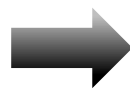## VISION

YOU SAID

WE DID

Consult with the College community to develop a **shared vision** for postgraduate education at Trinity.

→

Following a yearlong consultation process, approval obtained for the following vision statement:

A stimulating, inclusive, and sustainable research and learning environment, where curious minds and creative thinkers thrive.

STRUCTURED PHD + DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

YOU SAID

WE DID

Supervision of Research Students

Clarify and simplify **supervision guidelines.**

→

We reviewed and updated Supervision of Research Students Best Practice Guide and Postgraduate Research Student Handbook.

Support doctoral students and supervisors with clear guidance on relationship management, outlining expectations and responsibilities of both parties.

→

We introduced a Supervisor - Research Student Agreement, outlining responsibilities of both parties and enhancing expectations' management.

Support students to develop a **multi- dimensional skillset.**

→

We created a Personal Development Planning (PDP) template for PGR students to encourage self-reflection and support conversations about transversal skills development as PGR researchers.

Clarify the role of the supervisor in PGR skills development.

→

We articulated roles + responsibilities of the supervisor and university in supporting the student's development of a multi-dimensional skillset.

Thesis Committees, Annual Review & Confirmation Reports

Review and standardize current requirements, processes and guidelines for **Thesis Committees, annual progress reports & confirmation reports.**

→

We clarified the roles & responsibilities of supervisors, PGR students and Thesis Committees at key points in the progression journey (see Thesis Committee Guidelines).

We developed a Terms of Reference for Thesis Committees and enhanced reporting templates for Annual Review and Confirmation process.

Teaching Commitments

Review how we acknowledge and **recognise teaching and learning** supports provided by postgraduate research students.

→

We introduced a Trinity Certificate of Teaching Contributions to acknowledge and recognise teaching and learning supports provided by PGR students.

Viva Voce

Clarify and simplify **Viva Voce** guidelines for research students and examiners.

→

We reviewed and enhanced the Trinity PhD *Viva* Guide.

CURRICULUM & TRIPLE I

YOU SAID

WE DID

Curriculum

Benchmark best practices for **the cyclical review of PG Taught programmes.**

→

We benchmarked best practices for cyclical review of postgraduate programmes.
We delivered a high level dedign for a system of cyclical review of PG Taught programmes on an annual, 3-year and 5-year schedule.

New Programme Approval Process

Design and run a pliot implementation of the new **2-stage approval process** for new PG Taught programme proposals.

→

We ran a pilot implementation of the new process that supported academic staff to engage with the Trinity Careers Service, and guided academic staff through the new approvals process at School, Faculty and Committee level.

We developed resources supporting course programme proposal development.

Triple I

Identify how we can provide integrated opportunities to PG students for inter-sectoral work based learning, international collaboration and travel, and interdisciplinary experiences.

→

Approval obtained for the conceptual design of a Trinity Triple I Framework for integrating intersectoral, international and interdisciplinary experiences into PG programmes of study and research.

PGT Research

Identify a *framework for* **Triple I taught dissertation research** requirements linking with disciplinary needs. Define the eligibility criteria, roles and responsibilities of PG Taught research supervisors.

→

We developed a Framework for Postgraduate Taught Supervision with clear roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder, emphasising collaboration, communication, communication and effective mentorship of the PG Taught student.

PGT Exit Awards

Clarify and define exit awards for PGT programmes.

→

We designed and obtained approval for an Exit Award Framework for PGT Programmes (see Calendar 2024-25).

STUDENT & STAFF EXPERIENCE

YOU SAID

WE DID

Student Supports

Clarify current opportunities for PhD students to enhance their **multi-dimensional skills** (such as presentation abilities).

➤ We raised awareness with PhD students about current presentation skills training + identified opportunities for students to present to peer groups.

Clarify for postgraduate students and provide guidance on **Trinity's plagiarism policy.**

➤ We included information on Academic Integrity in the Postgraduate Welcome Guide and the Postgraduate Research Student Handbook.

Clarify for international students, guidance on language support opportunities in Trinity.

➤ We provided information on language supports in pre-arrival information in the Welcome Guide.

Clarify guidance for **international students in relation to the challenges of moving to Ireland** and finding accommodation, accessing the health service in Ireland.

➤ We collaborated with Trinity Global Engagement on developing guidance to international students (videos and handbooks). Additionally, the orientation experience for international students has been expanded.

Community

Identify needs of PG students for physical **social spaces.**

➤ We completed a user needs analyses of PG students social space requirements improving our understanding of current space availability. We developed recommendations for short, medium, and long term.

Map current **College events** that contribute to creating connection and community amongst the postgraduate student cohort.

➤ We mapped current College events contributing to creation of connection and community amongst PG student cohort promotion and enhancement and developed recommendations for future consideration.

Conflict Management & Resolution

Clarify and enhance supports for our supervisors and research students when issues in their **relationship** arise.

➤ We provided guidance for resolving difficulties in supervision of research students along with a Conflict Resolution Flowchart.

Benchmark best practices for a **conflict management & resolution** in the supervision relationship.

➤ We benchmarked best practice supports for conflict management and resolution in supervisory relationships, and obtained approval to develop a **Conflict Management & Resolution Framework.**

Quality Assured Processes

Develop **quality assurance principles** to be applied to **process design** ensuring processes are efficient and meet user requirements based on best practices.

➤ We developed a **Way of Working** aligned to the principles of Lean and tailored to the needs of Trinity to guide the Postgraduate Renewal Programme in delivering its work programme.

STUDENT LIFECYCLE

YOU SAID

WE DID

Marketing & Recruitment

Simply show key phases and processes that PGR students undertake on their **Student Lifecycle.**

➤ We worked with multiple College departments to develop the online PGR Student Lifecycle, showing each phase and providing information on key steps to be taken by the student.

Admissions

Review **English Language requirements** for admission to postgraduate programmes. Could our English Language Requirements for admission be more streamlined and in line with best practice?

➤ We introduced a set of 10 Principles to guide the cyclical review of English Language Requirements for admission.

Enhance the **on-line application form for admission** to Trinity postgraduate programmes.

➤ We reviewed, streamlined, and implemented a new online application form for admission to Trinity's postgraduate programmes, using a new application form technology.

Orientation & Induction

Enhance the **orientation and induction** for postgraduate students (research and taught).

➤ We reviewed and enhanced orientation and induction events for PGR students.

Student Finance

Review and enhance protocol and process for approval of **3rd party funding sponsors.**

➤ We reviewed and enhanced protocol and process for approval of 3rd party funding sponsors.

A new sponsor application and approval process is now live alongside the facility for employers to pay student fees without becoming a formal sponsor with Trinity.

Registration

Identify **opportunities to improve flexibility for PGR students to go off-books?**

➤ We identified, for future consideration, opportunities to create greater flexibility for PGR students wishing to go off books.

Re-design the **Annual Progression process** for PGR students to improve registration turnaround times.

➤ Together with Schools, Academic Registry & IT Services, we developed an online workflow for all annual progression reports.

Academic Appeals

Clarify the **Academic Appeals** process in the Calendar for postgraduate students.

➤ We reviewed and clarified the **Academic Appeals** process and simplified the terminology. Postgraduate students will normally no longer be required to present their cases in person.

Graduation

Better understand the factors impacting the scheduling and facilitation of **Graduations.**

➤ We mapped drivers impacting on the graduation experience.

FINANCIAL

YOU SAID

WE DID

PGR College Internal Awards

Develop a coherent and equitable internal Postgraduate Research award scheme for 3 existing PG research internal College awards *(i.e., Postgraduate Research Studentship (1252), Ussher Award, Provost PhD award).*

We consolidated 3 existing PG research internal College awards into one and introduced the new equitable Trinity Research Doctorate Awards (TRDA) covering tuition fees (EU + nonEU) and providing an annual tax-free stipend of €25,000 for four years.

Tuition Fee Differentials for PGR Students

Develop a proposal addressing PG Research nonEU tuition fee differential.

Since September 2023, we are conducting a running a pilot write-down of tuition fee differential for PGR new entrant students recruited to Irish state-funded projects. The Pilot is based on a proposal developed to eliminate the constraint of 'affordability' from the PGR recruitment process.

Teaching & Learning Supports

Ensure equity in recognising Teaching & Learning supports provided by PGR students.

From 2023-24, we introduced requirement that PGR students providing Teaching & Learning supports are paid directly for supports provided and decoupled from stipend payments.

www.tcd.ie/graduatestudies/postgraduate-renewal