

- **Observations**
  - Female applications up only 6%, compared to 24% increase in male applications
  - DS-CDT receives 37% of all PGR applications
  - UK applications up 16%
  - EU/EEA applications up 13%
  - Overseas applications up 23%
PGR offers and conversions

- 108 offers made
- 81 offers accepted
- Wide variation in conversion rate by Institute and CDT
  - max = 100% conversion for PPar-CDT
  - min = 53% conversion for LFCS
- Lower conversion rate among female candidates than male candidates
- Higher than average conversion rate for UK candidates
PGR starts – Sept to Feb

- All CDT students have now started
- Most Institutes have significant numbers of PGR starts in Oct – Feb
- Desk space was almost (but not quite) a limiting factor in 2017 recruitment
PGR funding for 2016/17 recruitment

- Significant increase in funded places for 2017 entrants
- IGS budget increase – enabled 20 student places
  - 6 IGS studentships (only 3 taken up)
  - 7 overseas fee top-ups
  - 4 bursaries
  - 3 partial studentship top-ups
- EPSRC DTA
  - 9 allocated for 2016/17
  - 5 extra places funded from earlier years
- NPIF scholarships – 5 extra places
  - DS-CDT (2), Ppar-CDT (2), DTP (1)
- MSR scholarship – only 1 in Informatics this year
- EPSRC CASE conversion – 1 extra place awarded by College
- University scholarships awarded
  - 3 Principals Career Development scholars (PCDS)
  - 2 Edinburgh Global scholars (EGRS)
PGR funding – 2017/18 outlook

- EPSRC DTA budget – no change expected (~9 studentships)
- Not expecting a repeat of NPIF
- No unallocated EPSRC funds from previous years
- IGS budget not yet set for 2017/18
- Enlightenment Scholarships
  - Starting 2018, recruit now
  - No fees, 4 year programme with integrated study
  - Informatics may take up to 2 ES students in 2018
- MSR scholarships
  - Call open now, deadline 12th October
- Google & IBM scholarships
  - Calls out soon
  - Gender balance in nominations needs to improve