



UNIVERSITY *of* LIMERICK

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

PROCEDURES FOR THE RECRUITMENT / APPOINTMENT
OF RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Approved by Governing Authority 22 November 2011

PROCEDURES FOR RECRUITMENT/APPOINTMENT OF RESEARCH SCHOLARS

1. Filling a Post

- 1.1 The Vice President Academic & Registrar/Dean/Head of Department, as appropriate, will arrange for the completion of a recruitment pack which will include the following:
- i. The authorisation form which will include the following:
 - a. Grade
 - b. Cost Code
 - c. Contract type and duration
 - ii. Draft Advertisement
 - iii. Proposed Media
 - iv. Draft information for candidates
 - v. Draft information for Selection Board
 - vi. Proposed Members of the Selection Board.
- 1.2 An individual involved in the preparation of a recruitment pack may not be a candidate for that post. Conflict of professional or personal interest should be declared to the Vice President Academic & Registrar or his/her nominee prior to the preparation of the recruitment pack.
- 1.3 The recruitment pack requires authorisation by the following and in the following sequence:
- i. Head of Department – where the position is allocated to a specific department
 - ii. Dean – where the position is allocated to a specific Faculty;
 - iii. Finance Division
 - iv. Vice President Academic & Registrar or his/her nominee;
 - v. Vice President Research or his/her nominee;
 - vi. Director, HR or his/her nominee.

2. Advertisement

- 2.1 All vacancies for Research Scholar posts will be advertised both internally and externally. Advertising may be posted in the local, national, international press, specialist journals and electronic media as appropriate. In addition, the vacancies may be circulated to selected universities, research institutes or other appropriate bodies nationally and internationally. All advertisements will be placed on the University of Limerick's website.
- 2.2 All advertisements will make it clear by their wording and presentation that the position is open to suitably qualified female and male candidates, by stating so specifically. All advertisements will carry the statement of the University's commitment to equal opportunity.

3. Role of Human Resources (HR) Division

- 3.1 The HR Division will have responsibility for administering the recruitment process, be responsible for ensuring full compliance with these procedures and provide advice on the process as required.
- 3.2 HR will cause the documentary evidence of qualifications, references and other necessary criteria of the recommended candidate to be verified and, where appropriate, will arrange for a pre-employment medical.

4. Screening and Short-listing

- 4.1 After the date for the submission of applications has passed, the Vice President Academic & Registrar or his/her nominee, assisted by the HR Division, will be responsible for screening all applications to ensure that only candidates who meet the minimum stated qualifications are considered for short-listing by the Selection Board. The Vice President Academic & Registrar or his/her nominee may make a recommendation regarding the number of candidates to be short-listed at this stage or may determine that all candidates who meet the minimum stated qualifications will be interviewed.
- 4.2 Subject to 4.1 above the members of the Selection Board will recommend a shortlist for interview from the list of candidates against the criteria as stated in the advertisement and information for applicants. The final list of candidates to be called for interview will be determined according to the recommendations received from the Selection Board following consultation by HR with the Vice President Academic & Registrar or his/her nominee.

5. References

- 5.1 All candidates called for interview will provide a minimum of three professional references to HR prior to the interviews. Where references are not supplied reasons for their non-availability will be noted. Where the President and/or the HR Director or their nominees deem it necessary and having advised the candidate, additional references may be sought from individuals not named by the candidate. No offer of appointment will be made pending receipt of satisfactory references.

6. Composition of the Selection Board

- 6.1 The President has the right to be a member of any Selection Board or to nominate an individual to a Selection Board.
- 6.2 Both genders will be represented on every Selection Board.
- 6.3 The Selection Board will be constituted as follows subject to a maximum of 10 members:

6.4 Research Scholar

1. Vice President Academic & Registrar (or his/her nominee);
2. Vice President Research (or his/her nominee);
3. At least one External Subject Specialist; (where members of the academic community, they must be at Lecturer level or above)
4. Head of Department (or his/her nominee) where the position is allocated to a specific Department;
5. Dean (or his/her nominee) where the position is allocated to a specific Faculty;
6. At least one Internal Academic at Lecturer level or above nominated by the Vice President Academic & Registrar. Where practicable this nomination should be an internal subject specialist.

6.5 The Selection Board is not invalidated by the omission of a member who is a candidate.

6.6 Unavailability of Selection Board Member

6.6.1 In the event of a Selection Board member(s) becoming unavailable it will be open to the President or his/her nominee to nominate replacement(s) or to determine whether the interviews proceed or not.

6.7 Chairperson of the Board

6.7.1 The President will either chair the Selection Board or nominate a member of the Selection Board to act as Chairperson of the Board.

6.7.2 In addition to being a full member of the Selection Board, the Chairperson will ensure that all candidates are treated consistently and fairly in the conduct of an interview.

6.7.3 The Chairperson will specifically ask all members of the Selection Board to declare any potential conflict of interest they may have with regard to any candidates coming before the Board.

6.7.4 The Chairperson is responsible for the completion of the Selection Board report(s) at the conclusion of the proceedings of the Selection Board.

6.8 The Role of the HR Representative

6.8.1 A representative of the Human Resources Division will attend at the start and end of all Selection Board meetings. The HR representative will not be present during the course of the interviews. The HR representative will brief the Selection Board on policy, procedures, relevant legislation, scoring, format of questions and be available throughout the course of the process in a support and advisory role. He/She will advise the Chairperson on matters relating to the operation of these procedures and on any other relevant matters.

6.8.2 The HR representative will attend when the interviews are completed and prior to the commencement of scoring by the Selection Board. The HR representative will verify all documentation and debrief the Selection Board. The HR representative will retain all documentation pertaining to the decision of the Board and will advise and assist the Chairperson in the completion of the Selection Board Report.

6.9 Presentations

6.9.1 All candidates selected for interview will be required to make a public presentation. The topic of the presentation will be notified to candidates in advance. HR will inform the University Community of the public presentation, however, other candidates may not attend the presentation. All members of the Selection Board will be required to attend the presentations and will take account of the candidates' performance at same. The presentations will be chaired by the Chairperson of the Selection Board.

6.10 The Interview

6.10.1 In advance of the interview, the Selection Board will agree a format for interview. This will include the core areas of questioning and approval of an agreed scoring system. The criteria against which candidates will be evaluated will be as stated in the advertisement and information for candidates.

6.10.2 Each member of the Selection Board will give an assessment of the candidates against the agreed criteria. An attempt to reach a consensus on the ranking order of appointable candidates will be made by the Selection Board. In the event of the Selection Board failing to reach a unanimous decision, both a majority and minority report must be prepared.

6.10.3 Where the President is not Chairperson of a Selection Board, the report(s) of the Selection Board will be forwarded to him/her and submitted to the Governing Authority. The President, having considered the Selection Board report(s), may if he/she so wishes append his/her view for consideration by the Governing Authority. All Research Scholars appointments will be made by the Governing Authority. Governing Authority decisions on appointments are final.

7. Additional Selection Methods

7.1 The procedures set out above may be augmented by additional assessment techniques as decided by the Vice President Academic & Registrar or his/her nominee.

8. Search Procedure

8.1 The process of inviting applications for the filling of Research Scholar posts may be augmented by a search procedure. The identification of candidates by search procedure may be undertaken by a Search Committee appointed by the Vice President Academic & Registrar or his/her nominee in consultation

with the HR Division. This search process must not be seen to replace the open competition required by the University's procedures. Not more than two people involved in the Search Committee should serve on the subsequent Selection Board. Individuals identified through the search procedure must apply on the same terms as candidates attracted by public advertisement. Candidates who have emerged from the search procedure will be identified to the Selection Board by the HR Representative.

9. Notification of the result of the Selection Process

- 9.1 All candidates will be required to furnish an address for receipt of communications. The onus is on all applicants to make themselves available for interview (if short-listed) on the date specified and to make whatever arrangements are necessary to ensure that they receive communications sent to them at the address specified on their application form. All candidates who are not short-listed will receive written notification to that effect on completion of the short-listing process. All candidates who have been interviewed will be notified in writing by HR of the outcome of their application as soon as possible. Such notification in the case of the successful candidate(s) will indicate that the recommendation is subject to approval by the Governing Authority.
- 9.2 While the deliberations of a Selection Board are confidential, the Board may nominate a member to advise candidates verbally of the outcome of its deliberations. Such communication should make it clear that the recommendation of the Selection Board is subject to the approval of the Governing Authority.
- 9.3 Where a Selection Board has deemed other candidate(s) suitable for appointment, the name(s) will be held on file for a period of 12 months from the date of interview. Should the position become vacant for any reason during this period, other candidate(s) deemed suitable may be recommended for appointment to Governing Authority in ranking order. In addition, the relevant manager with the agreement of the Director, HR or his/her nominee may determine that such candidate(s) deemed suitable for appointment may be recommended for appointment to Governing Authority in ranking order should an identical post(s) arise to be filled during this period within the relevant manager's specific area.

10. Review Process

- 10.1 A candidate may request the Governing Authority to review a recommendation of a Selection Board on grounds of manifest departure from these operating procedures, which affected the outcome for the candidate.
- 10.2 To seek such a review the candidate will indicate in writing to the Corporate Secretary his/her intention to seek a review within one week of notification of the outcome of their application. All recommendations for appointments submitted to Governing Authority must take account of this timeframe in order to facilitate a review if required.

- 10.3 The candidate will make a written submission setting out the entire grounds for his/her review request to the Corporate Secretary within two weeks of the notification of the outcome of their application. The Corporate Secretary will inform the Director, HR that a review has been requested. The Director, HR will inform the Chair of the Selection Board that a review has been requested.
- 10.4 Upon notification of a request for a review, the Governing Authority will appoint a Review Committee comprising three of its members (none of whom will be a senior officer of the University), one of whom will chair the Committee. The members of the Committee will exclude themselves from a Governing Authority decision on an appointment that has been subject to a review by them.
- 10.5 The Review Committee, if satisfied the application falls within the terms of 10.1 above, will determine the conduct of the review. Any such review will be completed within a reasonable timeframe. The reasoned determination of the Review Committee will be submitted to Governing Authority and will be provided subsequently to the candidate, HR and Chair of the Selection Board.
- 10.6 Following receipt of the determination of the Review Committee, the Governing Authority will decide whether or not to make an appointment and its decision on this matter is final.