

Memorandum of understanding between the International Consortium of Research Staff Associations and the European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers

The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, Eurodoc, is an international federation of 35 national organisations of doctoral candidates and other researchers who are not yet fully independent. All national organisations represented by Eurodoc come from countries in the European Union and the Council of Europe, and Eurodoc acts as their voice at the European level. Eurodoc envisions a European Research Area and European Higher Education Area in which doctoral candidates and junior researchers are duly recognised and respected for the essential roles they play in the research community. Eurodoc seeks to represent and consolidate the community of doctoral candidates and junior researchers in Europe in their pursuit of a dignified career and a worthy professional life. Eurodoc is a volunteer, not for profit organisation, and is based in Brussels, Belgium.

The International Consortium of Research Staff Associations, ICoRSA, is a not for profit company registered in the Republic of Ireland that is owned and managed by its members, who are associations that support researchers within national, regional, or international contexts. ICoRSA envisions a global community of internationally networked researchers that establish a collective voice to influence international policy so as to enhance research outcomes, and to ensure that researchers' contributions are recognised and fairly rewarded through sustainable careers. ICoRSA is a collaborative organisation that links communities of researcher organisations worldwide in order to address common challenges shared by an international research workforce. To that end, ICoRSA seeks to enhance research outcomes through the development of researcher communities worldwide, inform international research policy, and build a shared repository of effective and fair researcher working practices. Researchers represented by ICoRSA member associations range from the early career researcher – defined in Europe as a junior postdoc R2 status – to senior or mature researchers – defined in Europe as research fellows R3 and R4 status. ICoRSA association membership also includes academic as well as industry researchers. ICoRSA does support the concept of professional recognition for the efforts of all researchers, doctoral candidates as well as doctoral holders.

This memorandum of understanding establishes a framework by which ICoRSA and Eurodoc will collaborate. In particular, this memorandum of understanding

Acknowledges that Eurodoc and ICoRSA each recognises the role of the other and, where appropriate, will cooperate in the interests of researchers, in particular doctoral candidates, junior and senior researchers, working at European research institutions.

Acknowledges that ICoRSA does not represent the interests of doctoral candidates except where those interests overlap with the interests of research staff in Europe. Both organisations encourage all researchers to seek representation within their institutional, disciplinary, or national context, and support one another's efforts to best serve the interests of researchers in Europe.

Acknowledges that Eurodoc and ICoRSA have a joint interest in the personal, professional and career development of research staff at European research institutions, including higher education institutions.

Acknowledges that membership in Eurodoc and ICoRSA are not mutually exclusive, and that individual researchers can benefit from being active members of both organisations, or their respective national member organisations.

Acknowledges that, at a European level, Eurodoc and ICoRSA will initiate discussions and, wherever appropriate, work together on issues of mutual interest to maximise the voice of researchers in higher education institutions and at research institutions. Eurodoc and ICoRSA will encourage this cooperation at a national, regional, and local level.

With this agreement, both parties

Recognise, respect, and support the rights of the other to represent the interests of researchers.

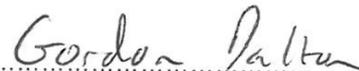
Recognise the similar goals and interests that exist between Eurodoc and ICoRSA, and agree to cooperate whenever possible by:

1. preparing joint statements on issues of mutual concern
2. sharing information on activities and events
3. inviting participation in working groups where issues of mutual relevance are discussed
4. participating in events organised for each community

This agreement does not create any binding legal obligation on either party and is subject to annual review by both parties.



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President of Eurodoc
(John Peacock)



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2014 Chair of ICoRSA
(Gordon Dalton)