



Global Student Consultative Forum- South East Asia

Thursday 25 June 2020 Time: 08:00 to 10:00 BST

BlueJeans Conference Call

Attending:	Heting Yang- Lead Representative (HY) Aditi Sodhi- Student Representative (AS) Yong Shern Leong- Student Representative (YSL) Melissa Koay- Student Representative (MK) Zahra Hosseinzadeh Student Representative (ZH)	
Executive Staff:	Quality Manager – Matt Tennant (MT) Senior Quality Executive – Laura Phillips (LP)	Apologies

BlueJeans Details: To join the Meeting:

<https://bluejeans.com/352220594>

To join via Room System:

Video Conferencing System: 199.48.152.152 or bjn.vc

Meeting ID : 352 220 594

To join via phone :

1) Dial: +44.203.608.5256 (UK (London))

(see all numbers - <http://bluejeans.com/numbers>)

2) Enter Conference ID : 352 220 594

Item	Title
1.	Welcome
2.	<p>Notes from the last meeting</p> <p>Action regarding communication of exam permits not completed as exams in centres did not go ahead. Advised this would be forwarded to Head of Learning Operations to consider going forward if required.</p> <p>Recruitment for GSCF still ongoing- advised the advert will be published in the next student newsletter to gain some interest. <u>Action for LP to place advert in newsletter</u></p>
3.	Students' Comments
	<p>3.1 Covid 19 Impact</p> <p>Overall students found the IFoA communication on the April exams very positive and they gave thanks to the teams involved. It was noted that other associations were quick to cancel their exam sessions despite having many exams online already and students were pleased the IFoA were able to allow the majority of exams. It was noted that the IFoA could have stated their intention to run exams earlier so students were not left wondering if they would be going ahead or not.</p>
	<p>3.2 Online Exams</p> <p>MT gave an update on the September session and informed the forum that the exams will be held online again and the timetable has been slightly adjusted as a result of the changes to the April exam timetable. The September results will still be available at the usual time however. It was noted that the CS and CM exams will be held online and the examining teams are currently preparing for the online sitting. It was confirmed that, for the September sitting, students will be able to book a preferred cohort time slot when booking their exams, as long there is availability. There will also be further clarification given on students who experience issues uploading papers. The IFoA have given further detail on the open book format.</p> <p>A question was raised about the length of time between the exam and the results being shortened due to the ability to have exam scripts straight away, MT confirmed however, that the additional collusion and plagiarism checks now take place therefore there will be no adjustment to the timetable of the session.</p> <p>The forum also asked if the exams will be held online indefinitely. The IFoA have not made a long term decision on the future of examinations, however, student members were advised it was likely April 2021 will be an online exam.</p> <p>The forum asked if subject pass marks will be adjusted to reflect the issues arising from Covid 19 such as the exams being online and the open book format. MT confirmed the Board of Examiners will take the entire situation into consideration when discussing and setting the pass mark.</p>
	<p>3.6 Work Experience Requirements</p> <p>A specific PPD query was raised and discussed which LP has taken away to action.</p>

Item	Title
	<p>A question regarding PPD stage 2 for new joiners after January 2019 was raised. It was asked why the decision was made for students to now gain the Associateship qualification first. It was noted a scenario where a student may be sitting their last exams which is one early series and one specialist exams. Even if they have more than 36 months' work experience, they will need to qualify as an Associate and then wait a further 12 months before applying for Fellowship which is a delay. It was confirmed the new qualification structure was introduced to allow the Associateship qualification to be recognised more widely and all student joiners after the 2nd January 2019 must follow this route.</p>
3.7	<p>Student Communications</p> <p>HY gave some positive feedback on the webinar events and explained that these were very helpful. ZH also advised that particularly for international students it is well received as it allows members to play back the content of the event in their own time zone. It was noted that most events are held in Staple Inn or UK locations so a lot of international students cannot attend.</p>
4.	<p>Approaches to Studying</p> <p>MT ran through the Approaches to Studying paper that was originally formed for the UK & Ireland SCF meeting, which outlined some changes in trends to how students approach their exam study.</p> <p>HY noted that many South African students report not using ActEd tutorials and a number of employers do not pay for materials. HY also advised that the tutorials are more expensive than Asset and flashcards so students tend not to use them.</p> <p>ZH advised that in New Zealand lots of students buy the ActEd materials and would want to buy the face to face tutorials but can't due to the time difference. Materials tend to be paid for by employers/agencies. Advised the mock exams are particularly useful.</p> <p>YSL advised its very common in Malaysia to buy own materials but confirmed they are good.</p> <p>AS advised another material used is the audio recordings which is particularly useful. A large variation was found in employers paying for materials in some countries and not others in the SE Asia region.</p> <p>It was noted by the forum that the study hours seemed realistic for first time exam takers however it would be useful to see the average time taken to qualify to support the study hour's data.</p>
5.	<p>Employer Support</p> <p>MT asked the forum to provide some insight on the support employers give in the SE Asia region.</p> <p>ZH explained in her industry in New Zealand there is a lot of support however work requirements will always take precedent and must be taken into consideration against the number of exams per sitting a student will take. The remaining forum members all agreed this is typical of employers across the region and study time/leave is usually limited.</p> <p>It was also noted that the timing of the session particularly in September clashes with end of year work which can prove challenging to study effectively.</p> <p>MT advised the forum that employers can nominate someone to be a Student Employer Contact (SEC) which gives the IFoA a direct contact in which to communicate with and can help students in getting extra support. Action for MT to send out details of how to appoint a SEC</p>

Item	Title
	It was noted that the information that the IFoA receive on these topics could be sent out to employers so they are aware of what other organisations offer, it may help adjust the support that employers give. This would particularly help with salaries to give employers a benchmark to work on and it will provide credibility coming from the IFoA. <u>Action for MT to look into this.</u>
6.	Date of next meeting- November 2020



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ACTIONS: 25 June 2020

Item	Action	Action by	Status	Due Date
Actions from meeting 25 June 2020				
1.	Advert will be published in the next student newsletter to encourage more members	LP	Outstanding	
2.	Student Employer Contact (SEC) which gives the IFoA a direct contact in which to communicate with and can help students in getting extra support, details to be sent to Forum members to who they can contact for any guidance and how to appoint an individual to this volunteer role	MT	Outstanding	
3.	Employer support – make other employers aware of what other organisations offer. This would particularly help with salaries to give employers a benchmark to work on and it will provide credibility coming from the IFoA.	MT	Outstanding	
Actions from previous meetings				
4.	None			