

**Department of Statistics**  
**PhD SSLC meeting**  
Friday 8 February 2013, COL 6.15

Attended:

Qiwei Yao (chair) QY  
Rafal Baranowski (student representative) RB  
Charlie Hu (student representative) CH  
Veronica Cheng (student representative) VC  
Sarah Bailey (minutes) SB

**1. General comments**

No serious concerns have been raised by MPhil/PhD students in advance of this meeting.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 3 December 2012**

Minutes of this meeting were approved as an accurate summary of the discussions at the meeting on 3 December 2012. .

**3. Matters arising from the previous meeting held on 3 December 2012**

**‘Buddies’**

SB explained that although the department does not currently have a ‘buddy system’ for new MPhil/PhD students, there is a degree of natural networking that currently happens in the assigned study rooms where new students are working alongside existing more experienced students. However, the department could ask current PhD students to chat with new students at the Orientation event in October and share their experiences. SB suggested that 2012-13 first year students, who have recently experienced what it is like to be new and know the challenges new PhD students face, may be best placed to do this.

**Funding**

QY provided an update on the LSE funding situation for research students. Existing students, first registered in 2012-13 or before, will have the opportunity to apply to the Research Studentship Scheme for the next 2 years, before it is discontinued. However, the total amount of funds available will be reduced to two-thirds in 2013-2014 and to one-third in 2014-2015. QY emphasised the importance of future students having full funding.

**Text Books**

RB stated that there are certain Statistics e-books available via the Springer website to download for as little as £25. QY reminded the group that students can make use of the LSE Library.

**4. Submissions**

QY warned that the School is under increasing pressure from the research councils (i.e. ESRC) to ensure that PhD students submit their thesis within the maximum period of registration. The maximum period of registration for a full-time MPhil/PhD student is four years.

**5. Internships**

QY explained that while the department would like to support summer internships, undertaking one must not impact on students’ PhD or result in possible late submission. QY

also warned of the possible serious implications of undertaking an internship for those students with Tier 4 visas. Students must make themselves aware of UK Border Agency immigration regulations as the penalties for not adhering to these regulations can be very severe. Students should also make themselves aware of LSE's PhD degree regulations and guidelines.