

FAO Chair of the Concordat Strategy Group

11 November 2021

**Letter of Commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers**

I write as Interim Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex to confirm our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

The University of Sussex fully supports the Principles of this revised Concordat and we intend to uphold our obligations and responsibilities as a signatory.

The University of Sussex has an ongoing commitment to supporting the career development of our researchers, having held the HR Excellence in Research Award since 2013. With support from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange and the Director of Research and Enterprise, we are implementing our revised Research with Impact 2025 strategy, which has a particular focus on building a vibrant, exciting and collaborative research culture. We aim to create an empowered community of researchers, with the skills and competencies to maximise the influence and impact of their work, embedding an ethos of sustainability and equality, diversity and inclusion across disciplines and continuing to nurture and develop research excellence through individual and collaborative projects.

We welcome the new obligations of the 2019 Concordat and look forward to aligning our values and strategies, to continue supporting and developing our researchers, helping them reach and fulfil their potential and desired goals.

We agree to work collectively and engage with initiatives to address systemic challenges in progressing towards a UK research system where researchers work in healthy and supportive environments. We agree that researchers should be recognised and valued for their contributions in research and beyond, supported in their professional and career development, and equipped and empowered to succeed in their chosen careers.

Yours faithfully

