

Research Students who Teach – analysis of School pro forma

Introduction

Following the approval of the revised Research Students who Teach policy by Senate in July 2017, the University asked Schools to return data on currently enrolled students who are employed or have previously been employed on teaching support duties, to include detail on any teaching restrictions, the date they had completed the LEaD Learning, Teaching and Assessment module (EDM120, or signed off with equivalent experience), and information on their teaching mentor. This report provides summary data on these returns.

Summary statistics

Schools returned information on 215 research students who teach. SITS records an active PGR student population of 954, research students who teach therefore representing around 23% of the active postgraduate research student population. Students are spread across academic disciplines.

Students were spread across years of study. Some students were teaching from the first year of study, particularly in Cass Business School where PhD candidates undertake a number of taught modules in the first year and might be better prepared to teach at undergraduate level. The vast majority of students returned (over 80%) were full time students.

Where students were reported as having restrictions on their teaching, this was due to visa requirements (Tier 4), terms and conditions of a City University studentship, external grants (Health Sciences) or School policy (Arts and Social Sciences)

Tier 4 postgraduate research students who teach

Of the students returned, 83 have been identified as being on a Tier 4 visa. Contractual arrangements for Home/EU and International research students who teach have previously been separated for these two groups of students, owing to the weekly workload recording required to uphold the institution's Tier 4 visa licence that could only previously be administered through Unitemps for Tier 4 visa holders. Work to upgrade the university's HR system in the coming weeks, however, should allow new contracts for all research students who teach to be administered through University HR and terms harmonised.

Training to teach

Institutional policy current requires that "*students engaged in teaching activity are adequately and appropriately prepared just prior to starting teaching normally through attendance on the Learning, Teaching and Assessment module...*" Of the students returned, 91 had undertaken LEaD training, 15 have a scheduled date, and 40 are awaiting training. A number of those awaiting are in Cass Business School and have no teaching assigned at this time. There were a number of gaps in this data from some schools, indicating this information is not systematically recorded (LEaD are able to confirm, however, if a student has undertaken the module).

44 students were recorded as having previous training/experience, typically teaching at an international university or as a teaching assistant/demonstrator in previous years. Students undertaking marking in SMCSE had been provided with a project marking briefing coordinated by the School. There was only one instance, however, of the prior experience being signed off by LEaD, indicating that this procedure needs to be highlighted. In almost all cases, students had a named teaching mentor.

Recommendations

As a result of the data returned by schools, the following recommendations are made:

- To continue the process of reporting on research students who teach in 2017-18, to better understand adherence to University policy (number of hours taught, contractual arrangements, peer support review activity)
- To encourage students to enrol on EDM120 as soon as appointed to a teaching support role to ensure training at the appropriate time and demand planning for LEaD.
- To establish a process for the recording of completion of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment module with LEaD to facilitate the checking of training.
- To communicate with schools the process for the authorisation of training exemption on the basis of prior professional experience.