

2425 Transparency of Process and Communication for Associate Tutor Applications

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Summary This policy is designed to address issues in communication between staff and the University. Recently, and with personal experience, there has been a distinct lack of transparency between those assigning and those assigned teaching. Many teachers were not given teaching until two weeks before the module is due to start. This leaves people feeling overwhelmed and underprepared, leading to overworking and stress, that has a negative effect on the quality of teaching received by undergraduates. This policy seeks to design better communication practices and organisational practices to allow for better understanding of the teaching allocation process.
Council Notes <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is little to no guidance about when departments assign teaching to Postgraduate Students apply to be Associate Tutors2. The Courage Project have been investigating associate tutor mental health, and a major factor in stress is financial3. The process by which applicants are notified does not leave enough time to find alternative paid work
Council Believes <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. There is no uniform criteria or timeline across departments2. That Postgraduate Mental health is vital to a strong research environment3. Postgraduates are being unduly stressed to do current financial worry and also future job opportunities4. The lack of information has a direct impact on the quality of teaching for undergraduate students, due to Postgraduates being underprepared and overwhelmed5. That this undermines the high standards of learning that this institution should reach
Council Resolves <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To Mandate the Postgraduate Education and Welfare, Community and Diversity officer to report in conjunction with the Associate tutor network in order to make the allocation of teaching process more transparent and timely2. To Lobby the university to reevaluate their current operating procedures and update them in time for the next academic year 2019/20203. To develop a guild to best practice for smooth and transparent application process