



## **RDM Graduate Student Forum – Meeting Notes**

*Tuesday 19 May 2026*

At the 19<sup>th</sup> May Student Forum meeting, the Forum considered the draft RDM Graduate Access Plan which aims to address widening participation in postgraduate study. Discussion included the importance of context when interpreting admissions data, the role of funding in influencing applicant decisions, and the value of training for those involved in recruitment processes. Early engagement between applicants and potential supervisors was also highlighted as an important factor in supporting applicants and making the process feel more accessible.

A significant part of the meeting discussion focused on student events and engagement across RDM. Forum members highlighted the wide range of activities already organised by RDM divisions and student groups. The Graduate Studies Team emphasised that cross RDM-organised events are intended to complement, rather than replace, divisional initiatives, providing opportunities for engagement across the department. Opportunities to improve communication and coordination were explored, including the possible use of social media platforms and the introduction of a termly events listing to help students and organisers stay informed about upcoming activities. The possibility of divisional events being opened up to the wider RDM graduate community was discussed.

The Graduate Studies Team also shared a draft survey, which had been prepared to gather student feedback on social events and to help inform future planning.

Updates were shared by the Researcher Association (RA) and EDI committee student representatives, including a recent well-attended RA event and plans for further activities, including events to mark Pride Month.

The Forum discussed an anonymised student request relating to the accessibility of all seminars and lectures, particularly the importance of providing online access to support inclusion for students with hybrid working arrangements. This relates to the wider RDM and will be taken to the EDI Committee for further consideration.

The Graduate Studies Team and RDM leadership continue to thank Student Forum members for their engagement and for their contributions in supporting the graduate student community.