



Durham University Laidlaw Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee

On

Tuesday 1st October 2019

Present:

Evan Griffiths, President

James Harrison, Secretary

Péter Vojnits, Events Manager

Lauren Powdrell, Social Secretary

Suzanne Auty, Laidlaw Programme Manager

Lucy Morris, Laidlaw Project Officer

1. Recruitment of Cohort 4 scholars
 - a. The involvement of the Society in the recruitment of Cohort 4 of the programme was stressed.
 - b. There have been key changes to the programme since the recruitment of Cohort 3, and it is important that the recruitment process of Cohort 4 accurately represents the programme as it will be following the changes.
 - i. Different cohorts gave mixed messages to potential applicants last year.
 - ii. A number of students who believed they had been given inaccurate information concerning the programme complained to the university after shortlisting last year.
 - c. It is important that members of the Society helping recruit potential applicants for Cohort 4 do not give any advice on filling in forms.
 - d. The importance of emphasising the current changes to the programme was also stressed:
 - i. There are no longer two research periods in the programme, rather only one.
 - e. It is also important that accurate dates for the different stages of recruitment are given to potential applicants.
 - i. The project team have supplied information sheets for members of the executive committee in order to make these dates clear.
 - f. The project team will also provide a list of example supervisor-defined projects for display to potential applicants at the upcoming freshers' fair.
 - g. Changes to the programme also mean that applicants from any university taking part in the programme will be able to apply for the programme at any of the other partner universities.
 - h. The application deadline of Friday 13th December was emphasised in particular.
2. Changes to the Laidlaw Scholars programme
 - a. The project team also made clear a number of other important changes to the Laidlaw Scholars programme:
 - i. Offers will now be made on a 'conditional' basis, being made 'firm' once all of the relevant programme paperwork has been completed.
 - ii. There will be a much greater firmness on the issue of staying in Durham for the duration of the research period.
 - iii. The Laidlaw Foundation team has stressed the emphasis on leadership for future cohorts.
 - iv. The second summer of the programme will now consist of a 'leadership in action' experience, which may take the following forms:
 1. A 'leadership-based' research project involving some form of leadership role
 2. An internship involving a leadership role
 3. A leadership role in an international programme such as Raleigh International
 - v. There will be a limited number of spaces for both the internship and international options in each cohort: these will be determined by internal competition.

- vi. The Laidlaw Foundation intends to standardise the execution of the programme more fully across all participating universities.
- vii. It is unclear how these changes will affect the experience of Cohort 3.