

Annual Report for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers

Funders and Regulators

Name of Institution	Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland)
Reporting period	2022
Date approved by governing body	N/A
Date published online	15 February 2023
Web address of annual report	<u>DFE NI Annual Report for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers 2022</u>
Web address of institutional Researcher Development Concordat webpage	<u>UK higher education research-related concordats Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk)</u>
Contact for questions/concerns on researcher career development	Michael Leonard Paul Murphy/Johanne McCullough
Date statement sent to Researcher Development Concordat secretariat via <u>CDRsecretariat@universitiesuk.ac.uk</u>	15 February 2023

Please provide a statement describing your organisation’s funding / regulatory status, and approach to supporting and embedding positive and inclusive research environments (max 500 words).

The Department for the Economy (DfE NI) provides annual recurrent Quality Review (QR) funding (block grant) to the Northern Ireland Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). In addition, DfE NI funds the following to the HEIs:

- a Post Graduate Award Studentship scheme administered by the HEIs,
- successful projects in agreed supported programmes such as US Ireland R&D partnership programme.
- annual Higher Education Research Capital (HERC) funding

DfE NI does not issue open competitive funding calls for research funding.

DfE NI supports and embeds positive and inclusive research environments by including a requirement for the HEIs to comply with the Concordat as a condition of funding. The HEIs are required to provide assurance via their annual assurance statement that they are complying with the Concordat.

Provide a short summary of the organisation’s strategic objectives and implementation plans for delivering each of the three pillars of the Concordat (environment and culture, employment, and professional development of researchers) together with your measures for evaluating progress and success (*max 600 words*)

DfE NI conducted a gap analysis in December 2021 to compare our policies and practice against the Concordat Principles and identify any actions in respect of the commitments associated with each of the three pillars of the Concordat. In early 2022, as a result of our findings, we ensured that compliance with the principles of the Concordat was included as a condition of funding in the HEIs’ Financial Memorandum and any Letters of Offer issued to the HEIs. The gap analysis will be reviewed annually, and should any further actions be identified, an action plan will be drawn up and published on DfE website.

While DfE NI does not directly evaluate progress on the HEIs compliance with Concordat, the HEIs provide annual assurance that they comply with the principles of the Concordat as a condition of funding. The Department also reviews the HEI websites for evidence of their recent annual reports and implementation plans.

Summary of actions taken (including changes to relevant funding calls, terms and conditions, grant reporting and policies in relation to host organisations and/or grant applicants), and evaluation of progress made, in the current reporting period to implement your plan to support the three pillars (*max 600 words*)

As above

Comment on any lessons learned from the activities undertaken over this period and any modifications you propose to make to your action plan and measures of success as a result (*max 500 words*)

The HEIs Concordat reporting processes are not aligned however the implementation of the new template and submission date should address this going forward.

Outline your key objectives in delivering your plan in the coming reporting period (*max 500 words*)

The Department's gap analysis will be reviewed in 2023 to identify any further actions required and an action plan published if appropriate.

Please provide a brief statement describing your organisation's approval process of this report prior to sign off by the governing body or equivalent authority (*max 200 words*)

This report is approved by the Principal Higher Education Research and Knowledge Exchange Officer.

Signature on behalf of governing body / equivalent authority:



Contact for queries:

This annual report will be analysed by Universities UK, secretariat for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers, to identify good practices, themes for development and information to improve national research culture policy and practice.

If you have any questions, or suggestions on how the reporting process could be improved, please contact the secretariat at CDRsecretariat@universitiesuk.ac.uk www.researcherdevelopmentconcordat.ac.uk