

UCML Exec Committee

4th December 2020 14:00–16:00 by Zoom



Item 10o: Early Career Academics

Updates

The New UCML Early Career representative (role beginning October 2020) is Dr Liam Lewis (Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Liverpool; and Balliol College, University of Oxford). This is a new role.

ECA Special Interest Group (SIG)

Co-chairs Dr Hilary Potter and Dr Dominique Carlini-Versini briefed Liam on the key projects for the Early Career Academics Special Interest Group (ECA SIG), including:

1. The mentoring scheme trial and future developments.
2. What the ECA SIG can offer in addition to UCU.
3. An ECA Charter.

1. Mentoring scheme

Key dates: Year-long mentoring partnerships will run Jan-Sept 2021, thereafter from Sept-Sept each year.

Actions:

- Promotion of mentoring scheme among colleagues.
- Promotion of mentoring scheme on social media and listservs for ECAs.

2. Resource Kit for ECAs

The development of a centralised place on UCML website for ML resource sharing on job applications, grants, and book proposals etc. This could also be useful for communicating changes in the ECA environment to established academic staff. A symposium on similar themes is being planned.

Actions:

- Posting information on ECA area of UCML website.

3. ECA Charter

The creation of a charter to be shared among UCML HEI members which will adopt its principles, modelled on Vitae career development framework. Including definition of scholarship, parity of access to research training/support, training for health & safety issues, and standard of training for PGRs. ECA Charter will consider both REF and TEF implications.

Actions:

- Liam to organise canvassing of opinion across the discipline for ECA views and experiences.
- The ECA team plans to send surveys to UG, PGT, ECA, and established academic staff communities to gather data on the impact of short-term, fixed-contract placements and turnover.