

## Full Proposal National Chapters : Entry # 2933

### Your Organisation and Contact Details

#### Your organisation's name\*

University of Strathclyde

Dr. Helen Young

#### Your email address (designated Point of Contact)\*

[helen.l.young@strath.ac.uk](mailto:helen.l.young@strath.ac.uk)

### Consent Agreement

#### Authorisation to submit the Proposal on behalf of organisations\*

By ticking this box, I confirm that my organisation is a member of CoARA and that I have the authority to submit the Proposal on behalf of my organisation and on behalf of the organisations mentioned here.

### Lead Proposer

#### Lead Proposer name\*

Ms. Grace Murkett

#### Lead Proposer email\*

[grace.murkett@strath.ac.uk](mailto:grace.murkett@strath.ac.uk)

#### What country is this National Chapter submitted for?\*

United Kingdom

### Full Proposal Title and Keywords

#### Proposal Title\*

United Kingdom (UK) CoARA National Chapter

### Details on other CoARA member organisations involved

**Please list other CoARA member organisations from your country endorsing this National Chapter. Kindly note that listed organisations should represent at least half of the country's overall CoARA member organisations\***

- CRAC-Vitae (UK-based global member)
- Goldsmiths College, University of London
- Health Data Research UK
- Jisc
- Loughborough University
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Research on Research Institute (RoRI; UK-based global member)
- Software Sustainability Institute
- Swansea University
- The Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA UK)
- UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN)
- University of Central Lancashire
- University of Derby
- University of Edinburgh

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- University of Reading
- University of Strathclyde
- University of Warwick

### Short description of the mission and objectives of the group, and of how it fits with the overall CoARA vision (200 words max)\*

The UK National Chapter will provide a forum for UK organisations involved in research to put the CoARA principles into practice. It has two primary objectives:

1. Facilitating meaningful change by supporting member and signatory organisations to reflect on ambitions for reform of research assessment and put principles into practice, e.g. through the development and implementation of action plans.
2. Promoting systemic reform by engaging with those outside of the Coalition and supporting potential UK CoARA members and signatories to understand the implications of signing and/or joining CoARA.

It is anticipated that this initial mission of the Chapter will expand as the number of UK CoARA members/signatories increases. In time and with proper resourcing, the remit of the Chapter could widen to address particular needs in the UK R&D sector. This could include supporting the development of a renewed UK Forum for Responsible Research Assessment (replacing the previous UK Forum for Responsible Research Metrics as recommended in '[Harnessing the Metric Tide](#)'). There are clear synergies between this and a CoARA National Chapter in terms of providing a forum for consultation, deliberation, advocacy and evidence-informed advice related to responsible research assessment.

### Short Description of you National Chapter for the CoARA website\*

The UK National Chapter supports CoARA members and signatories to reflect on their ambitions for reform of research assessment and provides a space to discuss ways of bringing about this reform. By sharing our successes and lessons learned, we can work together to bring about meaningful change in our organisations and across the sector. The Chapter is open to, and will engage with, organisations outside of CoARA to communicate the benefits and implications of the agreement. Finally, the Chapter will support coordination of research assessment activities relevant to the UK, e.g. UK representation on CoARA Working Groups and sharing of outcomes.

Ms. Grace Murkett

[grace.murkett@strath.ac.uk](mailto:grace.murkett@strath.ac.uk)

### Consent to the publication of the provided information on CoARA's website

By ticking this box, I agree to the publication of the provided information on CoARA's website

### Expected impact (notably expected adoption and implementation scenarios) (300 words max)\*

The process of reflecting on current practice, existing plans and future ambitions for research assessment is key to creating meaningful change in organisations. The CoARA agreement and commitment to create an action plan is a helpful framework for doing this. It is anticipated that the Chapter will provide a forum for members and signatories to reflect and discuss with a view to exchanging good practice and lessons learned and continually developing and delivering their action plans and related activities. The Chapter will provide a platform to test ideas for solutions/activities and receive input from others with expertise and experience in reforming research assessment. In this way, the Chapter will serve as an additional benefit of signing/joining CoARA for those who choose to do so.

From recent CoARA-related events, it is clear that there is some hesitancy in signing the agreement in the UK, notably regarding the level of resource required. The Chapter will provide a forum for potential members and signatories to hear from existing members and signatories about the process of signing the agreement and the associated implications for work. It will

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provide an opportunity for questions to be answered and myths around what CoARA requires to be quashed. By engaging with the Chapter, the implications and benefits of signing/joining CoARA will be clearer to potential members and signatories.

The Chapter will enable coordination of UK representation on CoARA working groups - allowing for the UK perspective to be more accurately captured within working group activities, but also supporting the effective sharing of working group outcomes.

### **Added value of the National Chapter over and above what is currently being done within the country (300 words max)\***

Organisations involved in research often engage in forums that are specific to their organisation type; the National Chapter will support a dialogue between organisation types and bring together the specialisms and expertise of the range of UK CoARA members/signatories to support the development of comprehensive solutions to address systemic problems.

The National Chapter will be open to organisations involved with/leading research assessment reform activities and will seek to support and align with the outcomes of these. There is already significant activity within the UK related to responsible research assessment and exchange of good research practice more broadly (e.g. UKRI Good Research Exchange, consideration of responsible research assessment within the Research Excellence Framework (REF), Association of Research Managers and Administrations (ARMA) Special Interest Groups on Research Evaluation and on REF, discussion of renewing the Forum for Responsible Research Metrics into the UK Forum for Responsible Research Assessment, the UK Reproducibility Network, Vitae). Much of this activity is in development and it is not yet known how this will operate; for this reason (and given the current size of CoARA membership in the UK), it is proposed that the National Chapter initially focus on the two objectives outlined above. Once these other activities are more developed, it will be clearer where the CoARA National Chapter may be able to add further value.

The more established sector activities are commonly focused on specific elements of responsible research assessment, such as reward and recognition of open research practices, or academic/researcher career assessment. The Chapter will facilitate coordination across these activities, drawing together outcomes from the range of activities that fit under the umbrella of responsible research assessment and sharing them with a wider audience.

### **Work plan and outputs / deliverables, that can be accomplished within the timeline proposed (600 words max)\***

In line with the initial mission of the Chapter, envisaged deliverables in the first instance include:

- Delivery of information sessions for potential UK CoARA members/signatories, including short presentations and Q&A from existing members/signatories.
- Quarterly members' meetings showcasing good practice and providing a forum to discuss challenges specific to UK CoARA members/signatories.
- Coordinating input to working groups, such as promoting surveys/calls for participants, supporting data collection in the UK, reviewing draft outputs from a UK perspective.
- Engaging with other organisations involved with/leading on activities related to responsible research assessment to coordinate activity and share outcomes.

As noted above, it is anticipated that the initial mission of the Chapter will expand as the number of UK CoARA members/signatories increases, and the work plan will develop as a result.

### **Envisaged co-chairs leading the National Chapter**

University of Strathclyde  
Swansea University  
Loughborough University

### **Mechanisms to ensure that a broader range of organisations, including from outside CoARA, contribute to and benefit from the National Chapter (300 words max)\***

The Chapter will connect with, and communicate through, existing professional bodies and sector-wide organisations. For example:

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- [Association of Research Managers and Administrators](#) (ARMA) is a UK-based member of CoARA. Through the ARMA Special Interest Groups, non-signatory organisations will be able to hear about, and get involved with, the activities of the National Chapter.
- [CRAC-Vitae](#) is a UK-based, global member of CoARA. Vitae are involved in the CoARA boost consortium to enhance the operational capacity of CoARA and provide resource to investigate and implement new models for research assessment. With over 150 membership subscribers, Vitae has a significant reach beyond the CoARA signatories with which to share the benefit of the National Chapter.
- [UK Reproducibility Network](#) (UKRN) is a UK-based member of CoARA. UKRN have an open research programme to accelerate the use of open research practices, which includes a workstream on reward and recognition aimed at supporting implementation of responsible research assessment. The outcomes of this workstream will be highly relevant to the Chapter.
- Members of the Chapter have existing professional networks through which they can share information and support a dialogue between the Chapter and the networks.
- The initial co-lead organisations represent England, Scotland and Wales (currently no signatory from Northern Ireland) and will be able to share outcomes from the Chapter with their respective national networks as well as updating Chapter members on relevant national developments.

Broader communications (e.g. mailing list) will be established to engage and open to any organisations involved in research assessment and interested in the activities of the Chapter.

**Envisaged support needed from the CoARA Secretariat and resources expected to be provided in-kind by National Chapter members. Please note that this question is for information purposes only and will not be evaluated by the CoARA Steering Board. Please also have a look at section 1.6 in the Call Document for an overview of the possible support that can be offered to National Chapters.**

Envisaged support needed from the Secretariat includes:

- Publishing information on the mission and membership of the National Chapter on the CoARA website.
- Disseminating information about information sessions via CoARA channels.
- Informing the UK National Chapter co-leads of new signatories so that information can be provided about the Chapter.
- Informing the UK National Chapter co-leads of requests to join the Chapter.

The UK National Chapter is designed to be a collaborative forum. Whilst co-lead organisations have offered practical support with regards to Chapter meetings and communications, Chapter members are asked to support the viability of the Chapter by:

- Attending Chapter events and meetings wherever possible.
- Contributing to group discussions.
- Engaging with broader Chapter activities wherever possible.

CoARA members and signatories who are members of the Chapter are also requested to consider whether institutional funding for research culture or other areas relevant to responsible research assessment could be made available to support Chapter activities where appropriate (e.g. through hosting meetings).