



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
informatics

Support for Research Development



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informatics

PDRAs Development

Michael Gutmann



Purpose of the coordinator for PDRA development

PDRA = postdoctoral research associate (postdoc, research-only staff with funding tight to a particular project)

Coordinator = link between PDRA's and academics/management at the School of Informatics

Main purpose of the role: help facilitate the further professional development of our postdocs and research staff



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Strategy

Improve visibility of existing suitable programmes and mechanisms

Strengthen the Informatics Research Staff Society (IRSS)



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How you can help

Become an active member of the IRSS: Contact
research-staff-society@inf.ed.ac.uk

Tell me your concerns / ideas (by email or anonymous letter in my mail box,
office 2.50A)



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Research Ethics

Ian Simpson



Key Research Ethics Principles

- Research should be designed, reviewed and undertaken to ensure integrity and quality
- Research staff and subjects must be informed fully about the purpose, methods and intended possible uses of the research, what their participation in the research entails and what risks, if any, are involved
- The confidentiality of information supplied by research subjects and the anonymity of respondents must be respected
- Research participants must participate in a voluntary way, free from any coercion
- Harm to research participants must be avoided
- The independence of research must be clear, and any conflicts of interest or partiality must be explicit





Anticipate, reflect, engage and act (AREA)

Anticipate – describing and analysing the impacts, intended or otherwise, (for example economic, social, environmental) that might arise. This does not seek to predict but rather to support an exploration of possible impacts and implications that may otherwise remain uncovered and little discussed.

Reflect – reflecting on the purposes of, motivations for and potential implications of the research, and the associated uncertainties, areas of ignorance, assumptions, framings, questions, dilemmas and social transformations these may bring.

Engage – opening up such visions, impacts and questioning to broader deliberation, dialogue, engagement and debate in an inclusive way.

Act – using these processes to influence the direction and trajectory of the research and innovation process itself.



School Research Ethics Process

Proposed research	When is ethical approval sought	Researchers responsible	Records kept by
UG final year projects	Submission of project proposal	Student and supervisor	ITO/IGS
MSc projects	Submission of project proposal		
PhD projects	Annual year report		
Post-doc fellowships	Submission of funding proposal	Post-doc mentor	Institute portfolio manager
Any form of funded research for which there is a proposal	Submission of funding proposal	PI	
Research performed by a visitor	When the visit is approved	Staff hosting the visitor	
Personal research for which there is no proposal	Before research starts	Individual conducting the research	



Ethical Review Procedures: Level 1

Project Details & Self-assessment

This document is closely modelled on documents used in School of Psychology and Linguistics.

This form is to be filled in by the Principal Investigator, except in the case of post-doctoral fellowships, UG, MSc, and PhD projects, and visiting researchers.

- Post-doctoral fellowships
- UG, MSc, and PhD projects
- Visiting researchers

Please submit the completed form to the following address.

This address, with any changes, should be submitted to the School of Psychology and Linguistics.

Part B: Summary

Filled boxes in the rightmost column of the table indicate different categories of project.

level	issue	form	who	outcome
0	Human participants or animals, confidential or personal data, developing countries or military applications, extremist or terrorist groups?	UG/MSc project proposal, annual PhD report, grant approval form, visitor registration form	Researcher/supervisor	NO
				YES
1	Possible ethical problem?	Level 1 form	Researcher/supervisor	ALL OK
				Possible problem
2	Problems in ethics	Level 2 form	Researcher/supervisor + colleague	Resolved
				UIC/MSc

Participant number: _____

Participant Consent Form

Project title:	
Principal investigator (PI):	
Researcher:	
PI contact details:	

Please tick yes or no for each of these statements.

	Yes	No
1. I confirm that I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet for the above study, that I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and that any questions I had were answered to my satisfaction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary, and that I can withdraw	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Developing the School Research Ethics Process

Scale and diversity of research in the School and changes in legislation required review of the School Ethics Processes

Consultation with Linguistics, Clinical Psychology & Geosciences

Paper presented to Research Committee in April 2019 proposes:-

- Establishment of a School Ethics Committee
 - visibly elevate our commitment to Ethical Research
 - create an expert grouping with the time & resources to maintain and operate effective & efficient ethical review processes
 - co-ordinate and develop longer-term strategic pieces of work such as ethics training, support systems and relationships with equivalent bodies across the University

- Revision of School Ethics Processes
 - removal of self-certification
 - replace physical forms with Qualtrics driven structured questionnaire(s) – Summer 2019
 - migrate to Infonetica (ethics review system used by NHS & others)– Winter 2019/Early 2020
 - integrate ethics review into the RDM/grant proposal workflow (e.g. Data Management Plan, Worktribe)



School Ethics Procedure

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/informatics/research/ethics/procedure>

School Ethics Contact

infkm+ethics@inf.ed.ac.uk

Research Committee (see Paper4.1, April 2019)

<https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/admin/committees/research-committee>

Qualtrics

<http://computing.help.inf.ed.ac.uk/qualtrics-survey-platform>

Infonetica

<https://www.infonetica.net>

<https://www.projects.ed.ac.uk/project/ris005>





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Research Services

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT – PRE AND POST AWARD, INSTITUTE AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH DATA MANAGEMENT – PURE, REF, OPEN ACCESS

HEAD OF RESEARCH SERVICES – POLICY, PROCESS AND SYSTEMS



The Portfolio Management Team

- Carrie McNamee, Caroline Hastings, Barry Turner, Ruta Bader, Laura Rich, Fiona Williams, *Joanne Pennie*

Covering...

- funding opportunities, queries, rules and regulations, terms and conditions, eligibility
- research proposal preparation, costing and pricing (including funder, partner, Business Development and legal liaison), approval and submission – who's been funded before, what's been successful and what hasn't, review and proofread
- Financial and other compliance and reporting pre and post award
- Feed the KPIs!
- financial management of research grant portfolios and institute budgets – experience with all funder types and challenges, supporting research awards from idea through to close out
- research staff appointment, contract extensions and end of employment process, in collaboration with Human Resources
- commitment of studentship funds and offers, in collaboration with the Graduate School
- *Working with Finance and the Research Support Office to provide a local and personalised support service*

<http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/support>



School of Informatics Intranet
INFWEB

InfWeb home

Research

- Research Services
- Research Excellence Framework (REF)
- Open Access & Open Data
- Research Data Management and Research Data Service
- European funding
- Researchfish
- Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)
- The Forum Speech Labs
- Mechanical support
- Small devices for loan
- Events

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European funding

Even in the face of Brexit, applications for EU funding are still encouraged.

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Information on the Global Challenges Research Fund.

The Forum Speech Labs

Information about the speech related research facilities located in the Informatics Forum.

Mechanical support

The Mechanical Technicians provide support, primarily for research and can provide some assistance for student projects.

Small devices for loan

There are several small devices available for loan such as mobile phones, tablets, IoT gadgets, RF Hacking Kit etc.

Institute links

ANC - Institute for Adaptive & Neural Computation

ICSA - Institute for Computing Systems Architecture

CISA - Centre for Intelligent Systems & their Applications

IPAB - Institute of Perception, Action & Behaviour

ILCC - Institute for Language, Cognition & Computation

LFCS - Laboratory for Foundations of Computer Science

Institute for Computing Systems Architecture

- [Directory](#)
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Support

- **Director**
[Dr Mahesh Marina](#)
- **Administrative**
[Ruta Bader](#) (Portfolio Manager)
[Janet Ball](#) (Member)
[Jodie Cameron](#) (Secretary)
[Ekaterina Churkina](#) (Member)
[Nicola Drago Ferrante](#) (Secretary)
[Keith Edwards](#) (Member)
[Ahmed El-Rayis](#) (Member)
[Steph Smith](#) (Secretary)

<http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research>



Research Professional

<https://www.researchprofessional.com/>

Advanced Search

Save Actions

Choose an option to search by

All text Discipline Award type Funder Closing date Award amount More option:

Discipline Administrative Big Data & Informatics

Award type Grants - undirected

Nationality of researcher Norway

Country of applicant institution United Kingdom

<input type="checkbox"/>	01 May 19	BRAIN initiative – new concepts and early-stage research for large-scale recording and modulation in the nervous system (R21 clinical trial not allowed) NIH: National Eye Institute, US and other funders	USD 300,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	01 May 19	Offensive swarm-enabled tactics (OFFSET) – swarm sprint 4 US Department of Defense, US	USD 450,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	01 May 19	Demonstrators addressing cybersecurity challenges in the internet of things Innovate UK, GB and other funders	£2,000,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	01 May 19	Accelerated research in quantum computing US Department of Energy, US	USD 12,500,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	02 May 19	Transformative healthcare technologies for 2050 Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, GB	Not specified
<input type="checkbox"/>	02 May 19	UK-Canada enhancing industrial productivity EUREKA, EU and other funders	£200,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	03 May 19	Ascending investigators programme Lundbeck Foundation Lundbeckfonden, DK	DKK 5,000,000
<input type="checkbox"/>	03 May 19	EIT Digital 2020 – innovation factory and entrepreneurship academy European Institute of Innovation and Technology, EU	Not specified
<input type="checkbox"/>	07 May 19	Dissemination and implementation research in health (R21 clinical trial optional): AIDS-related NIH: National Institute of Mental Health, US and other funders	USD 275,000



Where to find us

Portfolio Managers – 2nd floor room 2.36, 3rd floor room 3.35 but will come to you, attend meetings with teams, groups and partners, to talk about any aspect of research support

Research Data Management – 5th floor room 5.33

Head of Research Services – 5th floor room 5.33

Janet.ball@ed.ac.uk

Tel: 509970



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Research Data Management

RESEARCH DATA MANAGER – VICTORIA LINDSTRÖM

RESEARCH DATA OFFICER – EVA NUENO COBAS (FROM 23/05/19)



RDM remit

- Covering
 - Open access: REF, funder, publisher, UoE and School policies; Plan S
<https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/open-access>
 - REF: working with REF and Impact coordinators (Steve and Björn); policy guidance and PURE advice
<https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ref>
 - PURE and Edinburgh Research Explorer: output entry, profile edits, REF nominations, activities
<https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/pure-edinburgh-research-explorer>
 - Researchfish: annual reporting exercise
<https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/researchfish>
 - Ad hoc reporting – BI Suite
- Ongoing work
 - Support for new Ethics process (Uni wide and School level)
 - Research data interface – liaising with Inf Computing (local) and the Research Data Service (central)
watch this space: <https://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/research-data-management-service>



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How to contact RDM

Our office

5th floor room 5.33 – but happy to come to your office

Email

Publication and open access queries, notification of acceptance: rdmpublications@inf.ed.ac.uk

All things REF: Victoria.Lindstrom@ed.ac.uk

Phone

Victoria: 502702

Eva: 509918



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REF Preparation

Steve Renals



Research Excellence Framework – REF2021

- **National assessment of research quality in universities, measured by**
 - Outputs (60%) - ~340 papers
 - Impact (25%) - ~10 impact case studies
 - Environment (15%) – “vitality and sustainability of research environment”
- **REF is important both in terms of reputation and funding**
- **REF outputs**
 - At least 1 per independent researcher, total averages 2.5 per researcher
 - Assessed as 4* (“major influence”), 3* (“important contribution”), 2* (“useful knowledge”), 1* (“minor influence”)
 - Focus is quality not quantity
 - 100 word statements for each paper are extremely important
- <http://web.inf.ed.ac.uk/infweb/research/ref>