

University of Huddersfield annual statement on research integrity 2023/24

The University of Huddersfield subscribes to the principles of the [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#) and is committed to excellence in all aspects of research. As an employer of researchers, the University acts in accordance with the commitments and the related responsibilities for employers of researchers as outlined in the Concordat. This includes fulfilment of the expectations held by funders of research for employers of researchers. The University [policies, framework and procedures](#) can be found on the University website.

This year's statement has used the model template developed by the UK Research Integrity Office with the research integrity concordat signatories group.

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	University of Huddersfield
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher education institution
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	06/11/2024
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	Concordat to support research integrity - University of Huddersfield
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Professor Andrew Ball
	Email address: a.ball@hud.ac.uk
1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Becky Green
	Email address: r.l.green@hud.ac.uk

Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture.

2A. Description of current systems and culture

The University Research Committee (URC), chaired by the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange, which is responsible to the Senate, has central responsibility for ensuring the University's compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. Its members include senior academic representatives from each of the five Schools, as well as representatives from other key services. The Committee is responsible for progress towards the strategic objectives and targets set by the University in research and enterprise and support the development and implementation of new policies in line with those activities.

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity requires the University to have clear policies, practices and procedures to support researchers as part of their commitment to embed a culture of research integrity. The University makes all related policies available centrally via our Policies and Procedures [webpages](#), these policies are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure they remain relevant and fit for purpose. The *Code of Practice for Research* is designed to encourage good conduct in research and help prevent misconduct, to assist researchers to conduct research of the highest quality. The Code also outlines the University's commitment to leadership and development through maintaining and promoting an environment which supports research of high ethical standards mutual co-operation, professionalism and the open and honest exchange of ideas. The University encourages the career development of researchers through a programme of mentoring and training opportunities.

Each School has a School Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (SREIC) which meets each term providing a valuable opportunity for dissemination of information from the URC and any other relevant sources. The SREICs provide a copy of their minutes to URC, as well as a more detailed annual report, which provides information on the training delivered to staff and students, numbers of applications processed for ethics review, and outlines any areas of support or guidance the SREIC might need for particular issues.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

The University continued to provide online training and support for research staff and postgraduate researchers (PGRs) in the form of modules within Epigeum's *Research Integrity* and *Research Skills* package. The completion numbers for 2023/24 saw an increase on the previous year, with 684 having successfully passed the course compared to 617 in 2022/23. For PGRs the training is undertaken by month three of

their PhD studies and evidence of completion is submitted alongside their Research Support Plan. A breakdown of the data is provided in the tables below:

	2022	2023	2024
Failed	32	39	45
Incomplete	45	52	67
Passed	455	617	684

Figure 1 Online completion rates - Research Integrity: Concise

Module Title	Passed	Failed	Incomplete
Responsible research practices	349	24	45
Irresponsible research practices	315	6	16
Planning your research	307	5	9
Managing and recording your research	293	3	11
Data selection, analysis and presentation	286	3	8

Figure 2 Online completion rates – Research Integrity: Second edition

During this reporting period, the UK Research Integrity Office launched their pilot for their online *Introduction to Research Integrity* course. As a subscriber institution of UKRIO, we took the opportunity to participate in the pilot and a number of our research professional services staff and ethics committee members were granted access to the training content. The access period for those registered is open until 11th April 2025, and we will obtain feedback on the training content during the trial period, to feedback to UKRIO.

In addition to the training options referred to above, all new members of research staff are provided with a comprehensive training offering managed through the HR People and Organisational Development Team, including training offered by services within Research, Innovation and Knowledge Exchange. Training is also in place within Schools, with research ethics training offered to all new academic staff along with existing staff who may wish to expand or refresh their knowledge on research ethics.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

This should include a reflection on the previous year's activity including a review of progress and impact of initiatives if known relating to activities referenced in the previous year's statement. Note any issues that have hindered progress, e.g. resourcing or other issues.

Over the last year a significant amount of work has gone into developing a strategy for embedding the importance of Trusted Research into our existing processes around Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity. This work will continue into the next reporting year and will be underpinned by a training module that will be rolled out early in the first term. The training package will have two components:

1. An Introductory module which will take around 35 – 40 minutes to complete and will be mandatory for all academic and research staff, practitioners, technicians, and identified professional services staff.
2. Advanced module options which provide a more in-depth look at Trusted Research Principles, IT security & Knowledge Asset Protection, and Legal and Regulatory obligations.

The roll-out of this offering will be supported by an in-person session led by the developers of the training.

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

As set out in the *Code of Practice for Research*, the Deputy Vice Chancellor has the responsibility for investigating allegations of misconduct in research by staff. The procedures for students are documented in the Student Handbook. The University's *Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research Policy* draws on the UK Research Integrity Office's *Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research* and is managed by Human Resources.

The Policy was last updated in March 2024 and will next be reviewed in March 2027.

The number of cases remain low, and around half of the Stage 1 complaints with a written caution are around self-plagiarism. With this in mind, the Graduate School has introduced a Stage 0 for 2024/25 which will not result in a written caution but will require small amendments before final submission of the work.

	Plagiarism	Self-Plagiarism	Ethics	Total
Total	6	6	1	13

Figure 1 Total number of cases

Stage of Misconduct	No case to Answer	Written Caution	Penalty 1	Penalty 3	Total
Stage 1	1	8			9
Stage 2	0	1			1
Stage 3	0	1	1	1	3
Total	1	10	1	1	13

Figure 2 Outcome