

## Annual meeting for Directors of Postgraduate Education and Postgraduate Tutors

Monday 28 September 2020

Zoom, 14.00 - 17.00

This second annual meeting for Directors of Postgraduate Education and Postgraduate Tutors will be chaired by the Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education, Professor Graham Virgo. Key themes will include priorities for postgraduate education in the next academic year, new initiatives to support postgraduate supervisors, and perspectives on student experiences.

### 14.00 Welcome

**Dr Meg Tait**, Head of the Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning

### 14.10 Priorities and progress for postgraduate education at Cambridge

Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education **Professor Graham Virgo**

### 14.30 Panel: Initiatives to support supervisors and supervision

Funders are putting a lot of emphasis on the quality of research cultures. What can this look like in practice?

**Dr Brian Hendrich** (Director of the PhD Programme in Stem Cell Biology and Medicine for the Wellcome - MRC Cambridge Stem Cell Institute) will talk about a pilot event to provide a forum for experienced supervisors to reflect on the student / supervisor relationship and ways of building positive research cultures.

**Dr Sara Baker** (Doctoral Programme Lead for the Faculty of Education) will talk about the introduction of new Doctoral Liaison roles which provide students with an informal point of contact within the Faculty to support their progress and experience.

There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

### 15.00 Coffee/tea break

### 15.10 Panel: Student experiences, concerns, and support

How do the complexities of the institutional environment and the challenges of communication between supervisors and students affect doctoral education?

**Aastha Dahal** (Postgraduate president, Cambridge Student Union) will introduce a Student Union project to explore supervisors' perspectives on factors affecting supervision practice.

**Hamish Symington** (PhD Student in Plant Sciences & Student Representative for the BBSRC DTP) will reflect on his experience of trying to enhance communication and a sense of community among his peers.

**Dr Christian Gilliam** (Researcher Developer, Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning) will highlight how Researcher Development have moved training and support for doctoral students online during lockdown and discuss plans for the new academic year.

There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

#### 15.45 Group discussions: Supporting Postgraduate Education

- What do you consider the strengths of and challenges facing research cultures, with particular reference to postgraduate supervision at Cambridge?
- Do you think there are priorities for improving support of postgraduate student supervision, supervisors and research cultures at Cambridge?

#### 16.15 Plenary feedback on group discussions

Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education **Professor Graham Virgo**

#### 16.45 Wrap up of key points and take-aways

Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education **Professor Graham Virgo**

**Dr Meg Tait**, Head of the Cambridge Centre for Teaching and Learning

#### 17.00 Close