

SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

Research Committee

11th January 2017

Peer Review of grant applications

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Background – At the November meeting of Research Committee we had a brief discussion about peer review of grant applications with the objective of increasing the success rate of the grants that are submitted. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea, noting that this is also a development opportunity both for those carrying out the review and for the recipient. However, there was not a clear agreement on how this should be administered. Jane was actioned with bringing a proposal to this meeting.

Action requested from the committee: Approval of the following proposal

Main subject text

As discussed in the previous meeting, we would like it to become the “norm” within the school that a PI preparing a grant should seek review from outside their research group (outside their institute for small institutes) prior to submission. Currently the portfolio managers ask whether this has been done when preparing the approval form for Research Support Office, but there is no enforcement and often it is too late.

I propose two actions. Firstly, I will circulate a message to all research staff explaining the expectation with respect to peer review: All submitted grants should be peer reviewed and all members of academic staff should be prepared to review at least as many grants as they submit. Secondly, the portfolio managers should raise the issue of peer review as early as possible in the submission process --- for example, as soon as a PI approaches a PM for costings, they should be asked to identify their peer reviewer and this should be recorded.

Equality and diversity implications – N Provide details: None.

Resource implications (staff, space, budget) – N Provide details: slight change of practice in the working of Portfolio Managers.