

24 March 2014 Issue number 1

From the new Research Staff Office

Hello, and welcome to the very first issue of the Research Staff Newsletter!

I'm Natalie James, the Research Staff Officer in the Research and Enterprise Division. I started working here in January 2014 and am working alongside the newly appointed Director of Research Staff Development, Professor Michelle O'Malley and Assistant Director of the Doctoral School, Paul Roberts to develop policy and projects to improve the experiences of Sussex's 280 strong cohort of research staff. The Research Staff Office is still in its infancy but we hope that by working with you the researchers, the Schools and our colleagues in Professional Services, we can ensure that whatever your discipline and wherever you work on campus, you get the information, support and opportunities you need to develop your career in whatever direction you decide to take it. We are always happy to hear from you on any issue, so if you have something you would like to raise with the Research Staff Office please email me or drop in to see me at Falmer House.



It was great to meet a number of you at our recent Research Staff Forum. It was really useful to hear your feedback on some of the key issues facing researchers at Sussex. We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the next Forum on 4th June and continuing our discussions then.

As part of my role I get sent a large amount of information about news, events, funding and other opportunities relevant to research staff. Rather than sending this out in lots of emails (as I know you already get hundreds!), I will be collecting the information to send to you in the form of the newsletter every few weeks; I hope that you will find this useful. I would be very grateful to receive your feedback on the newsletter and if you have items you would like to contribute to future issues please don't hesitate to send them to me (N.A.James@sussex.ac.uk).

Best wishes, Natalie

Sussex Events:

[Impact and Research Communication](#)
25th March

[Tips to Improve your Academic Writing](#)
26th March

[Scientific journals, peer review and how to write a great research paper](#) 29th April

[Exploring academic writing: for Science researchers](#) 8th May

Research Staff Forum – 4th June

External Events:

[\(SRHE\) Academic Writing Skills](#) 24th April

[\(SHRE\) Writing Retreat](#) 25th April

[\(SHRE\) Preparing Research Proposals](#) 16th May

[Your research career – where next?](#)
2nd June

[ESRC Media Training](#) (various dates)

Funding Opportunities...

Opportunities highlighted here are broad/non-discipline specific only. The information in the links is external and not vetted/monitored by the Research Staff Office. The best place to begin your search for funding opportunities is [Research Professional](#). Your School's [Research Development Officer](#) can provide assistance if you are applying for funding to continue your research here at Sussex.

[2020 Researchers:Train to Move](#), incoming mobility fellowships @ University of Turin, Deadline 5th May 2014

[Talentia Postdoc Fellowships](#), incoming mobility fellowships in Andalusia, Deadline 5th May 2014

[Junior Research Fellowships](#) at Imperial College (Business, Engineering, Medicine and Natural Sciences) (C£30k pa for 3 years) - Sept 14 deadline expected

'Move-in Louvain', incoming mobility fellowships at Université catholique de Louvain (UCL) and two partner institutions Université Saint-Louis and Université de Namur in Belgium. First call to be published 1st Oct 2014 For more information on the call, requirements and conditions please contact :UCL (as coordinator of the project): sara.wilmet@uclouvain.be
www.uclouvain.be



EURAXESS

The University has signed a Declaration of Commitment to join the EURAXESS Service Network as a EURAXESS Contact Point (ECP) for Sussex researchers.

[EURAXESS](#) is a unique European initiative providing access to a complete range of information and support services to EU researchers.

In addition to accessing EURAXESS and information on jobs, relocation and your rights as a researcher; Sussex researchers will be eligible to participate in EURAXESS initiated activities which may include, workshops, conferences, training, placements and exchanges.

If you are a Sussex Researcher with a query that you think that EURAXESS can help you with please email Euraxess@sussex.ac.uk

Research Methods

Liz Ford, research fellow and statistician in BSMS, is interested in starting up a twice-termly seminar on 'innovations in research methods'. If your research involves innovating new methods in any field and you would like to be involved in this seminar series please contact Liz (e.m.ford@bsms.ac.uk). It would be a supportive environment for learning about new methodologies and giving feedback on research in progress.

First Research Staff Forum

On the 11th March, the Research Staff Office hosted the first Research Staff Forum. The Forum is set to become a termly event for researchers to get together over lunch, share experiences and provide feedback to the University on issues affecting early career researchers from across campus. It is also an opportunity to hear talks on a range of topics.

The first forum included an introduction to the work of the new Research Staff Office; a talk from Vitae Hub Coordinator Sarah Robins-Hobden about the support and resources available for researchers from [Vitae](#); and research staff reps from Psychology, Leanne Proops and Rebecca Graber talked about how they are improve the experiences of postdocs in their School. Presentations from the Forum have been circulated with this newsletter.

There was also plenty of lively discussion at the event, with researchers sharing their experiences of applying for funding, managing the difficulties of short term contracts and striking the balance between teaching and research.

The next Research Staff Forum will take place at lunchtime on **Weds 4th June**, and we hope to see many of you there. Further information on location and agenda will be circulated closer to the event.

Government Report Women in STEM

The House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee has recently published its report into '[Women in Scientific Careers](#)'. The report follows an inquiry into *Women in STEM careers*, which commenced on 25th June 2013.

Over 90 written submissions were received and oral evidence was taken from 13 witnesses including academic researchers, diversity and equality groups, universities, research and funding councils and the Government.

The report concludes with specific recommendations for research funders, business, government and higher education institutions on a range of issues relating to the support and retention of women in scientific careers. This includes recommendations relating to the support and professional development of early career researchers.

Research Staff Reps...

The Research Staff Office is looking for research staff representatives to provide feedback, advice and suggestions to the University on policy and practice relating to research staff.

Reps would need to commit to one meeting per term and be willing to represent both their own views and those of their fellow researchers.

If you are interested in acting as a research representative for your school/department or would like further information please contact Natalie James, Research Staff Officer:

N.A.James@sussex.ac.uk

Contributions

If you have an article or information you would like included in the Research Staff Newsletter please send it to N.A.James@sussex.ac.uk