

Eurodoc's Response to UKRI's "New deal for Postgraduate Research"

On the 26th of September the largest research funder in the United Kingdom, *UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)*, released a report "New deal for postgraduate research" [1]. In this document and in their "Collective Talent Funding Roadmap 2022 to 2025" UKRI outlines how they intend to continue the practice of not employing doctoral candidates [1,2].

On behalf of Eurodoc, the administrative board 2023/2024, would like to express our concerns. As the largest researcher funder in the UK and as having signed on to the CoARA agreement, UKRI has a responsibility to advance the sustainability of research careers.

Doctoral candidates are professionals, as Salzburg principles based on the Bologna Follow Up agreement establishes [3], as the Research manifesto confirms [4], and as Eurodoc has argued relentlessly the last 20 years, most recently in the new Eurodoc statement "Doctoral Education – a research education" and in the statement" [5,6].

The malpractice of refraining from employing doctoral candidates enforces and enhances the precarity which is widespread during the early stages of a researcher's career. It has further consequences on social rights, financial benefits, families, and personal relationships. Moreover, this precarity and the insecurity that it induces impairs creativity, decreases work efficiency, and reduces the individual's overall career prospects and well-being [5]. It is Eurodoc's firm opinion that all ECRs, including doctoral candidates, are professionals and should be treated as such.

The statement was authored by the administrative board of Eurodoc 2023/2024

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Eurodoc, the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, is a grassroots federation of 25 national associations of early career researchers (ECRs) from 23 countries across Europe. Eurodoc was established in 2002 and is based in Brussels. As a representative of doctoral candidates and junior researchers at the European level, Eurodoc engages with all major stakeholders in research, higher education, and innovation in Europe.



References

- [1]: [New deal for postgraduate research](#)
- [2]: [How UKRI will transition to collective talent funding](#)
- [3]: [Salzburg principles, EUA](#)
- [4]: [Researchers manifesto](#)
- [5]: Doctoral Education - a research education"
- [6]: Setting high quality employment conditions for early career researchers