

Postdoc Champion – Role Descriptor

Role Purpose:

The Postdoc Champion is responsible for supporting and encouraging postdocs to connect with School and wider University initiatives, access relevant support and engage in opportunities relevant to career and professional development.

Main Responsibilities:

- Known contact in the School for postdocs.
- Being a conduit for information on postdoc support, within the School
- Taking a proactive approach to engagement with postdocs and supporting local researcher-led initiatives
- Promotion of local and University wide opportunities for training and development. Liaising with IAD on relevant opportunities
- Liaise with local postdoc societies around local activities/events and help improve the sense of a post-doc community across the school.
 - If no society exists, encouraging the establishment of a postdoc society (the IAD webpages can support this: <https://edin.ac/2tX9Kko>)
- Reporting back to University and School committees, representing the postdoc agenda.
 - Being a member of the Concordat Implementation Group (CIG); aware of the Concordat action plan as a tool to support the career development of postdocs at the University.

Once in post we would encourage, as early as possible, creating an opportunity to listen to and understand the interests and concerns of the Postdocs in the School, and plan actions based on this feedback.

Key Contacts/Relationships:

- Supporting and championing Postdocs in the School
- Working closely with senior management and School colleagues around local initiatives, insights and developments
- Build effective partnerships with other Postdoc Champions around the University
- Engage with the Institute for Academic Development, around development support on offer to Postdocs at the University

Current Postdoc Champions:

Below are some examples of where the current Postdoc Champion have initiated and supported postdoc developments:

School of Biology:

- Development of dedicated postdoc webpages: <https://edin.ac/301kuxM>
- Development of the Postdoc Advisor role: <https://edin.ac/2Q1WULL>
- Careers Event - organised by postdocs
- Postdocs Teams Site run by the School's postdocs

School of Engineering:

- A yearly PDRA symposium, in collaboration with Heriot-Watt University.

Medical School:

- Welcome letter sent to all new staff
- Support for Postdoc Appreciation Week events/roadshow

Informatics:

- Consultation event in the School around Concordat Review

Chemistry:

- Chemistry Live Interview Workshop, two short live mock interviews for an academic (Lecturer) and industrial (R&D Scientist) role, organised in collaboration with IAD, Afton Chemicals, School staff and the Research Staff Society
- Welcome letter is being sent to all new postdocs.