

# **ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT**

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## **ORGANISATION AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT THE POLICY**

### **SECTION 1 – POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1) The Council of Royal Holloway, University of London sets out in this document its commitment as both employer and provider of higher education, to the provision of a safe and healthy environment and working conditions for staff and students, as well as to visitors and contractors working on its premises.
- 2) The Council attaches great importance to the proper management of Health, Safety and Fire related risks (hereafter referred to as '*Health and Safety*'), treating them as seriously as other corporate objectives. This importance is reflected in the pro-active approach adopted to the management, planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review arrangements established under the Strategic Plan for Health and Safety, individual Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice and the detailed arrangements established in this Health and Safety Policy. It is through such arrangements that the positive effects of the Policy and the identification of any further action required will be established.
- 3) The Council's health and safety duties will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the relevant statutory provisions and in doing so the resources necessary to discharge such obligations will be made available. Staff, students, contractors and visitors to College premises must meet their own legal responsibilities and not do anything that may prejudice the health, safety and welfare of themselves or others and assist the College authorities to achieve the objectives contained in this and other Policy and Procedure and Code of Practice documents.
- 4) In establishing this positive and progressive approach to Health and Safety, the Council recognises the need for the support of staff and students and for them to be consulted and involved, particularly where allocated specific Health and Safety functions. An essential tool in this communication process is the College Health and Safety Committee, which draws together management, staff and students to achieve the common objectives of a safe and healthy place of work and study.
- 5) Information, instruction, training and support will be provided to those charged with specific responsibilities under Section 2, subsections 1) and 2) below and under the College's Strategic Plan for Health and Safety, and its individual Health and Safety Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice. Training will also be provided to those who may be subject to potential risks to their health and safety in order that they are able to competently recognise and manage such risks. Particular attention must be paid to the minimisation

of risks arising from the use of chemicals, radiation, or other harmful materials.

- 6) Health and safety is an important line management responsibility requiring managers to undertake the duties identified in Section 2 (below) of this Policy and its associated Policies and Procedures and other formal documents.
- 7) The Health & Safety Adviser will be involved from the outset in issues/projects having major risk-related implications. The post holder will normally act as the principal contact in formal communications/discussions with the regulatory bodies, where these have major risk-related implications.

## **SECTION 2 – ORGANISATION AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT THE POLICY**

- 1) In meeting its statutory obligations, Council has vested in the Principal, as Chief Academic and Administrative Officer, responsibility for the management of Health and Safety. The Principal and Health & Safety Adviser will formally report to Council on an annual basis and more frequently as may be necessary, on the College's Health and Safety performance. The Principal is supported in this task by the Vice-Principals. It is the Deans of Faculty, Directors, Heads of Department and Managers, who have prime operational day-to-day responsibility for ensuring the health, safety and welfare of personnel, and for meeting the specific requirements identified in this Policy, the College's Strategic Plan for Health and Safety, and in individual Health and Safety Policy and Procedure, Code of Practice etc, documents, thereby facilitating the proper management of risk.
- 2) These organisational arrangements, as they relate to lines of communication and levels of responsibility, are detailed below.
  - a. The Council is responsible for:
    - (i) The setting of Health and Safety standards and objectives;
    - (ii) The allocation of the necessary financial resources;
    - (iii) Keeping under review the Health and Safety Policy;
    - (iv) Reviewing College Health and Safety performance.
  - b. The Principal is responsible to Council for:
    - (i) Implementing the College's Health and Safety Policy, individual Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice;
    - (ii) Identifying and allocating Health and Safety responsibilities to those senior staff referred to under sub paragraphs c. - h. below;
    - (iii) Monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness of College health and safety activities and its Health and Safety Policy, individual Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice and for ensuring that, at the strategic level, performance standards and timescales are adhered to.
  - c. Vice-Principals are responsible to the Principal and support him/her in the execution of his/her duties.

- d. The Deans of Faculty are responsible to the Principal for:
- (i) Ensuring that the requirements laid down in the Health and Safety Policy and individual Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice, including timescales set, are adhered to at an operational level, throughout their areas of responsibility;
  - (ii) Overseeing the allocation of health and safety responsibilities at departmental level;
  - (iii) Ensuring that consistency of approach to health and safety issues is achieved throughout their areas of responsibility;
  - (iv) Working with heads of department where limited resources may present difficulties in meeting the health and safety standards set, in order to resolve such difficulties.
- e. The Directors of Resources and Information Services are responsible to the Principal for those duties identified in d. above within their areas of responsibility.
- f. Directors (other than those referred to in e. above), Heads of Department (academic and non-academic) and Managers are responsible to either a Dean of Faculty, or Director (as is administratively appropriate) for:
- (i) Ensuring that departmental activities are conducted in accordance with College, legislative, and other relevant standards.
  - (ii) Producing safe systems of work and the procedures for carrying out the College Health and Safety Policy within their department;
  - (iii) Organising supervision to control the working environment and the maintenance of safe standards;
  - (iv) Investigating accidents with the object of establishing the cause and preventing recurrence, if necessary with the assistance of Health and Safety Office staff;
  - (v) Ensuring the safety induction of new staff and students and that information, instruction and training is provided to meet individually identified needs, if necessary with the assistance of a member of the Health and Safety Office;
  - (vi) Identifying, allocating and monitoring the adequacy of the specific health and safety responsibilities of staff and students and adjusting these as is identified necessary;
  - (vii) Identifying staff having health and safety duties and responsibilities, including Departmental Health and Safety Co-ordinators, and the measures that may be necessary to ensure that their roles and responsibilities are met;
  - (viii) Producing departmental Code(s) of Safe Working Practice and effecting arrangements for their implementation on a day-to-day basis, where identified necessary by risk assessment.
  - (ix) Reviewing the above arrangements at appropriate intervals and making such adjustments as may be identified necessary.

See also 4) below.

Note: a Departmental Health & Safety Co-ordinator, appointed from their staff, may assist Heads of Department in the execution of the above duties.

- g. The Director of Facilities Management is responsible to the Director of Resources for:
- (i) The overall management of health and safety within the Facilities Management Department. Specifically within the Academic Estate, this relates to the provision and maintenance of the buildings, their operating systems and relevant services provided, together with the grounds in which they are situated. For the Residential Estate, this covers all aspects of the provision and maintenance of the buildings, their operating systems, the grounds in which they are situated and all services provided within them.
  - (ii) In relation to building operating systems noted above, particular attention shall be paid to Fire and Security systems, ensuring appropriate levels of protection and safety are provided for individuals and the properties concerned;
  - (iii) In relation to the provision of any part of the function referred to in (i) above, to ensure that arrangements are in line with legislative requirements and/or other relevant standards and wherever possible, endeavouring to make such provision a model of best practice.
  - (iv) Undertaking those duties identified in 2), f. above.
- h. The College Health & Safety Adviser is responsible for providing an advisory service on Health, Safety and Fire matters to Council, the Principal, Vice-Principals, Deans of Faculty, Directors, Heads of Department (academic and non-academic) Managers, Safety Representatives and Health and Safety Committee members, as well as other relevant personnel. The post holder shall also:
- (i) Keep all levels of management informed of statutory, best practice and other health and safety related requirements, as well as members of the Health and Safety Committee, and advise them of action necessary to meet such demands;
  - (ii) Provide, wherever possible, necessary training;
  - (iii) Liaise with safety representatives and departmental safety co-ordinators;
  - (iv) Provide advice on such policy, procedure and other relevant standards documents, as are necessary to enable the Council, its senior officers and other relevant College personnel, to meet their formal health and safety-related obligations;
  - (iv) Undertake such other duties as are identified in this document.
  - (v) Monitor compliance with the requirements of this Policy.
- i. Safety Representatives (trades union or non-trades union representatives) should, within the department or area they represent:
- (i) Assist with the promotion of safe working practices;

- (ii) Familiarise themselves fully with the Health and Safety Policy and individual Health and Safety Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice;
  - (iii) Liaise with their Head of Department, and the College Health & Safety Adviser, in accident investigations and safety audits;
  - (iv) Where they are a member of the Health and Safety Committee, take part in proceedings, representing their staff and presenting to them information gathered from meetings;
  - (v) Report personally, or endeavour to ensure that other staff report, any hazardous or potentially hazardous situations;
  - (vi) Be familiar with the action required in cases of emergency such as those related to fire, accidents or security issues.
- j. Individual Members of Staff and Students will co-operate and comply at all times with the safety information, instruction and training provided and bring without delay to the attention of their line manager/department office, any hazards identified, or improvements they think necessary. They do, therefore, have a duty to take reasonable care for the Health and Safety of themselves, and of other persons whom their acts or omissions may affect. They must co-operate with the College to enable it, or any other person, to comply with any duty or requirement imposed by the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and any other relevant statutory provisions.
- 3) **College Health and Safety Committee**  
 The College Health and Safety Committee will monitor and keep under review the measures taken to ensure the health, safety and welfare of College employees, students and others engaged in legitimate activities on its premises. This involves the promotion of co-operation between management, staff and students in instigating, developing and carrying out measures to ensure health, safety and welfare at work, as well as in study and recreational activities. This work is an essential element in the development of a positive and progressive approach to health and safety and the evolution of a College ‘safety culture’.
- 4) **Individual Policy and Procedure etc. Documents and Safe Systems of Work**  
 The detailed arrangements for dealing with specific health, safety and welfare issues are identified in College Health and Safety Policy and Procedure and Codes of Practice documents. These documents are contained within the College Health and Safety Guidance Manual, a copy of which is held in each department. Examples of such documents are those relating to:
- \* Accident/Incident Reporting
  - \* Risk Assessment
  - \* Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
  - \* The Use of Visual Display Units
  - \* Manual Handling

These documents identify the health and safety standards to be attained, who is to do what and when, and the specific results to be achieved. They set out performance standards and connect individual responsibilities to required outputs, with the achievement of objectives being based on specific tasks, the results of which are measurable.

Each department will produce a health and safety document identifying the potentially significant health and safety-related risks to which its staff and/or students may be exposed, together with the controls established to ensure that these are adequately managed. Other relevant information shall be included and the Health & Safety Adviser shall provide the basic format for such documents.

It is not, however, practicable to set the standards for all activities centrally and the following are examples of where managers, working with the Health & Safety Adviser, are required to set their own performance standards:

- (a) Procedures for dealing with potential problem areas such as the guarding of machinery, good housekeeping, effective inspection and maintenance of plant and equipment, such as fume cupboards and electrical equipment;
- (b) Procedures for introducing new machinery, plant and equipment, substances or processes, and for examining and addressing the health and safety aspects prior to a new project being undertaken;
- (c) Procedures for dealing with risks such as ionising radiation, noise, biological hazards, the selection, storage and transport of gases and toxic chemicals, and the safe and environmentally appropriate disposal of toxic wastes;
- (d) Safe systems and methods of work for maintaining the fabric and services of buildings;
- (e) Selection, use and provision of suitable protective clothing;
- (f) Arrangements for dealing with the use of premises outside of normal working hours;
- (g) Accident investigation and reporting procedures;
- (h) The arrangements for obtaining and communicating to staff and students, information about health and safety matters, including information about articles and substances used;
- (i) Providing training to meet identified needs for new and existing staff, together with retraining, including when staff take up new responsibilities or move from a different department.

5) **The Management of Risk at Departmental Level**

The proper management of risk at departmental level requires the production of written safe systems of work, rules and procedures, which identify areas of potential risk and clarify the process by which activities will be performed in order that they can be executed safely. This will include activities, curricular or extra curricular and the

planning and execution of field trips, expeditions and visits, as well as school visits to the College.

Properly conducted risk assessment is an essential feature of the effective management of risk. At each management level, risk assessment will be an invaluable tool in the allocation of resources by ensuring that these are apportioned according to the level of risk identified.

All personnel are required to ensure adherence to College Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice, as well as to departmental rules and safe systems of work, including those that may be applicable to activities that are conducted outside of the College. They should bring any instances where this may not be possible to the attention of the appropriate level of management at the earliest opportunity, in order that effective remedial action may be taken.

6) **Health and Safety Information**

Comprehensive information, including copies of Health and Safety Commission/Executive publications relating to all subjects likely to be relevant to College activities, are available for reference in the Health and Safety Office.

**MONITORING THE POLICY**

- 7) The implementation of this Policy, progress on the Strategic Plan for Health and Safety and the requirements of individual Policies and Procedures and Codes of Practice, will be monitored at departmental level during a formal health and safety audit. The Health & Safety Adviser will develop a three-year rolling programme of such audits, ensuring that each department is audited at least once during that period.

Members of the Health and Safety Office, using the College's standard audit questionnaire, will conduct audits with the head of department and health and safety co-ordinator. Participating will be the departmental safety representative. The College Health & Safety Adviser will produce an audit report which will be circulated to, among others, the Dean of Faculty or Director and College Principal. The Health & Safety Adviser will present a verbal report of the audit to the Health and Safety Committee.

- 8) Where the activities of a department are felt to warrant more regular auditing, an appropriate frequency will be identified. Accredited staff representatives may wish, in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions, to carry out more frequent inspections with local management.
- 9) The College Health & Safety Adviser will produce annual accident statistics. Copies will be circulated to the Principal and Health and Safety Committee members and will be made available to Council

members. Such reports will facilitate a critical review of trends and necessary corrective action.

Signed by the Principal, Professor Stephen Hill on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2005

Dr Richard Fisk  
Health & Safety Adviser  
4/4/05