

Work on the undergraduate supervision system: Lent Term 2024 progress report

This second progress report follows that made in [Michaelmas Term 2023](#). It summarises the progress made to [the programme of work](#) addressing matters raised by the “Justice for College Supervisors” (J4CS) campaign, regarding the undergraduate supervision system.

Nine meetings between College representatives and J4CS campaigners have been held since the call for a supervision boycott in July 2023. We believe these meetings are very constructive and informative, as shown in [the jointly agreed statements following each meeting](#).

Progress of the programme of work

1. On 12 January a **supervisor workload survey** to gather evidence to support the programme of work was circulated to those who supervised in 2022/23 and/or in Michaelmas Term 2023. The survey closed on 9 February, receiving 1,878 responses (representing 39% of the average number of supervisors in an academic year). An initial report of the survey’s results will be published as soon as it is available.
2. The Senior Tutors’ Committee (16 February 2024) approved requirements for each College to create a webpage providing **public College-specific guidance for supervisors**, including what reporting deadlines should be met for prompt payments to supervisors, and when a supervisor can expect to receive payment from the College if they meet those deadlines. **This achievement resolves issue 2 in the J4CS programme of work.**
3. [The Review of Teaching](#) Task and Finish Group (9 February) and the Senior Tutors’ Committee (16 February) approved a set of guidelines to **establish clear boundaries for the work expected of supervisors**, particularly helpful for new supervisors. Departments and Faculties are currently being consulted on the ramifications of the proposed guidelines, for a response by the start of Easter Term 2024, to ensure they can be enacted as soon as possible. **This ongoing work will resolve issue 4 and 5 in the J4CS programme of work.**
4. The Senior Tutors’ Committee (16 February) and Bursars’ Committee (29 February) endorsed a proposed structure for a **new transparent and justifiable payment rate methodology** for undergraduate supervisions. This work is the subject of active and ongoing development. **This work will resolve issue 1 in the J4CS programme of work.**

Immediate next steps

1. Data gathered from the supervisor workload survey will support various short- and long-term projects by the Colleges and Review of Teaching. **Further survey reports will be created**, examining the data in greater detail.
2. Work to explore feasible options for clarifying **the employment status for all types of supervisors** will continue to be progressed.
3. The Colleges will continue to **strongly support the work of the Review of Teaching**, to ensure that the supervision system remains sustainable.

Future updates will continue to be sent via the mailing list ucam-college-ug-supervisor-info@lists.cam.ac.uk (please click on the link to register), open to those who have an @cam.ac.uk e-mail address.

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College representatives meeting with the J4CS campaigners
12/03/2024