

Research Forum 11/10/2002: Studentships

Present: JAD (Chair), AJP, JBl, PAJ, APM, JFB, RCh, GF, SDT, RPG

Apologies: AMH, DKC

Summary:

The initial discussion focussed on the level of priority given to increasing studentship numbers. Whilst it was acknowledged that a thriving postgraduate community is an integral part of a research active (especially grade 5 and 5*) Department, concerns were voiced concerning the time commitment involved in supervision – particularly with regard to the likelihood of first-authored publications (by staff), the absence of any clear acknowledgement of ‘supervision hours’ in Departmental planning, and the additional efforts required in increasing research grant income. Despite these shortcomings, staff acknowledged the crucial importance of increasing research student numbers and the positive aspects of successful PhD supervision.

JAD circulated information on the University of Liverpool International Scholarship Scheme.

APM presented details on ‘tied-studentships’, highlighting that they are only available for NERC standard grant applications (not small grants and the New Investigators programme)

AJP presented details on opportunities for studentships from research councils and other sources of relevance to the Department (see ‘Studentships’ document on Dept. Intranet – Physical Geography Research Forums [Studentships.pdf](#)). Taking advantage of these opportunities may require more interaction with industry, and between human and physical geography colleagues. In addition, a number of opportunities require the lead to be taken by individual applicants. It was proposed that a series of web-based ‘studentship opportunities’ documents would be assembled, inviting applications from suitably qualified graduates for certain PhD themes.

Due to time restrictions, the Forum came to a close prior to these issues being fully explored and the way forward being defined. Consequently, the Research Forum of the 25th October will revisit the studentship theme.