Item 4.d: Early Career Academics

Initiatives

1. ECA Survey & Code of Practice

The ECA SIG has written a Code of Best Practice to be shared among UCML HE members which may adopt its principles, modelled on the Vitae career development framework. The Code includes a definition of ‘Scholarship’ and aims for parity of access to research training/support, training for health & safety issues, and standards of training for PGRs. The Code can be found here:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qQ6U9_VM8dUc9q4xgD9wU1eDEgAm5d4w/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=109290600555977171664&rtpof=true&sd=true

Action required: The Code has been finalised by a steering group made up of four members: Emma Cayley, Liz Wren-Owens, Fransiska Louwagie, and Liam Lewis. The steering group requests that the Executive Committee approves the Code of Best Practice on 15th July 2022, for publication on the UCML website and circulation amongst UCML member institutions.

2. Resource Kit for ECAs

We are developing a centralised space on UCML website for ML resource sharing on job applications, grants, and book proposals etc. This has begun with an update of the ECA SIG members area with details of current members. In April 2022 we ran our first session of the UCML ECA SIG New Research in Modern Languages Seminar Series, which was a success. Recordings of the talks are now available on the UCML ECA SIG webpages.

3. Mentoring scheme

The ECA Support Network continues to host the Mentoring Scheme. The current call for applications to the year-long mentoring scheme for 2022-23 can be found here:

Dr Hannah Scott will be stepping down from coordinating this scheme in summer 2022 and will be replaced by Dr Kate Foster.

It would be very desirable to build our list of mentors further, especially in all areas of German, Italian, and linguistics, and most areas of French studies (though we are fairly well provisioned in contemporary/post-colonial specialisms). Any expressions of interest can be
directed to the scheme’s coordinators, Dr Hannah Scott and Dr Kate Foster, at ecasn.contact@gmail.com

6. Events

The ECA SIG will run a series of workshops this academic year to support ECAs. We will continue to showcase ECA research through our new seminar series to promote new research in all the languages represented in the group.

The ECA SIG will carry on hosting its coffee mornings this term. Our warmest thanks to Liz Wren-Owens, who kindly shared her experience with us during our first coffee morning last term.

Updates

Collaborations with other networks

The ECA team is looking at individual collaborations with other learned societies where there are mutual interests. This includes the British Academy Early-Career Researcher networks.

Decolonisation Workshop

Following some advice from our UCML liaison, plans are underway to develop our work in decolonisation, in order to see how we can reach out to our diverse communities and develop mentoring and support networks/workshops in this area. Any expressions of interest from UCML Executive members to support this work, or help with ideas, are welcome.

Diversity, equity and inclusion

The UCML ECA SIG is a space for all our members to share their ideas, interests and experiences. Membership of the SIG is purely voluntary. As UCML ECA Rep, Liam is keen to sustain equal and diverse representation of the ECA community among the ECA SIG. He is currently developing ideas for this and welcomes the support of UCML colleagues. If members have ideas of initiatives they wish to explore to enhance the group's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, please email Liam.

If you would like to get in touch, please email me at liam.lewis@liverpool.ac.uk

Liam Lewis
22nd April 2022