Survey on Postgraduate Facilities within Academic Institutions

This survey has been put together by the NPC to investigate how different institutions around the country meet the social and academic needs of postgraduates around the country. It is evident that there are mixed opinions as to whether postgraduates should be encouraged to be integrated and not segregated from undergraduates where as in opposition to this there are specific needs that postgraduates have which can only be met separately to undergraduates. By investigating how different institutions operate and how they tackle this issue it hopes to put together the results of this survey with other research to draw together some suitable guidelines for postgraduate provisions.

Personal details and background information of your institution:

Name:	
Institution:	
Position within institution:	
Email:	

Please give a rough indication of student numbers in your institution for:

Full time Taught	
Full time Research	
Part time Taught	
Part time Research	
Total number of students (undergraduate and postgraduate)	

Is your institution mainly based on a single campus, non-campus based or split into more than one campus? If your institution is split onto more than one campus please indicate whether there are intentionally more postgraduates on one site.

Facilities provided within your institution:

1. Please give a brief description of any social and/or central facilities you provide specifically for postgraduates [e.g. a graduate school/college, postgraduate social/study centre, staff and postgraduate social club]*

2. Please give a brief description also of any specific learning and teaching or study facilities that you provide specifically for postgraduates [e.g. computing facilities, study rooms, skills and personal development courses in the interest of postgraduates].*

3. Does the town, city or local area around your institution provide any social facilities for students such that it is not as necessary for the institution itself to provide facilities for postgraduates and other students? Do postgraduates tend to use external facilities more than undergraduates?

4. Are there any specific facilities your institution provides during the vacation time in the interests of postgraduates working all year round? [e.g. students union, catering facilities, library and computing facilities etc.]

5. Are departments/schools within your institution often left to provide social and study facilities for postgraduates in any way? Do facilities tend to be provided for students at this level rather than centrally?

Please note that in these questions it would be helpful to provide web references and/or any literature that you have available.

Questions requiring comment:
Please say whether or not you are in a position to comment on any particular questions. If you can seek answers from appropriate people in these cases then it would be much appreciated.

1. Do you sense whether or not it has been identified in your institution that there are insufficient facilities for postgraduates or whether the facilities currently provided are sufficient and have proved successful? Please consider this with respect to postgraduate's needs including vacation facilities, identity of postgraduate community, differing accommodation needs and the like. Has any work been undertaken to address and possibly rectify these issues?

2. Do you have accommodation specifically for postgraduates provided by your institution that works successfully or is there more emphasis on mixed accommodation? Please give reasons if known.

3. Are there specific postgraduate induction programmes in place throughout the year not just organised by the department/school? Whichever system is used, do postgraduates gain a formal introduction to the institution comparable to that of undergraduates when they would not normally arrive during the introduction week?

4. Do postgraduates in your institution appear to be as integrated as undergraduates within their Students Union, sports clubs, societies and other student culture activities? Would you say postgraduates need to be encouraged more to take part? Please give details of specific differences identified with.

5. Do many postgraduates often have their friendships and contacts limited to their department/school? Is there opportunity for them to meet other postgraduates within the wider community?

6. Has your institution identified an increasing need for postgraduates enhance their personal development profile while studying/researching? Is there a need for more training in research and other learning developments a postgraduate would benefit from?

7. If your institution does provide sufficient facilities for postgraduates, do you identify with any segregation that might be existent between postgraduates and undergraduates? Do you see a need to encourage more opportunity for postgraduates to integrate with undergraduates at their leisure?

8. If you do not provide specific facilities for postgraduates on a large scale, do you identify whether your institution would be reluctant to remove postgraduates from the same umbrella as undergraduates in many instances? Do postgraduates appear comfortable in this state at present? Please give reasons

9. In your present situation at your institution, do you feel that postgraduates are left out from being active or are they generally happy to find they can have the opportunity to mix with postgraduates and undergraduates as they see fit? On the other hand, are postgraduates too isolated and segregated from undergraduates more than they would like to be? Please rate this on a scale of 1-10 (1 too segregated, 5 = fair balance to integrate with all students, 10 = postgraduates excluded too much since facilities too biased to undergraduates?

10. Please feel free to comment on any further cases you feed the above questions have not covered.

I would like to thank you on behalf of the NPC for taking part in this survey; your information and comments will be valued greatly. You may send the completed form to me either by email or by post at the following addresses:

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