

Staff-Student Action Log



Purpose	The core purpose of the academic representation system, which aligns with the revised UK Quality Code, is to achieve positive change that improves the educational experience of students at Royal Holloway and engages students as partners in the development, assurance, and enhancement of their learning.
Reports to	School Education Committee – UG and PGT School Research Student Oversight Committee - PGR
Department	
Regular meetings per year	3-6
Quorum	5

Attendance Monitoring

	Date and Time	Location	Attendance
November Meeting (compulsory)			
December Meeting (optional)			
February Meeting (compulsory)			
March Meeting (optional)			
April Meeting (compulsory)			
May Meeting (optional)	8.5.24	Online	Jennifer Cole, Aryo Fieldman, Deborah Phillips, Anna Williams, Hiam Farhat

Teaching:

Overall, the teaching was ranked excellent and good for all three Courses MSc/MA Global Health: Human health and the environment and MSc Food security and sustainability.

The teaching methods are innovative which promote critical thinking and enhance the abilities in international students. They added that the lectures are engaging and demanding which pushes them beyond their limits to improve and work harder. Furthermore, the content was very comprehensive and up to date and the tutors made it quite easy to comprehend all the various aspects taught. They always allowed for questions, interactions and debate helping them to develop a strong critical thinking.

Assessment Feedback:

The feedback given by their tutors are thorough, positive, and valuable for improvement in future, especially feedback from Dr. Cole has always been constructive, helpful, and included various comments to improve on the quality of their work. Not only they provided thorough written comments, but they also always dedicated time for a conversation meeting to discuss the comments and act for improvement. They added that the feedback is well-detailed, clear, and explanatory, even when they can seem sometimes overwhelming.

Support from Staff:

The tutors always explained well what the assessments were about and provided guidance to make it easy for them to do. They have always been readily available to meet and discuss any topics and answer any questions and Dr. Channon is always ready to help and improve their skills.

Communication with Students:

Always Clear and on time. The students are well-informed ahead of time to encourage awareness and preparations for the intended activities or program. They added that the University provides clear and timely communication channels that facilitate students' engagement and keep students informed about important updates.

Any other comment for MSc/MA Global Health:

- a. Recognition of student's achievements and contribution through certificates or on social media by our department. **Action:** When the results of an assignment come out, promote on social media student's achievements.
- b. Give more exposure to the activities of other groups in the department. A joint teaching across the department was tried out last year but it did not really work due to many reasons one of them that students were really covering different things at various parts of the course.
- c. Early follow-up on new intakes, especially international students, to increase the number of departmental students, academic and social interaction and a sense of community belonging. Community sense has been a challenge since we do not have our own building. **Action:** Once we have chestnuts the students will have their own space to hang out together and this will create more sense of community.
- d. Arrange more guest workshops or networking events with NHS or environment departments to provide insights into real practices and career opportunities for students that will be helpful for international students. It has been challenging with such a few numbers of students. But that is something we will look at more next year. **Action:** Try to arrange next year a joint trip to NHS Facilities.
- e. A more fieldwork-based study, away from the classroom. This must be optional especially that it would add an additional cost to the students. For example, this year we visited talking tree in Staines and did our public engagement activity and our presentations there. We did also visit Wraysbury health hub to see the different services the hub has to offer. **Action:** Look at some field work-based study away from the classroom for example in London.

Any other comment for MSc Food security and sustainability:

- a. Some confusion over Wakehurst for the students as they made their own way there and evening session being a bit more planned in advance – **Action:** a dedicated session in advance asks questions and organise between students.
- b. Wakehurst was good bonding experience, would be nice to have earlier in the year. Acknowledge it is hard as content needs to be covered first - **Action:** more student bonding opportunities throughout the year.
- c. In terms of feedback and communication one student commented that the feedback was somehow inconsistent as one tutor gave feedback, and another tutor gave different one.
- d. Sessions on developing business ideas and writing funding proposals would be better swapped to maximise both sessions.
- e. Two group assignments back-to-back were slightly overwhelming as group work takes more organisation and is more time-consuming. If possible, spaced-out group work would be preferable.

Overall, in general the students were pleased and satisfied on the quality of teaching. Nevertheless, there were things that they wanted to see differently in the department such as the sense of community /opportunities to mix with other students such as occasional events or bonding hangouts. And here comes the health studies society to help with that and be the answer of it.

Action No.	Agreed Action (Include reason for agreed action)	Date Action Agreed	Responsible	Due	Date Action Completed	Outcome
1	When the results of an assignment come out, promote on social media student's achievements.	08/05	HS social media strategy lead – Anusha Seneviratne	End of Term 3	30 June 2024	
2	To have own chestnuts department building for students to have their own space to hang out together and create more sense of community.	08/05	Alex Palombi – Head of Department	Tbc – on Chestnuts completion		
3	Try to arrange a joint trip to NHS Facilities.	08/05	Jennifer Cole/David Channon	Early Spring Team 2024-25		
4	Look at some field work-based study away from the classroom for example in London.	08/05	Jennifer Cole/David Channon	Early Spring Team 2024-25		
5	Raise issue of international students' admission and visa application process that caused students to start late. More information when applying on these issues.	08/05	Preeti Mahato	Already started		Dr Preeti Mahato has been organising enhanced communication with incoming students including online sessions, the first of which was held 14/05/2024

Notes:

Feel free to use this space to make note of anything of importance, in addition to the actions above, that don't require an action.

	Notes
Meeting 1	
Meeting 2	
Meeting 3	
Meeting 4	
Meeting 5	
Meeting 6	