

Terms of Reference 2020

RAISE EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER GROUP

1. Introduction

Participating in extracurricular activities provides opportunities to broaden knowledge and skills into the Higher Education (HE) sector and beyond. Challenges associated with skilled interdisciplinary whilst adapting the transition from student to the early stages of their career highlights the barriers needed to overcome. Interdisciplinarity is collaborative, involving partnership and knowledge exchange across subjects, and working within the HE sector where learning is imperative to enhance student engagement in every corner remains a constant challenge.

2. Aims

The Early Career Researcher (ERC) group aims to raise awareness of new development within student engagement, supporting those in the beginning stages of their career in student engagement research and or in academia. The group seeks to meet the needs of not only those pursuing studies and or careers as researchers within HE but also those who are practitioners undertaking student engagement research to support their development.

Complementing RAISE's mission to "come together for beneficial scholarly discussion, sharing ideas and creating collaborative projects", the group looks to provide opportunities for ECRs to develop their knowledge and skills, broadening their network to enhance collaboration within the HE sector.

The group will also help RAISE to support and connect with the wider community in student engagement.

3. Membership

'Early Career Researcher' can be categorised by the following:

- PhD Researchers
- Research Assistants
- Research Associates
- Post-Doctoral Researchers
- Teaching Fellow
- First-position Lecturers
- Within 5 years of completing their PhD*
- Staff employed 0.2 FTE or greater for student engagement roles primarily undertaking student engagement in 'research' or 'teaching' within any HEI or other organisations*

**adopted definitions from universities, REF, European Research Commission, UK Research Councils*

4. Meetings and Activities

The group runs similar to RAISE Special Interest Groups and is encouraged to create opportunities and activities bringing ECRs across the UK (and or beyond) together to share experiences and practices. Virtual meetings will be encouraged (i.e. via AdvanceHE Connect or similar) and in-person

meetings such as RAISE Conference. No set number of members in the group, but will predominantly run by Convenors reporting back to the RAISE Committee.

5. Benefits to members

- Networking opportunities from across HE institutions and organisations
- Develop skills and experiences in student engagement
- Create collaborations for student engagement research (i.e ideas into grant applications, funding and etc)
- A platform for interactions

6. Reporting and Communications

The group will predominantly communicate out via RAISE's Jiscmail. Members are encouraged to engage with each other via platforms such as Advance HE Connects and or exchange contact details to build networks.