

Statement of Principles and Actions for Shaping the Future: Supporting the Next Generation of Researchers

Preamble

The entire spectrum of research forms a complex system where cultivating talent, increasing knowledge and promoting innovation are intertwined across all disciplines. Increasingly, the research community is linked to a much larger global framework involving the circulation of talent, results and discoveries among the various spheres of society.

Within the global research system, the actions of GRC participants are crucial in promoting the attractiveness of research careers for new talent, as well as opportunities for professional career development for researchers in universities and research performing organisations. GRC participants should be actively thinking about the types of skills and training that will be needed over the coming decades, ways to promote socially responsible research, and how research will contribute to and be transformed by a shifting social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental global context. The GRC participants are therefore committed to developing and supporting programmes and initiatives targeted at the next generation of professional researchers consistent and relevant to the level of development and further advancement of the research ecosystem of each region.

Principles and Actions

Cultivating talent at all levels of career development

GRC participants should implement funding programmes and activities that encourage creative research, provide scientific freedom, foster independence and cater to researchers at different stages of their career development.

Attracting and retaining the best talents in all their diversity

GRC participants should advance equal opportunity in research and develop mechanisms that encourage people from all backgrounds to pursue scholarly and scientific careers, contributing to research excellence.

Harnessing the educational potential of research

GRC participants should encourage relevant organizations to promote and nurture interest in research for the younger generation and for the public at large. GRC participants should support involvement in research by students at all levels, according to their mandate.

Developing interdisciplinary research

GRC participants should recognise and encourage interdisciplinary research where appropriate. Researchers should be given opportunities to explore interdisciplinary approaches and engage in emerging fields.

Encouraging the acquisition of diverse skill sets and outreach activities

GRC participants should encourage the acquisition by researchers of transferable skills such as leadership, entrepreneurship, languages, communication, management and mentorship, and recognise the value of these skills. Incentives for outreach activities (dissemination, public engagement, knowledge exchange) and engagement with the public and private stakeholders should be put in place.

Promoting a high-quality professional environment

GRC participants should recognise and respect researchers as professionals, and support policies encouraging work-life balance, appropriate physical infrastructure and work environment, and opportunities for career development.

Facilitating mobility

GRC participants acknowledge the contribution of researcher mobility – whether geographic, interdisciplinary, intersectoral, or virtual – to career development and research excellence. GRC participants should develop and encourage mechanisms for mobility which encourage effective research collaboration and increase participation.

Sharing of good practice

GRC participants should share practices and experiences across and within all above mentioned areas, including innovative approaches to the development of the broad skill sets needed for success in the future research environment.

Nurturing research integrity

GRC participants should promote research integrity at all levels of career development.¹

¹ Link to GRC website for Statement of Principles for Research Integrity