

Memorandum of understanding between the International Consortium of Research Staff Associations and the National PostDoc Association

The National Postdoc Association, NPA, is an association representing the interests of postdocs in the USA. The NPA is a member-driven, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides a unique, national voice for postdoctoral scholars. Since 2003, NPA has enhanced the quality of the postdoctoral experience in the United States. NPA has assumed a leadership role in addressing the many issues confronting the postdoctoral community that are national in scope and requiring action beyond the local level.

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 NPA will collaborate. In particular, this memorandum of understanding

Acknowledges that NPA and ICoRSA each recognises the role of the other and, where appropriate, will cooperate in the interests of all postdocs and researchers working at research institutions.

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

Acknowledges that membership in NPA 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 Global level, NPA 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. NPA 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 NPA and ICoRSA,

ICoRSA and NPA 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

Expectations of ICoRSA to NPA

1. NPA representative attend the ICoRSA monthly skype calls
2. NPA participate in one of the committees of ICoRSA (Outreach, Addvocay, Funding, Media)
3. NPA attend annual AGM via skype
4. ICoRSA be invited to present a session at the annual NPA forum

Expectations of NPA to ICoRSA

- 1.
- 2.

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

The parties validate by signature the present two (2) numbered pages of the memorandum – on the undersigned date and location – after reading, as perfectly in accordance with their will.

Day 1 **Month** September **Year** 2016

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Chair NPA
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2016 Chair of ICoRSA
(Gordon Dalton)

