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About this briefing

This briefing provides an overview of findings from research led by Professor Marie-Pierre Moreau (Principal Investigator), Dr Kate Hoskins (Co-Investigator) and Dr Ellen McHugh. The research was funded by the British Academy/Leverhulme Small Grants programme. The aim of the research was to understand how students who have recently submitted their PhD thesis (less than 18 months ago at the time of the interview) negotiate access to an academic position, with specific consideration of the role of the doctoral supervisor in this process.

This policy briefing focuses on the transition from a PhD to an academic position. The briefing presents key findings and recommendations for national key stakeholders, higher education institutions (HEIs) and doctoral supervisors to support early career researchers in building an academic career during their studies and at post-doctoral stage.

Background and key findings

The current UK higher education context is characterised by an increasing level of financial and political uncertainty, with changes to the funding mechanisms of higher education, growing competition for students, and

