College of Science and Engineering Graduate School Strategy

Mission Statement

The College of Science and Engineering Graduate School will provide a world-class, intellectually stimulating environment which enables students to achieve excellence in their chosen path and encourages them to make a positive contribution to society and the economy.

Strategy

In pursuit of its Mission, the College of Science and Engineering Graduate School’s strategy is to:

a. recruit excellent students
b. provide them with the best possible research environment;
c. improve research and training provision;
d. encourage internationalisation through student mobility;
e. provide a supportive infrastructure for students and academic staff through effective and efficient administration and communication;
f. ensure consistency of practice in all aspects of postgraduate student administration, for example, in recruitment, progression and examination processes;
g. ensure compliance with the QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education;
h. work closely with Schools research groups and graduate conveners to achieve its strategic objectives and Mission.

The Graduate School has developed a College Research Student Code of Practice which not only emphasises the University’s high expectations of its students and staff but also details the high level of support they can expect.

The Strategy is managed and monitored by the Graduate School Board which includes representation from the College’s seven Schools.

Strategic Goals & Objectives

1. To identify and provide appropriate, relevant and intellectually stimulating academic scholarship through teaching, research and training.

   1.1 To ensure the quality of teaching is maintained and enhanced through benchmarking and implementing best practice in research and teaching methods and methodology.

   1.2 To provide supervisor training for new and established academic staff and ensure an appropriate level of participation.

   1.3 To provide support for supervisors in relation to administrative or training issues.

   1.4 To ensure the quality of supervision is maintained and enhanced by working with Schools such that students are provided with the expertise they require to complete their studies.

   1.5 To ensure the quality and quantity of research opportunities is maintained and enhanced through ongoing developments in areas of strategic importance.

   1.6 To develop, implement, maintain and enhance a high-quality doctoral researcher training programme.
1.1 To increase participation in the doctoral researcher training programme by 10% over the next 3 years.

1.2 To provide a minimum of 15 Graduate School-specific training opportunities for students to support the University-wide training, ensuring provision meets demand.

1.3 To ensure substantive student contribution to provision by listening to students, encouraging them and supporting them to engage with their own learning agenda and with the Graduate School provision.

1.4 To optimise the student experience both at home and internationally through identifying opportunities for students to undertake research or find placements at home and in international institutions/organisations.

1.5 To achieve positive student evaluation of their research experience (for example, in the Postgraduate Research Experience Survey for which the target is 90% satisfaction in line with the wider University).

1.6 To support students to develop valuable professional networks (internally/externally, nationally/internationally).

1.7 To maintain awareness of, and, as appropriate, contribute to identifying Research Council/industry or other stakeholder graduate attributes and ensure our programmes are aligned with these.

2. To recruit and retain exceptional and motivated postgraduate students identified as being able to contribute significantly to our mission.

2.1 To increase student numbers in line with Graduate School teaching/supervisory capacity and external funding provision.

For research students, the annual targets are:

- 7 College Scholarships
- 7 Industry Scholarships
- 40 Research Council-funded students
- 10 self-funding students
- 8 China Scholarship Council students
- 30 students funded by external sponsors

For postgraduate taught students, the annual targets are:

- 180 international students
- 165 home/EU students

2.2 To increase, year-on-year, external funding accessed for studentships for at least the next five years.

2.3 To seek additional sources of funding through working with Schools and business development managers.
2.4 To ensure the provision of suitable levels of, and appropriately targeted, funding for students to undertake research or placements at international institutions/organisations.

2.5 To ensure effective budget preparation and execution (including expenditure approval and monitoring) arrangements and ensure economic use of funds.

2.6 To achieve and improve on a target of 70% of students successfully completing their studies within four years full-time or six years part-time study.

3. To provide an exceptional level and quality of support through efficient and effective administration and communication (a) to students (whether based on campus or working at a distance) and (b) to academic staff (allowing the latter to focus on supervision, teaching and research to the benefit of our students).

3.1 To ensure the efficient and effective administration of all aspects of the postgraduate student lifecycle through working closely with our Schools to improve processes and systems.

3.2 To review existing processes for continued relevance, updating/improving and documenting as appropriate and ensuring their efficiency and effectiveness.

4. To create a vibrant and cohesive community of postgraduate students.

4.1 To organise an annual programme of events in conjunction with the Student Liaison Committee.

4.2 To encourage students to lead activities/events which bring together students from across the College.

4.3 To work with the Student Liaison Committee to develop web-based and other resources for students.

5. To improve Graduate School provision through learning from and implementing best practice across the University and the wider sector.

6. To ensure compliance with the QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education and other relevant Glasgow University and Graduate School rules/procedures/guidance and relevant legislation.

6.1 To produce and disseminate clear and easily understood procedures and guidance to assist compliance with quality standards and other mandatory requirements.

6.2 To monitor compliance and/or undertake a periodic (for example, annual) review of compliance with defined requirements.

7. To support and respect diversity in all aspects of Graduate School activity.