

## PhD Forum – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Unfortunately I wasn't able to attend the PhD Forum on 26<sup>th</sup> March, but Katie passed on a summary of some of your main questions so I could contribute to them. The next Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> April is in my diary. Please see my responses below – happy to take any further queries in the interim.

| Summary of PhD Rep queries   | Jo's response   |
|--|---|
| TA/Demonstrating work queries  | <p>Thank you for your further correspondence on this matter.</p> <p>The School is sympathetic to the position you have outlined. As you will be aware our assessment pattern is due to be confirmed tomorrow, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. We will then be planning and preparing for whatever the new exams look like, including how they are marked etc and what work opportunities will arise from this. It is also possible that some module organisers with coursework have given a 2 week extended deadline as per QMUL advice, so work may be later than normal.</p> <p>We should definitely continue this conversation, and we (plus Simon Rawstron/Mark Walters) need to have your list identifying which students are most financially at risk, appreciating this is a sensitive subject of course.</p>   |
| Travel funds: will money be rolled over from this financial year (ending 31 <sup>st</sup> July) to 20/21?                              | <p>I'm afraid there is a very simple answer to this: no. This is always the case due to financial regulations, but the overriding principle now is that the University (as with most others) will be financially vulnerable next year with the probable significant decrease in UG/PGT student recruitment. Budgets will be tight and no rollover permitted.</p>  |
| IT matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan for the laptop rollout.</li><li>• Linux – some still having issues.</li></ul> | <p>I have a couple of things to say here.</p> <p>Obviously we can't continue with the laptop rollout as such because we are not on campus.</p> <p>However, work is very much ongoing on both what I will call the 'improving the current position' for PhD students with laptops, and the future provision/position. I have another meeting of our School/ITS operations group tomorrow where we are discussing various solutions to these items. The Chief Information Officer (Head of ITS, Rachel Bence) is involved in these discussions and I have flagged the situation as the School's number 1 IT-related priority.</p> <p>We have decided to hold a School IT Committee in the very near future (date TBC) to which the reps will be invited, at which we will give a full update on the direction of travel.</p> <p>Secondly, in relation to any ongoing issues I would like to suggest something. You all know Ethan and Ian who are closely connected with the School, but you probably do not know a range of other ITS colleagues who are working on various aspects of the issues including things like GPU programming and CUDA. They would really like some immediate feedback and input from either the PhD reps or a small group (I say small as large groups can be difficult to manage) for a face-to-face meeting on Teams. Issues could be collected in advance for instance, with a small group of you asked to attend a meeting with about 3-4 colleagues. I feel strongly that the best way to progress this is by close collaboration with our ITS colleagues so can improve things. <b>Can you let me know what you think please?</b></p> |