

IFP Staff/Student Liaison committee 23 February 2023

Present: Anya Clayworth (Programme Director) and Salman Ali, student rep.

Apologies: Eleanor Zhang

Feedback was arranged by the reps via a digital survey and in-person informal chats. Overall, 17 students were surveyed which is slightly less than half the cohort of 41 students.

Feedback from digital questionnaire (5 respondents)

- Most respondents found FEAP to be their most useful course with Social Anthropology, Reading English Literature and Politics also being enjoyed by the respondents.
- Respondents reported finding Living and Learning in Britain to be their least useful course. There was no indication as to why.
- Most respondents feel satisfied with the student support systems.

Feedback from in-person chats (12 students)

- Some students expressed concern about the allocation of students to FEAP Entry and Plus streams on the basis of IELTS
Anya: Students are classes into FEAP classes according to whether they meet the English Language conditions for their undergraduate programmes. The diagnostic writing supports the teachers' understanding of student skills.
- Some students felt the order of learning about assessments was incorrect given that the Philosophy presentation takes place in Term 1 when FEAP presentation skills are taught in Term 2.
Anya: We gave a session on Living and Learning in Britain on presentation skills to meet this need and students were given the opportunity to practise this skill with an independent video presentation task where they worked with peer feedback. As we said in class, this was to support those students on the Philosophy course with the presentation assessment ahead of them.
- Students expressed concern about the impact of strikes on their assessments and asked whether mitigations will happen, for example with deadlines.
Anya: I have sent a couple of emails about this and have sent on the University guidance on the response to strike impacts. I will send another message confirming that no student will be disadvantaged by strike action.
- Students felt the breaks between some classes were not long enough.
Anya: to maintain choice in optional courses, the IFP timetable is closely packed and it's not always possible to leave long gaps between classes due to availability of rooms and staff.
- FEAP Entry students expressed concern about the usefulness of AWL in the Disciplines in Term 2.
Anya: AWL in the Disciplines is always key to the developing skills of students in Term 2 in our Entry stream. If students have questions about AWL and how it links to their development, they can chat to their FEAP teachers.
- FEAP Entry B students expressed their disappointment at the change in teacher their class have experienced in Term 2.
Anya: Staffing for FEAP is done by English Language Education and this change of teacher was necessary for operational reasons. It was also felt that Group B would manage this

change well. Changes like these will happen often during undergraduate study so this is a good skill to have.

- Some of the new students on Ideas and Concepts expressed concern about being sent assignments in advance of classes and felt confused about how to prepare.

Anya: Robbie, Susie and Stephen are always happy to answer questions about tasks and assignments on Ideas and Concepts and students should always check with them if they have questions about aspects of the course.

Any other business

- Anya asked Salman to chat with Eleanor and the cohort about the possibility of a Term 2 social event to celebrate the end of the Winter term. Salman promised to report back.