

Phase 3: LSEs Action Plan to address areas emerging from the Concordat Gap Analysis conducted in September 2010

Background

The embedding of the [Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers](http://www2.lse.ac.uk/intranet/directoriesAndMaps/committeesAndWorkingGroups/researchStaffCommittee/membership.aspx) at the London School of Economics (LSE) has been an extension of existing research staff support provisions at the School. A Research Staff Working Group (RSWG) was initiated in 2007 to look at support provisions for research staff and to provide a forum for stakeholders to participate in consultations on how this work could be further developed. In June 2010 the work of the RSWG was handed over to a Research Staff Committee (RSC) which now has formal oversight for this area. The RSC membership is made up of various stakeholders from the School, including Research Staff, Principal Investigators, Vice-Chair of Appointments Committee (VCAC), Pro-Directors, Heads of Department, Research Centre Directors, Heads of Administrative Divisions (Teaching and Learning Centre and Research Division) and the University and College Union (UCU). Full RSC membership is available here: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/intranet/directoriesAndMaps/committeesAndWorkingGroups/researchStaffCommittee/membership.aspx> Information on Concordat implementation at LSE is available [here](#).

LSE review of support provisions for research staff

The RSC is leading in conducting an analysis of LSE support provisions for research staff in the following phases:

- Phase 1: Completion of HEI survey: Strategies for implementing the Concordat - **COMPLETED April 2010**
- Phase 2: Identifying LSE progress in implementing the Concordat (Gap Analysis) - **COMPLETED September 2010**
- Phase 3: LSE Action Plan to address areas emerging from the Concordat Gap Analysis – **COMPLETED 22 October 2010**
- Phase 4: Internal review in October 2012 to assess progress of actions – **TO COMPLETE IN OCTOBER 2012**

As part of the RSC's analysis of current support provisions for research staff, the Committee has undertaken a gap analysis (Phase 2 of the project) to determine how closely these provisions align with the Principles contained within the Concordat. The Concordat's seven Principles are:

1. Recognition of the importance of recruiting, selecting and retaining researchers with the highest potential to achieve excellence in research.
2. Researchers are recognised and valued by their employing organisation as an essential part of their organisation's human resources and a key component of their overall strategy to develop and deliver world-class research.
3. Researchers are equipped and supported to be adaptable and flexible in an increasingly diverse, mobile, global research environment.
4. The importance of researchers' personal and career development, and lifelong learning, is clearly recognised and promoted at all stages of their career.
5. Individual researchers share the responsibility for and need to pro-actively engage in their own personal and career development, and lifelong learning.
6. Diversity and equality must be promoted in all aspects of the recruitment and career management of researchers
7. The sector and all stakeholders will undertake regular and collective review of their progress in strengthening the attractiveness and sustainability of research careers in the UK.

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Results of Phase 2 Gap Analysis

The Gap Analysis was Phase 2 in assessing the LSE's implementation of the Concordat and it is available [here](#). It identified that the support provisions provided across the School for research staff are closely aligned with the Concordat. However, there are some areas where improvements can be made.

Development of actions to address gaps

The results of the Gap Analysis are feeding into Phase 3 of this project. A two-year Action Plan has been developed from the Gap Analysis and identifies key areas that require further action from the School in order to ensure that it is supporting research staff during their employment at the LSE. The action plan also incorporates themes that have been highlighted through the 2009 Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) as well as the 2009 LSE Staff Survey.


Reviewing actions

A review will take place in October 2012 to assess the progress of actions. Furthermore, interim updates will be provided by each lead area at RSC meetings on a termly basis.

As and when areas are actioned, updates will be made available on the RSC web pages.

<http://www2.lse.ac.uk/intranet/directoriesAndMaps/committeesAndWorkingGroups/researchStaffCommittee/Home.aspx>

I do hope that you will join me in ensuring that good practice is adopted across the School, in line with the Concordat's recommendations.



Professor David Stevenson
Vice-Chair of Appointments Committee

KEY: Research Staff Committee (RSC)
Research Division (RD)
University and College Union (UCU)

Research Committee (RC)
Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS)

Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC)
Principal Investigator (PI)

Human Resources (HR)
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	Action point	Concordat Principles addressed:	Identified by	Lead	Timescale	Status
1	Improve accessibility of research staff information (including role profiles) on LSE website	1, 5	Gap analysis section 1a, feedback from research staff 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	HR/TLC	March 2011	IN PROGRESS
2	Human Resources to look at Recruitment procedures to ensure alignment with Concordat. <i>(Concordat to also be taken into account for future procedures).</i>	1	Gap analysis section 1c	HR	March 2011	IN PROGRESS Recommendations have been submitted to RSC June 2010, 2 nd draft will be considered at RSC 24 November 2010 meeting.
3	Development of workshops for new Principal Investigators, (Outlining the management responsibilities attached to their role)	1	Gap analysis section 1h, 2i 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	TLC/RSC/HR	June 2011	
4	Finalisation of Bridging fund	2, 3, 5	Gap analysis section 2d 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	RD/RC with Pro-Director Research & External Relations	June 2011	IN PROGRESS
5	Review of guidance on research staff promotions procedures.	2, 3, 4	Gap analysis section 2e, 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/HR/RSC	June 2011	
6	Finalisation of Guidance on	1, 2, 3, 4, 5,	Gap analysis section 2f	RSC with	June 2011	

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	Supporting and Managing Research Staff	6, 7	2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	support from a subgroup of the RSC, HR, TLC, RD, VCAC		
7	Finalisation of Guidance on Annual Review meetings for research staff	2, 4,	Gap analysis section 2h, 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/RSC/HR	June 2011	
8	Review of intellectual property policy (which will include research staff)	3, 4	Gap analysis section 3/4c	RD/RC with Pro-Director Research & External Relations	June 2011	IN PROGRESS
9	Finalisation of LSEs redeployment process (which will include research staff)	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4d 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	HR	June 2011	IN PROGRESS
10	Increase research staff engagement e.g. via establishment of a research staff forum, encouraging attendance at relevant events etc.	3, 4	Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	TLC/RSC	June 2011	
11	Review of research staff inductions	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4b 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	TLC	July 2011	
12	Finalisation of research staff mentoring guidance	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/RSC/HR/ TLC	June 2011	

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13	Periodic review of research staff review periods to ensure it complies with good employment practice	1,2,3,4,6	Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme UCU (via RSC)	VCAC/RSC/HR	June 2012	
14	Approval of updated research staff contribution pay guidance	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/RSC/HR	June 2011	
15	Research staff themes emerging from 2009 CROS and Staff Survey will be incorporated within the School's Concordat Action Plan	6, 7	Gap analysis section 7c RSC, 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey	RSC/TLC	November 2010	COMPLETE 2009 CROS & Staff Survey themes have been identified. Areas of concern have been included within the Action plan.
16	A review in October 2012 to assess the progress of actions.	ALL	RSC, Action Plan	RSC	October 2012	

London School of Economics (LSE) October 2010

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