

### **Requesting flexible working**

### How to apply

Think through • Think through the details of your request, how it might work, any issues there might be and how these can be overcome. This might include how how you would your work will be completed and what the effect will be on the University. like to work • Use the Flexible Working Toolkit to help you. •It's a good idea to informally discuss your idea with your team and manager first. Discuss your idea • You will need to think carefully about the impact of your re guest on your work and your colleagues as the University will need to consider its implications thoroughly with your before any request is approved. manager & team •You might need to change your original idea or do some more problem solving as a result of this discussion. Complete a •Make sure you complete the relevant sections and give as much detail as possible. flexible working Send it to your line manager request form



### What happens next?

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- A meeting will be arranged with you to discuss your request, it should be arranged within 28 days of your request.
- •The meeting will usually be led by your line manager
- You can be accompanied to your meeting by a work colleague or a union representative

# Meeting

- •At the meeting your proposal will be discussed and a decision will usually be made at or soon after the meeting but further time may be needed.
- •You should have a decision within 14 days of your meeting.
- •You may need to agree a compromise that suits you and the University's business interests.

### Decision

•Your proposal may be refused.

## Letter

- •The agreed outcome of the meeting will be put in a letter. You should be sent this letter within 3 months of your initial request.
- •Any new arrangements will be confirmed including the start date, any changes in pay or other terms and conditions and define the trial period and review date.

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- A review period will usually be agreed to check the arrangement is working both from yours and the University's perspective.
- •If after an initial review, the working arrangements are allowed to continue, you should remember that in the future, the business needs of the University could develop and your role or working arrangements may be reviewed again. Any changes will be introduced with reasonable notification.
- Review | •Re

• Regular reviews may be set up to monitor the effectiveness of the arrangement.



Find out more at www.exeter.ac.uk/hrservices



#### Why can requests be refused?

We want to support employees with work-life balance wherever possible. We also need to make sure that our decisions take into account fully the operational needs of the University including those needs of your colleagues, students and other customers.

Your request can only be refused for one or more of the following reasons:

- the burden of additional costs;
- detrimental effect on ability to meet customer demand;
- inability to re-organise work among existing staff;
- inability to recruit additional staff;
- detrimental impact on quality;
- detrimental impact on performance;
- insufficiency of work during the periods you propose to work; 

  planned structural changes.

If your request is refused, the outcome letter you receive will make it clear about why it has been refused and provide details of how to appeal.

#### What can I do if my request is refused?

If you are not happy with the outcome of your meeting to discuss your request, you can appeal against the decision. You should lodge an appeal by writing to the <u>Director of Human Resources</u>. This must be done within 14 days of receiving the letter that states the outcome of your request.

As soon as possible after receiving notification that you wish to appeal, an appeal meeting will be arranged with two appropriate senior managers who have not previously been involved in discussions about your request. At the meeting, you may be accompanied by a work colleague or union representative. You will be informed of the outcome of the appeal in writing as soon as possible after the date of the appeal meeting. The appeal decision is final within the University's procedures.





### **Review of arrangements**

An initial review period will be agreed when your working arrangements are confirmed. The review is important to check that the arrangements work for you as well as the University.

If after an initial review, the working arrangements are allowed to continue, you should remember that in the future, the business needs of the University could develop and your role or working arrangements may be reviewed again. Any changes will be introduced with reasonable notification.

If you change roles at the University, you should remember that your working arrangements will not automatically transfer to the new role and you should discuss your needs during the recruitment process.

### **Further guidance available**

Further guidance is available in the **Flexible Working Toolkit.** 

Please speak to your <u>HR Business Partner/Advisor</u> for anything further or to discuss your individual or team circumstances.

