Case study: Kirsty Allen - Head of Registry’s Office

Faculty Administrator* Law
Grade 8

Faculty Administrator** Law
Grade 9

Senior Assistant Registry*** Secretariat
Grade 10

Head of Registry’s Office****
Grade 11

RAE2008 Panel Adviser 19 mth secondment Part-time

RAE2008 Panel Adviser 1 yr secondment Part-time

Entry to Cambridge from Academic Secretary’s Office, University of Dundee

Being a Faculty Administrator in a large non-departmental Faculty gives a wide range of experience over all aspects of University administration: strategy, finance, HR, research, teaching. It is an excellent training – and gives coalface understanding of what the core functions of the University are: essentially teaching and research. Any University administrator forgets that at their peril!

The fact that the University encouraged me to apply for and facilitated me in undertaking secondments to the RAE was absolutely central to my career development. It broadened my horizons and gave me exposure to a sector-wide exercise. It was incredibly challenging – but, ultimately, was probably what gave me the skills, experience and confidence to take the next career step. I consider that my career trajectory within the University (from grade 8 to grade 11 in 12 years) is evidence of the fact that, if you are willing to seize opportunities, you will be supported in your career progression.

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) - an exercise undertaken on behalf of the four UK higher education funding councils (HEFCE, SHEFC, HEFCW, DELNI) to evaluate the quality of research undertaken by British higher education institutions. RAE submissions from each subject area (or unit of assessment) were given a rank by a subject specialist peer review panel. The rankings were used to inform the allocation of quality weighted research funding (QR) each higher education institution receives from their national funding council. Previous RAEs took place in 1986, 1989, 1992, 1996 and 2001. The most recent results were published in December 2008.

University Official Post Titles:
* - Administrative Officer
** - Assistant Registry
*** - Senior Assistant Registry
**** - Principal Assistant Registry