

University of Huddersfield

2015-16 Research Integrity Annual Report

The University's on-going commitment to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Documents/2012/TheConcordatToSupportResearchIntegrity.pdf>) is reflected below.

Commitment 1: We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research

The University of Huddersfield subscribes to the principles of the Concordat 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.

Commitment 2: We are committed to ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards

The senior member of staff who oversees research integrity at the University and acts as the first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity is Professor Andrew Ball, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise. He chairs the University Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (UREIC).

UREIC reports to Senate and is responsible for ensuring that the governance and policy context for the undertaking of research within the University is optimal i.e. up-to-date with current legislation, ethically appropriate and fit-for-purpose. The policies, codes and framework refer to the University as a whole, including its undergraduate, post graduate and staff researchers and can be found on the University website at:

<https://research.hud.ac.uk/strategy/research-integrity/>

The Policy and Code provide an overarching framework for the University's Academic Schools, which have delegated responsibility for research integrity and ethics.

Research activities which require NHS Integrated Research Approval System (IRAS) formal ethical approval have grown beyond the programmes within the School of Human and Health Sciences (SHHS), where an established approval hierarchy has been embedded for many years. As a result approvals for non-SHHS activity are now routed through the Director of Research and Enterprise prior to submission through IRAS.

The University's School of Applied Sciences (SAS) is the largest user of human tissue in its research activities and has a Human Tissue Committee which oversees wider compliance with the Human Tissue Act across the University. A Human Tissue Licence was awarded on 4 December 2015 for Specific research activity planned within SAS.

UREIC met 4 times during the 2015_16 academic year. All School Research Ethics Committees (SREC) are operational and reporting to UREIC through the minutes of their meetings. No issues or ethical approvals were escalated to UREIC by the academic Schools during 2015_16. UREIC also encouraged awareness raising and provision of information for staff and student researchers through the development of School research governance/ethics websites.

Each School's Director of Research (DoR) provides an annual report to UREIC. Key points for 2015_16 are:

- Applied Sciences – A School research governance website has been created. 15 ethics approvals have been granted. The majority of applications required minor amendments ahead of final approval. A key component of an all staff School Research Day held in April 2016 was a presentation on research ethics and integrity, including instruction on compliance with the Human Tissue Act. School training sessions for new staff and PGRs have been included within induction.
- Art, Design and Architecture - A School research governance website has been created. 26 ethics approvals have been granted. 1 application was not approved. School training sessions for staff and PGRs have been introduced.
- Business School - A School research governance website has been created. 30 ethics approvals have been granted. 5 applications were not approved, resulting in 1 withdrawal and 4 resubmissions, of which 1 has been approved and the remainder are still under review. Training has taken place for reviewers and at induction for new staff and PGRs. A training log has been set up.
- Computing and Engineering – A new research governance website has been created. 2 ethics approvals have been granted.
- Education and Professional Development - The research governance website has been reviewed and updated. 41 ethics approvals have been granted. 57 staff and 68 students received training.
- Human and Health Sciences - The research governance website has been reviewed and updated. 105 ethics approvals have been granted. A half day training event for staff and PGRs was held in November 2015. Changes in NHS approval procedures have been drawn to the attention of SREC reviewers.
- Music, Humanities and Media - A new research governance website has been created. 36 ethics approvals have been granted. 1 application was not approved. Individual training sessions for 11 new members of staff have been held.

The School websites include information about the approval processes for research proposals, which are based on the knowledge of discipline specific ethical, legal and professional frameworks and also identify each School's DoR. The DoR, supported by a named Research Integrity Champion, is responsible for the communication of and continuous improvement in policy, procedures, support and information for staff and student researchers within their School.

The University's Legal team supports researchers and UREIC with addressing any legal obligations associated with research activities.

Commitment 3: We are committed to supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers

Central

The University has programmes of training and support for research staff and students, which include the following Epigeum modules available via the University's Unilearn on-line portal:

- Research Integrity
 - Arts and Humanities
 - Biomedical Sciences
 - Engineering and Technology

- Natural and Physical Sciences
- Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Research Skills
 - Research Methods
 - Research Ethics

Face to face training for PGRs is also provided in the following areas:

- Research Ethics
- Managing research data
- Open Access Publishing
- Introducing data protection and freedom of information: your rights and responsibilities
- Disclosure and confidentiality

The content and scope of the centrally provided programmes are reviewed at least annually by Research and Enterprise and the Head of Staff Development.

Schools

Discipline specific mentoring, support and training are provided within Schools.

School based training and support is described on the School Research Governance webpages and includes:

- Signposting to the centrally provided Epigeum e-learning modules
- Induction meetings for new staff with the School Director of Research
- Induction presentations on research integrity and ethics for PGRs
- Meetings for new staff with the Designated Individual for the Human Tissue Act licence (School of Applied Sciences)
- Training for Research Ethics Committee Reviewers (Business School)
- Training in Ethics Review Process for staff and PGRs (Business School)
- Annual training sessions for staff with the Chair of the School Research Ethics Committee (School of Education)
- Twice yearly training for staff and PGRs in applying for ethical approval (School of Human and Health Sciences)
- Discipline specific and general guidance documentation

Commitment 4: We are committed to using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise

The University's procedure for identifying how allegations of misconduct in research are reported and investigated is documented in the staff handbook. The procedure follows UKRIO guidance:

<http://hr.hud.ac.uk/downloads/policies/pdf/1000297.pdf>

The named person for receiving allegations of misconduct is Professor Tim Thornton (Deputy Vice Chancellor).

Misconduct in research by students is covered in Section 4 of the Student's Handbook of Regulations, specifically Assessment Regulation 9 - Research misconduct for candidates registered on an approved course of supervised research at:

<https://www.hud.ac.uk/registry/regulations-and-policies/>

The University's Whistleblowing Policy is available on the university website at <http://www.hud.ac.uk/hr/policies/policymenu/?id=1000102>).

Commitment 5: We are working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly

This is the University's third annual narrative statement. The University annual statements are publicly available through the website at <https://research.hud.ac.uk/strategy>

The University is a member of the UKRIO and in May 2016 its Deputy Director of Research and Enterprise attended the annual conference in London. We will continue to participate in UKRIO workshops and events to enable us to identify improvements to our processes and procedures and to share best practice.

Formal investigations of research misconduct

There were 7 formal investigations of research related misconduct relating to plagiarism by PGR students in the 2015-16 academic year. In response, the University has extended the use of Turn-It-In to include progression monitoring stages.

There were no formal investigations of research related misconduct associated with staff in the 2015-16 academic year.

Dr Tracy Turner
Deputy Director, Research and Enterprise
3 October 2016