

## Graduate School – PRES 2015 Response

### **What was raised by the Postgraduate Research Student:**

- Lack of PGR space
- Library Resources
- IT Support and Resources
- Lack of interaction with other PGR students across the University

### **What the Graduate School has done in response:**

1. The Graduate School prepared thematic institutional reports for KCL Estates, Library Services and IT Services following PRES 2015 results.
  - The Director of the Graduate School met with each of the Heads of those services to highlight the issues identified.
  - Each Service produced an action plan to address, where possible, the points made. These were discussed, approved and monitored by the Postgraduate Research Students Subcommittee.
  - Examples of action: There are now Postgraduate Lounges on most campuses (and we are still advocating for one at the Strand); a new writing-up space is being piloted in the Maughan Library and one is planned for St Thomas' – this is being delivered in partnership with KDSA.
2. The Graduate School has supported and facilitated the establishment of the King's Doctoral Students Association (KDSA) which brings together student representatives from each Faculty. We also worked with KCLSU to train PGR reps.
3. The Graduate School has supported the Vice Principal (Education)'s GTA project which ensured appointment of GTA Leads in all Faculties apart from SSPP where the role is being covered by the Vice Dean Education; job descriptions for GTAs and standardised pay across the institution; and GTA working space on the campuses. The Graduate School also worked closely together with King's Learning Institute in setting up a GTA information website and monitoring training.
4. The Graduate School has published a summary of agreed action plans on the website:  
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/study/graduate-school/feedback.aspx>



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### Specific responses from **Researcher Development Unit**

1. **Provided seed grants** of up to £1k to support new researcher-led societies (10 grants awarded)
2. **Increased amount of Careers Consultant time** for PGRs up to 0.7FTE from 0.25FTE, to
  - Provide more time for individual, 121 meetings
  - Expand the series of Careers Spotlights and Professional Futures events, which are a window into different career sectors, facilitate networking and enable direct contact with employers and KCL alumni
  - Refresh the careers workshops, adding new topics and more sessions including webinars
3. **Reviewed all online provision** resulting in
  - an action plan for the redevelopment of online researcher development training courses
  - a new blended learning course: Advancing in Academia in the Arts & Humanities, which is being piloted with a view to developing similar courses for all disciplines
4. **Launched a new website – [www.kcldo1thing.com](http://www.kcldo1thing.com)** – to make it easier for researchers to find activities of interest
5. **Piloted a new evaluation approach** to researcher development workshops to understand better the long term impacts of workshops
6. **Continued to modify workshops based on user feedback**, e.g. Writing for Publication workshop revised such that three different workshops for Sciences, Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities, each with new trainers
7. **Trained more RDU staff in Coaching** to expand 1-2-1 provision
8. **Enhanced communications offering** regarding public engagement:
  - 5 different workshops on different aspects, e.g. working with schools, working with the media
  - Launched a public engagement small grant scheme (up to £750), with around 25 awards made so far
  - Funded an immersive PE programme in partnerships with Science Gallery London called Collaborate and Engage

