

Townhall 01.07.20

IGS welcomed PGR students to an online Townhall to provide updates and answer questions. Alex confirmed from 1st August the Head and Dep Head of IGS will be Bob Fisher and Mary Cryan, with new PGR Personal Tutors.

Bob Fisher: http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/people/staff/Robert_Fisher.html

Mary Cryan: http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/people/staff/Mary_Cryan.html

A building re-opening School group meet regularly however there are not yet any re-opening timelines available. This will be communicated by email as soon as possible.

Student questions covered building cleaning, tier 4 students, library re-opening, teaching support, print services, masks, annual reviews and dignity and respect.

- Additional cleaning will take place in all Informatics buildings throughout the day. Details not yet finalised.
- Any student may return to Edinburgh when safe to do so; the University will communicate when buildings can re-open however this is not yet known. Visa questions should be submitted to the Student Immigration Service. <https://www.ed.ac.uk/student-administration/immigration/covid-19-important-information-about-your-visa>
- The Student Immigration Team have indicated official guidance may not come until early August.
- Main Library re-opening has yet to be confirmed. Check <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/covid-19> for updates.
- Some remote teaching will be required; Appleton Tower expected to open in September.
- Large print requests can be submitted and will be delivered by courier. Information about printing was sent to PGR students.
- Masks are not compulsory at this time. Informatics has no plans to provide these for staff and students. The school will provide items such as additional cleaning items and hand sanitiser throughout the forum etc.
- Confusion exists due to different annual review processes across Institutes and varying levels of supervisor contact. IGS will develop updated annual review guidance, to include any Institute/CDT variances. Current annual review guidance can be found here: <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/igs/phd/guidance-annual-reports>
- The school preference is to maintain the same external annual review panel member throughout a PhD. This is a guideline and not a policy.
- It is currently not possible to submit annual review anonymous student feedback. This system change has been requested by IGS but is not expected to be delivered in the near future. As an interim measure, feedback can be provided in confidence to IGS Team/Mary Cryan/PGR Personal Tutors. Contact information regarding IGS support team: <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/student-services/igs/phd/student-support/summary>
- Dignity and respect are key to the School of Informatics and the University. A poll was conducted to obtain feedback if the PhD induction session should include D&R training, of which was overwhelmingly in favour, none in disagreement. The School will review training and an official School D&R statement.

Feel free to get in touch with IGS (igs@inf.ed.ac.uk) if you have any follow up questions or comments on the above. We hope to have a further PGR Town Hall meeting at some point in late August.