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**FAO Chair of the Concordat Strategy
Group**

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

I, Tim Blackman, Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of The Open University, confirm our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

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

The Open University has been a recipient of the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research Award since 2012 and guided by action plans has actively worked as an institution to improve the environment and careers of its researchers. The new Researcher Development Concordat provides us with the opportunity to continue to provide a nurturing academic environment for all staff who have significant responsibilities for research at all stages of researcher career development. We will continue to invest in a programme of structured support for these staff. We will continue to promote the University's principles of equality and diversity through our commitment to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.

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 sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Blackman".

Professor Tim Blackman
Vice-Chancellor