

ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2021/ 22

The University of Roehampton is a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (UUK 2012; updated 2019), the national framework for good research conduct and its governance. In accordance with the Concordat, this statement outlines how research integrity is supported and strengthened at the University of Roehampton. It also provides a statement on any cases of research misconduct or formal investigations that have been undertaken in 2021/ 22.

Environment for Research Integrity

The Research Integrity and Ethics Committee is the University's senior body with oversight for all matters relating to research ethics and integrity. A Committee of Senate, it oversees the Ethics review and approval process, deals with relevant strategic and policy matters, and is responsible for compliance and implementation.

The Vice-Chancellor has overall responsibility for ensuring that the University of Roehampton meets its obligations and observes best practice in research integrity.

Anyone who has any concerns, or wishes to raise any issues in relation to research and its integrity at the University, is able to communicate with the University Secretary as an independent point of contact. They can be confident that their anonymity will be protected.

Policy Framework

The following policies and procedures support a rigorous approach to ensuring research integrity at the University of Roehampton: University Policies can be found [here](#).

- Code of Good Research Practice and Research Integrity
- Ethics Guidelines (to be updated)
- Data Protection Policy
- Data Protection Guidance for Researchers
- Health & Safety Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Disciplinary Procedures (Staff)
- Student Disciplinary Regulations

Ongoing Activities to Support Research Integrity

- The Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee provides leadership for all research related matters at the University of Roehampton, and includes representatives from all academic schools/ faculties and the postgraduate research community.
- Research students are supported by the Research Students Degree Programme, an ongoing training programme covering all aspects of research activity and personal development.
- All staff in the Schools of Life and Health Sciences and Psychology who are involved in clinical research are required to complete training in Good Clinical Practice.
- All staff are encouraged to attend Research Integrity training delivered through the Researcher Development Programme, and to read the Concordat and the University's Code of Good Research Practice and Research Integrity.
- Research Supervisors are supported by internal training.
- The Research Integrity and Ethics Committee provides continued oversight and review of ethical considerations of proposed research activity, and provides assurance, reporting to Senate.
- The Research Office, Data Protection Officer and Contracts Adviser provide support for researchers who are conducting research.

2021/ 22 Activities to Support Research Integrity

- Internal training sessions were delivered via the Research Development Programme. All staff are invited to attend to support their ongoing professional development. All new staff (and staff and research students completing an ethics application) must complete a mandatory online course on data protection.
- A Good Clinical Practice course was run by the University.
- Research integrity and ethics is included in Graduate School induction day sessions.
- The ethics application review processes have been streamlined. Consideration is ongoing regarding possible 'disentangling' of research ethics from other aspects of research governance

Research Misconduct

The University has appropriate measures in place to ensure that any allegations of research misconduct are dealt with in a transparent, timely, robust and fair way. This is set out in our [Code of Good Research Practice and Research Integrity](#). All employees are able to report concerns in confidence to the University Secretary (information regarding this is given in our [Public Interest Disclosure Policy](#)).

In 2021/ 22 there has been one case of research misconduct found at the University. There was one incident of an unacknowledged quotation in a PhD thesis. The case was considered in line with the [Student Disciplinary Regulations](#), which set out the process by which the University investigates, considers and determines alleged breaches of the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Subsequently, the practice of submitting theses to Turnitin before submission has changed from advisory to mandatory.

Conclusion

The University continues to promote and prize the highest standards of research integrity. We will continue to develop our policies and practice to ensure that our research staff and research students are supported in adopting a rigorous approach to research and its integrity.

Identified Actions for 2022/ 23

- Carry out a review of our policies and procedures in relation to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity via the UKRIO Self-Assessment Tool (Version 2.0, 2021).
- Continue discussions about possible 'disentangling' of research ethics and other aspects of research governance.
- Ongoing: Update the University Ethics Guidelines.
- Further research integrity and ethics training sessions for staff and research students via the Research Development Programme.
- Further University Good Clinical Practice courses.
- Training sessions on the ethics review process and research integrity for new School Ethics Representatives and reviewers.