

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Early Career Researcher Assembly

AHSS Early Career Researcher Assembly: Terms of Reference

1. **Remit:** Working with The Postdoc Academy, the Assembly provides discussion opportunities and advocacy for early career researchers in the arts, humanities and social sciences. The Assembly helps to support the implementation within AHSS environments of relevant initiatives such as the Concordat, DORA and the Research England People Strategy.
2. **Membership:** The Assembly is open to anyone holding a fixed-term contract of employment with either the University or Colleges, in the following categories:
 - Research Associate
 - Teaching Associate
 - Early Career Research Fellowship, either internally or externally funded
 - Junior Research Fellowship
 - College Teaching Officers (up to 5 years' service)

It is not expected that PhD students (prior to confirmation of award) or visiting researchers will join the Assembly; for that reason they will not normally be included in mailing lists, but the Assembly will be managed inclusively and they are welcome to attend. Similarly early-career University Teaching Officers [UTOs] are not expected to attend but may sign up should they find it useful.

3. **Meetings:** The Assembly is hosted by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences [CRASSH]. Meetings are convened at least once per term and will normally be in person.
4. **School Representatives:**
 - (i) The Assembly will appoint annually up to four School Representatives: at least one from a Faculty or Department in the Arts & Humanities and at least one from a Faculty or Department in the Humanities and Social Sciences.
 - (ii) School Representatives are appointed by the respective Head of School, to serve from 1 January each year, and will be co-opted for that period to the relevant Council (based on their home Department or main subject). Their contract of employment should not normally be due to end before they complete their period of co-option.
 - (iii) School Representatives will:
 - plan and facilitate meetings

- represent the Assembly at relevant Committees, including the Councils of the Schools of Arts & Humanities and the Humanities & Social Sciences
- ensure flow of communication to and from the AHSS postdoctoral community.

5. LIFE Officers (*Early Career Research Liaisons for Intercollegiate-Faculty Enhancement Officers*):

(i) Up to 20 LIFE Officers are supported annually across any setting in the arts, humanities and social sciences (Faculty, Department, Research Centre, College) to work with ECRs in their respective areas, helping to communicate and increase research culture awareness. LIFE Officers will express the concerns of their community members, add to the programming of the ECR Assembly and use their role as a platformer for their discipline-specific needs relating to postdocs. These roles are seen as critical ligatures connecting small group and individual needs to School Representatives.

6. Reporting: The Assembly will have right of report to the Councils of each participating School.

Last updated: 31 October 2024
Next update required: 1 September 2025