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 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.

KEY: 
- Research Staff Committee (RSC)
- Research Committee (RC)
- Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC)
- Human Resources (HR)
- University and College Union (UCU)
- Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS)
- Principal Investigator (PI)
- Vice-Chair of Appointments Committee (VCAC)

Last updated: 25 October 2010
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](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.

D. Stevenson

Professor David Stevenson
Vice-Chair of Appointments Committee

KEY: Research Staff Committee (RSC) Research Committee (RC) Teaching & Learning Centre (TLC) Human Resources (HR)
Research Division (RD) Careers in Research Online Survey (CROS) Principal Investigator (PI)
University and College Union (UCU) Vice-Chair of Appointments Committee (VCAC)

Last updated: 25 October 2010
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action point</th>
<th>Concordat Principles addressed:</th>
<th>Identified by</th>
<th>Lead</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Improve accessibility of research staff information (including role profiles) on LSE website</td>
<td>1, 5</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 1a, feedback from research staff 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme</td>
<td>HR/TLC</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Human Resources to look at Recruitment procedures to ensure alignment with Concordat. (<em>Concordat to also be taken into account for future procedures</em>).</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 1c</td>
<td>HR</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Development of workshops for new Principal Investigators, (Outlining the management responsibilities attached to their role)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 1h, 2i 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme</td>
<td>TLC/RSC/HR</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Finalisation of Bridging fund</td>
<td>2, 3, 5</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 2d 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme</td>
<td>RD/RC with Pro-Director Research &amp; External Relations</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Review of guidance on research staff promotions procedures.</td>
<td>2, 3, 4</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 2e, 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme</td>
<td>VCAC/HR/RSC</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Finalisation of Guidance on</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5,</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 2f</td>
<td>RSC with</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting and Managing Research Staff</strong></td>
<td>6, 7</td>
<td>2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme</td>
<td>support from a subgroup of the RSC, HR, TLC, RD, VCAC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finalisation of Guidance on Annual Review meetings for research staff</strong></td>
<td>2, 4,</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 2h, 3/4e</td>
<td>VCAC/RSC/HR</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review of intellectual property policy (which will include research staff)</strong></td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 3/4c</td>
<td>RD/RC with Pro-Director Research &amp; External Relations</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finalisation of LSEs redeployment process (which will include research staff)</strong></td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 3/4d</td>
<td>HR</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase research staff engagement e.g. via establishment of a research staff forum, encouraging attendance at relevant events etc.</strong></td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 3/4e</td>
<td>TLC/RSC</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Review of research staff inductions</strong></td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 3/4b</td>
<td>TLC</td>
<td>July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finalisation of research staff mentoring guidance</strong></td>
<td>3, 4</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 3/4e</td>
<td>VCAC/RSC/HR/TLC</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Periodic review of research staff review periods to ensure it complies with good employment practice</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,6</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme UCU (via RSC)</td>
<td>VCAC/RSC/HR</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Approval of updated research staff contribution pay guidance</td>
<td>3,4</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme</td>
<td>VCAC/RSC/HR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Research staff themes emerging from 2009 CROS and Staff Survey will be incorporated within the School’s Concordat Action Plan</td>
<td>6, 7</td>
<td>Gap analysis section 7c RSC, 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey</td>
<td>RSC/TLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>A review in October 2012 to assess the progress of actions.</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>RSC, Action Plan</td>
<td>RSC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

London School of Economics (LSE)
October 2010