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Visiting Postgraduate Researcher Provision (Non-Credit Bearing)

1. AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT

- 1.1 This document has been produced as part of the approval of a Visiting Postgraduate Researcher provision at Bournemouth University (BU). The aims of this document are to:
- provide the context for this provision
 - define the structure of the provision
 - identify the intended learning outcomes
 - articulate the regulations governing the provision
- 1.2 The Visiting Postgraduate Researcher provision has been designed by the Doctoral College to facilitate academic research visits from postgraduate researchers (PGRs) who are registered at another Higher Education Institution (HEI) within the UK, EU or overseas (hereafter referred to as the “*home institution*”). Representatives from Faculties have been consulted and have expressed support for the development of this provision as a way of formalising the current practice for such visits.
- 1.3 This document should be read in conjunction with the *Code of Practice for Research Degrees*. In addition, BU’s Academic Regulations, Policies and Procedures (ARPPs) which govern the University’s research provision, will also be relevant.

2. RATIONALE

- 2.1 The academic practice of PGRs visiting other HEIs to undertake specific research as part of their research degrees is a well-established practice across the sector. This is of benefit not only to the individual PGR, who is able to extend their research experience under the supervision of subject experts outside their own department/institution and undertake additional professional and personal development, but also helps to establish or enhance the academic links between BU and other institutions which may lead to further collaborative research opportunities. Research collaboration through PGRs is a fundamental element of BU’s internationalisation agenda.
- 2.2 Currently, all Visiting PGRs are administered and supported by Faculties under locally established support and processes. By developing this provision, the Doctoral College seeks to enhance existing practice, and ensure that:
- there is consistency relating to the admission of the Visiting PGRs, which meets both internal and external requirements,
 - there is parity in the academic and administrative support,
 - there is parity in the access to academic and support facilities, and
 - there are clear expectations of the Visiting PGRs roles and responsibilities during their time at BU.

- 2.3 Contact with Visiting PGRs tends to come via three key routes, the most common being via personal contact to engage in academic research relating to a programme of study where the PGR is registered at their home institution. Increasingly however, we also have visiting PGRs who are part of externally funded, collaborative research projects or who are coming to us via government authorised exchanges. In such examples, the research activity of the Visiting PGR may be defined as part of the wider research project. All categories of Visiting PGR would benefit from the provision structure proposed in this document.

3. AIMS OF THE PROVISION

- 3.1 This is a standalone non-credit bearing provision for Visiting PGRs who wish to undertake a short-term, guided research project or activity under the mentor of a BU academic. The Visiting PGR will receive no credits or award from BU. The research undertaken whilst at BU will contribute to the research, personal and professional development of the Visiting PGR and the research outputs may inform their research degree thesis to be submitted to their home institution.
- 3.2 This provision is open to any postgraduate researcher wishing to undertake full -time (and exceptionally part-time) research, within any subject discipline, for a defined period of study. This would not normally exceed 6 months, but will be negotiated on an individual basis. The provision would be open to Home, EU and Overseas Visiting PGRs.
- 3.3 The aims of this Visiting Postgraduate Research provision are to:
- ensure that Visiting PGRs receive appropriate support during their visit to BU so that the full potential of their research ability is achieved and their specific research project or activity is completed within an appropriate time period,
 - ensure that Visiting PGRs and BU staff have a common understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities;
 - promote policies and procedures which protect the academic standards of the University's research degrees.
- 3.4 During their time at BU, the Visiting PGR would be expected to:
- i. undertake an agreed independent research project or activity;
 - ii. engage, where relevant, in Doctoral College or Faculty- based professional and personal development opportunities;
 - iii. contribute to the research environment within the host Faculty, for example by delivering a seminar as part of the relevant seminar series.
- 3.5 BU would be committed to providing Visiting PGRs with the opportunities for research skills development, resources, facilities and high quality mentoring that they will need to undertake their defined research project or activity. Equally, Visiting PGRs are expected to be committed to their research project or activity and to fully accept their responsibilities which are in line with those set out in the current *8A - Code of Practice for Research Degrees*, the *Code for Good Research Practice* and all other relevant ARPPs.

4. ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- 4.1 All Visiting PGRs will be allocated an individual mentor, within their specific subject discipline who will act as the key contact during their visit, encouraging the PGR to achieve their full potential, within the defined area of research, and to complete the research within the allotted timescale.

5. ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Visiting PGRs are required to be formally registered on a validated research degree at their home institution. Although initial contact may be directly with the relevant academic, applications should be submitted on the Online Application form and should include a proposal of the research to be undertaken whilst visiting BU, including the defined period of study.
- 5.2 Proposed Visiting PGRs may be interviewed by potential mentors in order to ensure BU has the appropriate expertise and capacity to support the Visiting PGR and their proposed research activity. The Postgraduate Research Administrators will be responsible for issuing offer letters to the Visiting PGRs and support their visa application.

6 ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There will be no assessment of the Visiting PGR by BU. The research undertaken whilst at BU will contribute to the research, personal and professional development of the Visiting PGR and the research outputs may inform their research degree thesis to be submitted to their home institution.

7 ROLES OF FACULTIES AND THE DOCTORAL COLLEGE

- 7.1 Postgraduate research at Bournemouth University is carried out within the Faculties. Most support for the Visiting PGR will be at Faculty level and the primary source of academic support will be the mentor(s). Responsibility for Visiting PGRs within each Faculty rests with the Deputy Dean for Research and Professional Practice, Head of Research or Head of Department, as appropriate. In conjunction with the Faculty Research Degrees Committee (FRDC), they have overall responsibility and/or authorisation for Visiting PGR admission and, where appropriate, progression. The Postgraduate Research Administrators are an important source of administrative advice and support and will be a prime point of contact throughout the Visiting PGRs period of study.
- 7.2 The Doctoral College is committed to inspiring and mentoring the postgraduate community at BU, including Visiting PGRs, through its role in PGR student experience. In addition, the Doctoral College has the central role of overseeing the development, implementation and quality assurance of BU research degree provision, including this provision for Visiting PGRs.
- 7.3 Visiting PGR activity will be monitored annually via the Faculty Research Degree Quality Report (FRDQR) which feeds into the Doctoral College Annual Report.

8. RESOURCE STATEMENT

- 8.1 The proposed Visiting Postgraduate Researcher provision is a generic research provision and the research project or activity undertaken can be in any subject discipline area. The resources required by an individual Visiting PGR will be agreed on an individual basis with the relevant Faculty utilising the existing resource base with no or minimal cost implication to the Faculties. In addition, the Visiting PGR would also have access to Library and Learning Support (LLS) which is part of Student Services and Academic Services and the Doctoral College's Researcher Development Programme.

9. FEES

- 9.1 As there are wide variations regarding the nature and time period of Visiting PGRs' visits to BU, it is at the Faculty's discretion if fees should be charged, informed by the Developmental Assistance Committee (DAC) list of Official Development Assistance Recipients. Where it is decided this would be appropriate, this would normally be the tuition fee on a pro-rata basis, according to the country of origin of the Visiting PGR, and depending on whether the subject area is library or laboratory based.