



Research  
Cultures  
Working  
Group



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# Research Cultures Working Group

- Started in June 2021 as a sub-committee of the Research Strategy Group (previously Research Policy Group)
  - Tasked with developing a Research Culture Action Plan for the University – aiming to launch the action plan in Summer 2022
  - Jane Hillston as Convenor in her role as DVPR and Sara Shinton as Deputy Convenor in her role as Head of Researcher Development in IAD
  - Has an oversight role with respect to the Concordat for Research Career Development and the Technicians Charter (and work related to Research Metrics)
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# Members

- We held an open recruitment process inviting expressions of interest from across the University
- Selected members on the basis of their links into other groups and committees
- Additionally sought to balance roles, career stage, representation across Colleges, etc
- Maintain a wider mailing list of those who expressed interest who we can draw on for dissemination and information gathering

# Ways of working

- The working group meets bi-monthly and has just completed an information gathering stage
- We invited people to come and speak to us about particular issues and then generate potential actions for the Action Plan
- We found that there are sometimes good resources and support available within the University but these are hard to find or access
- We have also looked at other Research Culture Action Plans from other Universities for inspiration

# Ways of working

- We know that this is an area of increasing focus for Government and funders
- There are many existing actions plans already in the University
- We do not aim to duplicate any of these but rather look at them through the lens of researchers, especially early career researchers
- We are seeking to draw upon and learn from the EPSRC Inclusion Matters project, particularly those in which Edinburgh has been a partner.

# Topics discussed

- Results of the Research Culture Survey conducted in July 2020
- Training for PIs particularly for their responsibilities with respect to those that they manage/lead
- Anti-bullying and anti-racist actions
- Support for those with disabilities
- The Talent Register and researcher precarity
- DORA and narrative CVs
- UUK review of effectiveness of Concordats

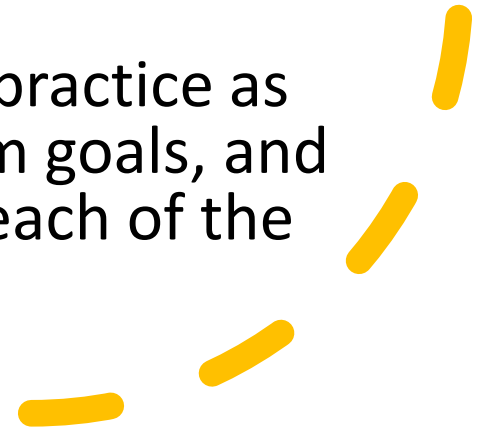
# Research Culture Events

- In the alternate months we organize a Research Cultures event in which we aim to raise awareness of research culture issues.
- So far these have been
  - *Dignity and Respect/Bullying and Harassment (October)*
  - *Research Metrics, incentives and research Integrity (December)*
  - *Career Paths for Researchers (February/March)*

# Research Cultures Action Plan

- The Research Cultures Action Plan is now in preparation and five key themes have been identified:
  - *Research Citizenship*
  - *Wellbeing*
  - *Reward and Recognition*
  - *Career Development*
  - *Responsible Research*

The plan will highlight existing good practice as well as setting medium and long term goals, and the actions to achieve them, within each of the themes.





Thank you!

