PRES 2019 – School of Natural Sciences Action Plan

	Question	Comments / Actions	Action owner(s)
Supervision	2.1.a. My supervisor/s have the skills and subject knowledge to support my research		
	2.2.a. I have regular contact with my supervisor/s, appropriate for my needs		
	2.3.a. My supervisor/s provide feedback that helps me direct my research activities		
	2.4.a. My supervisor/s help me to identify my training and development needs as a researcher	Review annual review questions for 2020, make sure the questions ask about training already done, and are aligned with the TNA form used by COESE.	PGR Leads and COESE DoGS
		TNA: should have action points, and be review at progress review meeting. Informal training gets overlooked – e.g. learning from a colleagues – prompt for this on TNA	COESE DoGS
		Circulate Hugh Kearns PGR degree planning resources to PGRs	COESE DoGS
		Check if doctoral supervisors get emails from doc school?	COESE DoGS
		Add to annual reminder/guidance notes to supervisors, to review TNA with students, and in staff meetings	PGR Leads/COESE DoGS
Resources	4.1.a. I have a suitable working space	NB: Note diffs between MScRes and PhD for much of this section.	
	4.2.a. There is adequate provision of computing resources and facilities	Problem: IT services don't have capacity to provide research level provision for IT, poss treating PGRs like UGs. There is a review of research computing. Should PGR lead be on IT task group?	Doctoral school/DSB?
		Need support for e.g. ArcGIS	
		Need meeting with IT services about this	CoESE DoGS
	4.3.a. There is adequate provision of library facilities (including		

	physical and online resources)		
	4.4.a. I have access to the specialist resources necessary for my research	Negative responses heavily dominated by chemistry. Need to ensure university management understand and take commitment to existent PGRs seriously.	PGR lead for Chem, CoESE DoGS, doctoral school
Research Culture	6.1.a. My department provides a good seminar programme	Calendar for seminar program etc, blackboard page, emailed once a month. Especially cross school. BEA internship? Timetabling for seminars	PGR Leads
		Relevance of speaker. Ensure that good mix across school etc, but how?	PGR Leads
		PGRs may have a too narrow view of what is relevant, or what they can spare time to attend?	Supervisors?
	6.2.a. I have frequent opportunities to discuss my research with other research students	Ensure that 4th years etc are on email lists etc, until they finish	CoESE DoGS
		Organise Shut up and write sessions – at college or school level	PGR reps, PGR leads
		Promote coffee times to PGRs. Perhaps start with just once per week	PGR reps, PGR leads
	6.3.a. The research ambience in my department or faculty stimulates my work	Often v few pgrs in the office (sometimes due to IT problems, needing to use own laptops). Ensure all PGRs have adequate desk, computer, working environments, e.g. dividers etc.	Supervisors, PGR leads
		Try to ensure that things like luchtime discussion groups, get advertised more widely (at least every few months, so people have chance to join specific email lists. Consider listing such things on central list of seminars etc.	PGR leads

	6.4.a. I have opportunities to become involved in the wider research community, beyond my department		
Progress and Assessment	8.1.a. I received an appropriate induction to my research degree programme	Make clear that PGT/= PGR. Remind PGRs that they can usually register on any PGT and 3rd year modules e.g. intro stats for ppl with no previous background	CoESE DoGS
		Improve ethics training	PGR leads
		Develop the Chemistry health and safety induction	PGR lead for chemistry
		Should PGRs be enrolled in other modules.	
	8.2.a. I understand the requirements and deadlines for formal monitoring of my progress	Ensure review deadlines are accurate when reviews created to avoid confusion.	PGR admin + PGR lead
		Emphasise that review system is supportive – emphasise this during session on PGR reviews. Also bring experienced PGRs along.	PGR leads
		System could be more PT friendly make clearer expectations are lower for PT flag up to review committee. Edit system so PT status, registration and deadline dates are clear to committee (also date of last review).	PGR Leads / Apps team
	8.3.a. I understand the required standard for my thesis	In induction, encourage 1st years to read an appropriate thesis.	COESE DoGS, supervisors
	8.4.a. The final assessment procedures for my degree are clear to me	Viva survivor and lunchtime sessions have been well received. Promote widely.	PGR Leads
		Need to produce a Word template for thesis format and front page.	Doc school

Responsibilities	10.1.a. My institution values and responds to feedback from research degree students	Need PGR specific "Together We" Also action plan with traffic lights and physically pin up and mail shot	Student engagement unit, COESE DoGS, PGR Leads
	10.2.a. I understand my responsibilities as a research degree student		
	10.3.a. I am aware of my supervisors' responsibilities towards me as a research degree student		
	10.4.a. Other than my supervisor/s, I know who to approach if I am concerned about any aspect of my degree programme		
Research Skills	12.1.a. My skills in applying appropriate research methodologies, tools and techniques have developed during my programme	As of Oct 2019, stats surgeries with Dr Isabel Rosa now advertised.	
		Need to reduce number of no-shows at e.g. R course etc.	Doc School, PGR Leads, supervisors.
	12.2.a. My skills in critically analysing and evaluating findings and results have developed during my programme		
	12.3.a. My confidence to be creative or innovative has developed during my programme		
	12.4.a. My understanding of 'research integrity' (e.g. rigour, ethics, transparency, attributing the contribution of others) has developed during my programme	Re-run 2018 session, with panopto / slides on blackboard, perhaps skyping in (and for other lunchtime sessions).	PGR Lead for Env
Professional	14.1.a. My ability to manage projects has developed during my programme		
	14.2.a. My ability to communicate information effectively to	Should doc school or college run courses on posters and talks?	Doc School, COESE DoGS, PGR leads

	diverse audiences has developed during my programme		
	14.3.a. I have developed contacts or professional networks during my programme	Investigate whether PGRs can print business cards?	
		Advertise research committee travel funds and ensure all PGRs have bench fees for this. Also advertise Bangor fund and college fund.	PGR leads
	14.4.a. I have increasingly managed my own professional development during my programme		
Overall	18.1.a. Overall, I am satisfied with the experience of my research degree programme		
	18.2.a. I am confident that I will complete my research degree programme within my institution's expected timescale		