∜®≝� UNIVERSITY OF HULL

HR Excellence in Research Action Plan

2018-20 26th January 2018

Principle 1: RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION					
Recognition of the importance of recruiting, selecting and	retaining researchers with the highest potential to achieve excellen	ce in research.			
ub principle	Action	Lead	Supported by:	Success Criteria	Timescale
2. Employers should strive to attract excellence and espect diversity (see Principle 6). Recruitment and velection procedures should be informative, transparent and open to all qualified applicants regardless of packground. Person and vacancy specifications must clearly identify the skills required for the post and these equirements should be relevant to the role.	Recruitment processes must reflect the University's standard on diversity and inclusion and appropriate to research recruitment (clear specification, etc) Advice to PIs on naming researchers at the point of application for funding is consistently applied in line with University Recruitment and Selection policies.	HRD Deans	HR Resourcing ADR, DOR	Recruitment and selection in line with funding council requirements and University commitment to E&D. E&D reports to evidence delivery of action.	Annual review, Sept 2018, 2019 Annual Review, Dec 2018, 2019
. To assure fairness, consistency and the best assessment	University recruitment processes to be fully applied to all roles	HRD	HR Resourcing	All Chairs of panels to have had	Ongoing as new chairs appointed
A rotation of the candidates' potential, recruitment and progression panels should reflect diversity as well as a range of experience and expertise. In order to promote these values, individuals who are members of recruitment and	sense of the sense			appropriate training.	
promotion panels should have received relevant recent rraining. Unsuccessful applicants should be given appropriate feedback if requested as this may be of assistance to the researcher in considering their further	All recruitment panel members receive training before taking part in recruitment	HRD	HR Resourcing	Online training registers maintained by L&D	Ongoing as new panel members appointed
areer development.	Review the need for further training on providing tailored feedback to unsuccessful candidates	HRD	HR Resourcing	When requested, unsuccessful candidates are provided with appropriate constructive feedback tailored to the role and aligned to the RDF.	Annual Review, Sept 2018,2019
Principle 2: RECOGNITION AND VALUE	g organisation as an essential part of their organisation's human res	ourses and a key component o	f their overall strategy to develop and deliv	ar world class research	
Sub principle		Lead	Supported by:	Success Criteria	Timescale
. Employers are encouraged to value and afford equal	Faculties to continue to work towards ensuring equality of	Deans	HoS	Staff survey (2018) and CROS/PIRLS	Review point Spring 2018,
reatment to all researchers, regardless of whether they re employed on a fixed term or similar contract. In articular, employers should ensure that the development	opportunity across the research employees' experience.		ADRs	2019 will demonstrate improving scores in perceptions of equality of opportunity.	
of researchers is not undermined by instability of employment contracts. This approach should be embedded throughout all departmental structures and systems.				Responses to CROS survey questions relating to being fairly treated at work, with access to training and development, increase to an average of 85% positive responses.	CRO52019
	Ensure evidence from training records available for researchers on both Continuing and Fixed Term Contracts.	Head of L&D		Research staff can be clearly identified in the I-Trent database and their training records reviewed.	Annual Review Sept 2018 and 20
	HR Partners to conduct spot check audits of 10% of researchers' records to ensure that attendance on development courses is not undermined by stability in working contract.	HR Partners		Researchers will have similar training records to other members of staff in terms of total hours of training	Annual review Sept 2018 and 201

3. Research managers should be required to participate in	To provide leadership and management skills training (including	Head of L&D	ADRs	Annual review of L&D course provision	Annual review 01/02/2018,
active performance management, including career	equality and diversity training) for research managers,				01/02/2019
development guidance, and supervision of those who	acknowledging existing areas of good practice.				
work in their teams. Employers should ensure that					
research managers are made aware of, and understand					
their responsibilities for the management of researchers					
and should provide training opportunities, including				Records show 85% compliance with	Annual review, Sep 2018,2019
equality and diversity training, to support research				equality and diversity training	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
managers in doing this. Institutions will wish to consider					
how research managers' performance in these areas is					
developed, assessed and rewarded, and how effectively	Ensure all research managers attend leadership and management	Deans	ADRs	Recently appointed Research Managers	Review 01/12/2018,01/12/2019
this supports good research management.	skills courses			invited and enrolled in the	
				Leadership@hull development	
				programme	
					an /na /aana an /na /aana
				Create and review take-up of offer and	01/12/2018, 01/12/2019
				attendance records.	
	Assess use of new appraisal process (SPDR) to ensure that it helps	HRD		Annual review of training for reviewers.	01/07/2018, 2019
	manage performance and in particular how managers are assessed,			Annual monitoring of appraisal	
	developed and rewarded.			compliance	
				Improved satisfaction ratings with	
				appraisal (CROS/PIRLS2019)	CROS/PIRLS2019
		Head of L&D			3 events per year
	materials to determine whether a specific research induction plan			central event and materials updated as	
	should be created for Researchers. (See also Principle 3&4:10)			appropriate	

4. Organisational systems must be capable of supporting	Make researchers more aware of access to advice and guidance	Head of Careers and	Head of L&D	Number of enquiries and outcomes	01/09/2018
	provided by Careers and Employability and to potential funding from	Employability Service	HR Partner Team	recorded	
between grants, other schemes for supporting time	the University internship scheme.				
between grant funding, or systems for redeploying			Deans; CSG	Careers advisor co-delivers appropriate	Annual review
researchers within organisations where resources allow.				L&D events	
Funders are expected to make it a priority to consider how					
	Investigate the potential for University to set up a bridging	PVC R&E	CFO	Potential established and funding	01/12/2018
	fund(time limited) to support continuity			stream identified	
				Fund established	01/12/2019
	Reward and recognise excellence in research through Staff	HR Partner Team		0	01/12/2018, 2019
	Excellence Scheme			through scheme, including number of	
additional pay progression. Promotion opportunities				nominations	
should be transparent, effectively communicated and	Ensure appropriate use of Employee Recognition Scheme	Head of PSOD		University Staff Survey (2018) and CROS	2018 2019
open to all staff. It is helpful if clear career frameworks for				and PIRLS surveys (2019) will	2010, 2013
early stage researchers are outlined in organisational HR				demonstrate increase in satisfaction	
strategies.				through measures of recognition.	
				5	

Principle 4: The importance of researchers' personal and	career development, and lifelong learning, is clearly recognised and	promoted at all stages of their	career.		
Sub principle	Action	Lead	Supported by:	Success Criteria	Timescale
2. A wide variety of career paths is open to researchers, and the ability to move between different paths is key to a successful career. It is recognised that this mobility brings great benefit to the UK economy and organisations will,	To evaluate the current trial of offering PDRA posts in specialised areas across the institution where clusters of researchers work together on emerging research themes identified as important to the University, with the aim to better balance research groups.	R&E	Deans ADRs; Institute Directors	Researchers feel more integrated into University Research culture as measured by CROS2019	CROS2019
herefore, wish to be confident that their culture supports a broad-minded approach to researcher careers and that all career paths are valued equally.				PDRA numbers increase Research outputs increased	Annual Faculty reports, Sep 2018 2019
3. Employers, funders and researchers recognise that esearchers need to develop transferable skills, delivered hrough embedded training, in order to stay competitive n both internal and external job markets. Therefore, as well as the necessary training and appropriate skills, competencies and understanding to carry out a funded project, researchers also need support to develop the communication and other professional skills that they will	Continue to enhance the portfolio of researcher development opportunities. Develop/enhance existing professional skills programme for researchers (not research skills) to allow professional development.	Head of L&D Head of L&D		Year on year increase in range of activity Data available to analyse impact Content of portfolio influenced by researchers Professional skills programme developed and implemented.	Annual review Sept by L&D to CS Programme reviewed 01/02/201 2019
need to be both effective researchers and highly-skilled professionals in whatever field they choose to enter.	Monitor Digital Capabilities project to identify areas of development for researchers			Areas of development for researchers identified and incorporated into programme	01/02/2019
	Launch revised programme	Head of L&D	R&E	Revised programme launched	1 September 2018, 2019.
	Evaluate revised programme using interim review and survey.	Head of PSOD	Head of L&D	Positive evaluations of events in research portfolio.	01/12/2018,2019
5. Employers should provide a planned induction programme for researchers, on appointment to a research post, to ensure early effectiveness through the understanding of the organisation and its policies and procedures. They should also ensure that research managers provide effective research environments for the raining and development of researchers and encourage them to maintain or start their continuous professional levelopment	Please see Principle 2:3 Explore barriers to participation in development events and opportunities	CSG to commission	Head of L&D	Evidence collected and reported to CSG via ADRs, including CROS2019 and focus groups Greater take up of development opportunities	
	Assess research environment and develop improvement plans	Deans	ADRs	Increased satisfaction with access to training and development opportunities in results of CROS and PIRLS survey 2019	CROS/PIRLS 2019
	Use Staff Perfomance and Appraisal Review to encourage professional development	HRD	ADRs/HoS/PIs	Monitor staff appraisal take-up (HR figures via iTrent) and researchers' response to appraisal (Staff Survey Spring 2018, CROS 2019)	01/12/2018, 2019
	Investigate the use of induction programmes within Faculties and share good practice across the Institution	Head of L&D	HoS	Induction programmes review and good practice disseminated	Sep-19

7. Employers and funders will wish to consider articulating the skills that should be developed at each stage of their staff development frameworks and should encourage researchers to acquire and practice those skills. For example, researchers may be given the opportunity to manage part of the budget for a project, or to act as a mentor or advisor to other researchers and students.	Continue to promote RDF to researchers and their research leaders as a useful tool to plan and action development as a researcher. Integrate with new "on-boarding" processes. Include appropriate content within updated performance management training. Include discussion of career development in the annual appraisal process	Head of L&D HOSs	ADRs	RDF used to identify skills sets required by individual researchers and consideration given to the opportunities that can be made available to support acquisition of those skills Increased take up of RDF licenses Feedback from annual appraisal process Increased satisfaction with appraisal process evidenced in CROS 2019	Annual review of RDF licences in Jan 2018, 2019
8. Employers also should provide a specific research career development strategy for researchers at all stages of their career, regardless of their contractual situation, which should include the availability of mentors involved in providing support and guidance for the personal and professional development of researchers. All researchers should be familiar with such provisions and arrangements.	As part of the revised training programme for researchers, review the current mentoring arrangements to ensure research specific requirements are catered for.	CSG	L&D	Researchers have access to a flexible and appropriate mentoring scheme that enables with career development.	Dec-18
	To work with the HR business partners to identify career pathways for Researchers and actions to implement.	HR Partner Team	DoR ADRs Head of L&D	Potential career pathways are clearly articulated	Dec-18
	Creation of career development frameworks for researchers	HR business partner		Career development frameworks created and made available	Jul-19
9. Research managers should actively encourage researchers to undertake Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activity, so far as is possible within the project. It should be stressed that developmental activity can often have a direct impact on the success of the project, by distributing work, taking advantage of individual strengths and talents, and increasing the skill	Researchers are able to access support to discuss CPD activity and have access to formal development as required. (See also Principle 3&4:6)	Deans	ADRs;Pls, HoDs	Improved responses in both CROS and PIRLS surveys, e.g. number of days used for CPD activity, increased satisfaction with appraisal process	01/09/2018,2019
and effectiveness of researchers in key areas such as writing for publication or communicating with a wider audience. Funding bodies acknowledge that the training of researchers is a significant contribution to research output and they encourage employers and mentors to adopt these practices.	Revised training programme for researchers to have clearly articulated learning pathways and to clarify training that is: - Must have/do - Optional - Enhanced	Head of L&D		Compliance with mandatory training monitored and reviewed. Evaluation of optional events demonstrates relevance.	01/09/2018,2019
				Evaluation of relevance 75% positive on feedback forms	
development and career direction options as well as taking personal responsibility for their choices at the appropriate times. Employers should introduce appraisal systems for all researchers for assessing their professional performance on a regular basis and in a transparent manner. It is important that researchers have access to	Use Staff Performance and Development Review in a flexible way to accommodate specific needs of researchers to enable a meaningful process (see also action 2.3)	HRD	Deans,ADRs, HoDs, PIs and L&D	Increased satisfaction with the value of appraisal in results of CROS and PIRLS survey 2019 e.g. to 70% as useful overall for both groups.	CROS/PIRLS 2019
honest and transparent advice on their prospects for success in their preferred career.	Assess the level of interest in forming a new Research Staff Association (RSA) and, if there is a demand, initiate the process of setting one up.	Head of L&D		Requirement for RSA assessed. Set up with help from L&D if required	01/07/2018 01/12/2018

12. Employers will ensure that where researchers are	Continue to provide learning and teaching training and support for	Director of L&TE	L&D	Take-up and value evaluated	01/12/2018,2019
provided with teaching and demonstrating opportunities	researchers with teaching and demonstrating opportunities.			successfully, reported to CSG	
as part of their career development, suitable training and					
support is provided.					
14. Mentoring arrangements should be supported by	Monitor uptake of coaching opportunities by research staff,	Head of L&D		Increase in take-up of offer by	01/12/2018,2019
employers as a key mechanism for career development	including internal offer by L&D and through the Yorkshire Accord			researchers.	
and enhancement.	Scheme				
	Research mentoring schemes will be implemented across all	Deans	ADRs	All Faculties will have research	01/12/2018, 2019
	faculties in 2018.			mentoring schemes in place. Monitored	
				annually.	

	ed to pro-actively engage in their own personal and career developr				
Sub principle	Action	Lead	Supported by:	Success Criteria	Timescale
 Researchers are employed to advance knowledge and should exercise and develop increased capacity for independent, honest and critical thought throughout their careers. 	Continue to monitor the implementation of the action plan for the Concordat to Support Research Integrity	CSG	Deans; R&E GS; ADRs to communicate action plan to faculties	Local areas report on progress to URC via CSG	01/09/2018,2019
	Launch online Research Integrity Module	Head of L&D CSG		Module launched	01/02/2018
				Take up by all researchers complete	31/12/2018
				University able to evidence compliance to HEFCE	Ongoing
	Researchers output to be monitored on an annual basis to ensure that output does not diminish over time	Deans	ADR	Individuals research outputs are maintained over sustained periods - monitored by Annual Research Report within Faculties. Information recorded in data management system WORKTRIBE	Ongoing
 Researchers should develop their ability to transfer and exploit knowledge where appropriate and facilitate its use in policy making and the commercialisation of research for the benefit of their employing organisation, as well as the wider society and economy as a whole 	of commercialising research and knowledge transfer	Head Comercialisation; FBDM	Deans, ADRs, L&D, HR to promote through their existing processes and programmes	Increased awareness and opportunities to take part as measured in CROS survey to achieve 75% for awareness.	01/09/2018,2019
	Researchers encouraged to consider impact when preparing grant applications	ADR	HoS	No of applications including effective reference to impact as monitored within Faculties	01/12/2018,2019
	Review training on making grant applications, included as part of revised training programme for researchers	Head of L&D	R&E	Continued inclusion of funding workshops in programme for researchers	01/09/2018,2019
ethical manner and to contribute to the wider body of	CSG to identify clear measures to evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of Concordat to Support Research Integrity	CSG	ADRs	Measures and training required under Concordat are delivered	Annual Review 2018,2019
nowledge	Clear dissemination of good practice policies on website	Marcomms	CSG	University website and intranet contains up to date and relevant material	Annual Review 2018,2019
	Online Research Integrity module launched Feb 2018 to be supported by Faculty-led initiatives	L&D	R&E	All researchers have completed course	Annual review Dec 2018,2019
5. Researchers should recognise that the primary responsibility for managing and pursuing their career is theirs. Accordingly, they should identify training needs and actively seek out opportunities for learning and development in order to further that career and take personal responsibility for their choices. Research managers and employers also have a responsibility	Communicate the expectations of the University that researchers should be proactive in engaging with their career development through SPDR and L&D workshops	HRD	Deans,ADRs, HoDs, PIs and L&D	Effectiveness of message evaluated using data analytics and results of the Staff Survey 2018, CROS 2019	2018, 2019

6. Researchers should ensure that their career	Use of RDF as a method of recording CPD is promoted as part of	CSG	ADRs/L&D	Increased take-up of RDF licences. CSG	Annual Review of RDF licences Jan
development requirements and activities are regularly	revised performance management process.			to support this programme and review	2018; 2019.
discussed, monitored and evaluated throughout the year				uptake data with data from L&D as	
in discussion with their research manager and mentor, and				administrators of the RDF	
that they commit themselves fully to all such activities.					
Researchers are encouraged to record their Personal					
Development Planning (PDP) and CPD activities, a log of	Enhance the appraisal system to act as a trigger for career	HRD		Higher take up of RDF licenses (as	Dec 2019; 2019
which may be presented to current and future employers	development discussion and recording of the conversations using			reported to CSG annually)	
as appropriate.	the RDF.				

rinciple 6: DIVERSITY AND EQUALITY					
Diversity and equality must be promoted in all aspects of	•				
	Action	Lead	Supported by:	Success Criteria	Timescale
JK research community actively address the disincentives ind indirect obstacles to retention and progression in	Impact assess university wide initiatives and incentives for identifying, retaining and developing researchers for report to URC via CSG. Ensure synergy with Athena SWAN to complement the work being done across the University.	Head of ED&I Head of ED&I	Deans HR; ADRs,Faculty AS champions	Review completed, evaluation made and actioned Measure as part of relevant surveys e.g. CROS and PIRLS	To meet Athena SWAN review timescales CROS/PIRLS 219
	Continued development of positive research environments where flexibility is encouraged and awareness of individual challenges can be accommodated.	Deans	ADRS	Positive data from Staff Survey suggesting more flexible responses are made (e.g. fewer individuals identify problems). Research staff clearly identified in survey responses.	Jul-18
Actioning parentan leave, have worked part-time, or have aken atypical routes into research, the "early career" period may be prolonged, and this may be a time where he risk of attrition from the research path is most acute. Vorking conditions should allow both female and male esearchers to combine family and work, children and areer.				Data from CROS and PIRLS 2019 suggest increasingly positive and increasingly similar attitudes to their employment experience	CROS/PIRLS 2019
areer.			HR partners	Monitor records of flexible working requests and outcomes	Annual review, Dec 2018, 2019
	Ensure alignment with Athena SWAN action plan	Head of ED&I		returning-to-work fellowship programmes	Review annually. Promote as opportunities present. 01/07/2018,2019
chemes such as the Athena SWAN Charter, the Juno	The University has been awarded the Athena SWAN Bronze Award. The University signed up to University wide applications for departments or schools	HoDs		Number and success of departmental or school applications	Ongoing annual review Sept 201 2019

The sector and stakeholders will undertake regular and co Sub principle	ollective review of progress in strengthening the attractiveness and s Action	ustainability of research caree Lead	Supported by	Success Criteria	Timescale
1. The implementation of the Concordat's principles will	Develop an explicit communication strategy to ensure greater	Marcomms	CSG	Website and/or intranet populated	Jun-18
lead to greater integration of researchers into the	awareness of the Concordat Agenda	in a commis		with information that is relevant,	Sull 10
mainstream management and career development				accessible and up-to-date	
structures of their employing organisations. The aim of				Use data analytics to evaluate access	September 2018, 2019
this section is to promote implementation through a				and use of site	
collective commitment to reviewing its progress.	Consider any developments arising as a consequence of the	CSG	R&E, L&D	Changes reported to CSG and	2018
	Concordat Review			implications for CSG agenda considered	
4. The signatories recognise the value of innovation in	The University to maintain its membership of the Vitae organisation.	R&E	CSG; Head L&D	Membership retained and use of Vitae	Annual review Sept 2018, 2019
practices and of sharing practice between institutions and				website promoted during Induction and	
aim to promote these throughout the implementation and review process.			cc.	the revised training programme	On and in a
review process.	To maintain a regional and national presence at Vitae events and networks	Head of L&D	GS	Events and networks attended and learning is shared.	Ongoing
	networks			learning is shared.	
The funding signatories will consider aligning their support	To maintain good practice sharing opportunities through the	Head of L&D	GS	Attend NERDS meetings and share	Ongoing, 3-4 meetings per year
for transferable and career development skills. It is	Network of Expert Researcher Developers (NERDS)			learning.	
expected that Vitae, the national programme dedicated to					
realising the potential of researchers, funded by the Research Councils, will play a major role in innovating,					
sharing practice and enhancing the capability of the sector					
to implement aspects of the Concordat, as well as	To continue to promote and support the use of the RDF to research	Head of L&D	HR ADR CSG GS	On boarding material for staff and	Annual Review Dec 2018; 2019
establishing strategic partnerships between funders.	students and staff and include in on boarding material for both staff			students include information on the	
	and students.			RDF and its use in career	
				planning/development.	
5. Under public sector equality schemes, employers are	Continue to take part in the national CROS and PIRLS surveys	CSG to commission	L&D	Surveys conducted and outcomes	CROS/PIRLS 2019
required to monitor equality and diversity indicators for				presented to URC and used to inform	
their researchers. This section focuses on the co- ordination and enhancement of existing information		CCC to commission	ADRs	future planning.	A
	Develop the use of focus groups to add additional insights to survey data across the University and through networks with other HEIs	CSG to commission	ADRS	Researchers are consulted on pertinent and relevant issues relating to research	As required for specific purposes
s a strong presumption that in implementing the	data across the oniversity and through networks with other riefs			across the University and beyond.	
Concordat, significant emphasis will be placed on the use					
of existing data and information sources and on the					1
sharing of good practice between institutions and to	Equality and Diversity data presented to URC for profiling of	Head of ED&I	URC	Where ED&I data highlights trends	Annual review, Date
provide evidence of its impact.	researchers and impact/risk assessment.			which require further investigation,	CROS/PIRLS 2019
			HR Services Team	action is then taken to address the relevant issues.	
	Integration of activities with Athena SWAN	Head of ED&I		Limited additional datasets	Annual review, Sep 2018, 2019
	Integration of activities with Athena SWAN	Head of ED&I		Limited additional datasets	Annual review, Sep 2018, 2

ADE	Associate Dean for Engagement
ADR	Associate Dean for Research
All	Academic Investment Initiative
CROS17	Careers in Research Online Survey 2017
CSG	Concordats Steering Group
DoR	Director of Research
ED&I	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team
FG	Focus Group
FTC	Fixed term contract
FBDM	Faculty Business Development Managers
GS	Graduate School
HoS	Head of School

HR	Human Resources
LTE	Directorate for Learning and Teaching Enhancement
L&D	Learning and Development
MARCOMS	Marketing and Communication department
PI	Principal Investigator
PIRLS17	Principal Investigators and Research Leaders Survey 2017
PSOD	Head of People Services and Organisational Development
PVC-RE	Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise
RDF	Vitae Researcher Development Framework
REF	Research Excellence Framework
R&E	Research and Enterprise Team
RIS	Research Information System
R&S	Recruitment and selection
SPDR	Staff Performance and Development Review
UASSG	University Athena Swan Steering Group
UREC	University Research and Enterprise Committee