

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 (Section 1 2010-12) – **COMPLETED 22 October 2010**

Phase 4: Internal review by December 2012 to assess progress of actions – **COMPLETED via RSC 31 October 2012**

Phase 5: Renewed set of actions (Section B - 2012-14) – **COMPLETED 12 December 2012**

Phase 6: 4 year review by Vitae/European Commission – **TO COMPLETE BY 12 DECEMBER 2014**

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.

Results of 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 onwards of this project. A two-year Action Plan has been developed from the Gap Analysis, highlighting 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) and the 2009 LSE Staff Survey, as well as other areas identified through the RSC.

Reviewing actions

An internal review will take place every two years 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

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University and College Union (UCU)

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Section A: First set of action points for 2010-12

	Action point	Concordat Principles addressed	Identified by	Lead	Timescale	Status (at 6 June 2012)	Links to further information:
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 Extended: July 2012	IN PROGRESS (ongoing)	Currently working on combining LSE Research Staff pages with specific areas of TLC and HR pages.
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	COMPLETE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruiting Research Staff ▪ Single Nominations and Named Researchers
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	COMPLETE	Information for research managers and supervisors Guidance on Supporting and Managing Research Staff Responsibilities in the Research Relationship
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 Extended: March 2012	COMPLETE	LSE Bridging Fund scheme for research staff
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 Extended: March 2012	COMPLETE	

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6	Finalisation of Guidance on Supporting and Managing Research Staff	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Gap analysis section 2f 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	RSC with support from a subgroup of the RSC, HR, TLC, RD, VCAC	June 2011	COMPLETE	Guidance on Supporting and Managing Research Staff
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/RS C/HR	June 2011	COMPLETE Now referred to as Annual Career Development Review Meeting	Support for Career and Professional Development
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 Extended: July 2012	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 Extended: July 2012	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 Extended: July 2012	COMPLETE	Research Staff Association
11	Review of research staff inductions	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4b 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	TLC	July 2011	COMPLETE	Research Staff Inductions
12	Finalisation of research staff mentoring guidance	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/RS C/HR/TLC	June 2011	COMPLETE	Support for Career and Professional Development

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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/RS C/HR	June 2012		This matter is being considered by JNCC as procedures are applicable to other staff groups- in conjunction with updated T&Cs handbooks.
14	Approval of updated research staff contribution pay guidance (ASRTCC)	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/RS C/HR	June 2011 Extended: July 2012	COMPLETE	Rewarding Support, Research and Teaching Staff
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 by December 2012 to assess the progress of actions.	ALL	RSC, Action Plan	RSC	October 2012		

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Section B: Second set of action points for 2012-14 (including items carried over from Section A)

	Action point	Concordat Principles addressed	Identified by	Lead	Timescale	Current Status
ITEMS OUTSTANDING FROM 2010-2012						
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	July 2013	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	July 2013	IN PROGRESS
AREAS FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN 2012-2014						
17	Improve accessibility of research staff information on LSE website	1, 5	Gap analysis section 1a, feedback from research staff 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	HR/TLC	July 2014	IN PROGRESS (ongoing)
18	Human Resources to continue to ensure alignment with Concordat in all future Recruitment procedures.	1	Gap analysis section 1c	HR	Ongoing	
19	To continue to monitor the research staff promotions procedures	2, 3, 4	Gap analysis section 2e, 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/HR/RSC	Ongoing	IN PROGRESS
20	RSC to have oversight of 'Guidance on Supporting and Managing Research Staff'	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Gap analysis section 2f 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	RSC with support from HR, TLC, RD, VCAC	Ongoing	
21	RSC to continue to monitor Guidance on Annual Review meetings for research staff (<i>now referred to as Annual Career Development Review Process</i>)	2, 4,	Gap analysis section 2h, 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/RSC/HR	Ongoing	

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22	RSC to continue to monitor research staff mentoring guidance	3,4	Gap analysis section 3/4e 2009 CROS, 2009 LSE Staff Survey theme	VCAC/RSC/HR/TLC	Ongoing	
23	RSC subgroup to develop CROS/PIRLs 2013	6, 7	RSC	RSC/TLC	March 2013	IN PROGRESS
24	REF awareness raising amongst research staff	1, 2, 6	RSC, Professor Corbridge	Professor Corbridge/RC	Ongoing until REF 2014	IN PROGRESS
25	Training and support for new mentors	3, 4	RSC	RSC/TLC	June 2014	
26	A review in December 2014 to assess the progress of actions.	ALL	RSC, Action Plan	RSC	December 2014	

Original Action Plan Finalised: October 2010
Last progress review: October 2012 (RSC)
Last updated: 10 December 2012

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