

University of Hull Annual Statement of Research Integrity 2015

Background

In July 2012, Universities UK published the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (July 2012): a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. HEFCE, NIHR, RCUK and the Wellcome Trust are included among its signatories, and HEFCE in particular has stipulated that compliance with the Concordat is a condition of the HEFCE grant from 2014/15.

The Concordat requires that the University should submit annual statement to its governing body that:

1. Provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues;
2. Provides assurances that the processes they have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation;
3. Provides a high level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

To improve accountability, and provide assurances that measures being taken continue to support consistently high standards of research integrity, the statement should be made publicly available.

Statement

The University of Hull takes seriously its compliance with Concordat expectations and has established the Concordat Steering Group was established to ensure compliance with the Concordat expectations by overseeing the implementation of the action plan. This group is a sub group of the University Research and Enterprise Group that is accountable to Senate and Council.

Through the CSG, the University has undertaken the following activities:

- 1) The University conducted an institution wide UKRIO self-assessment of practices that ensure research integrity in the university research community the purpose of this was to identify existing practices and areas requiring development or updating. All faculties have conducted the self-assessment audit in their areas. It was identified that to areas requiring attention were institutional research governance documents and research integrity training. Compliance with the Concordat for Supporting Research Integrity was added to the University Risk Register. These areas weakness were addressed in the activities described below.
- 2) University Governance documents:

- a) Preparation and approval of the Statement of Research Integrity which clearly describes the principles form the foundation for all research practice at the University.
 - b) Preparation and approval of the Code of Good Practice which sets out to clearly describe the accepted practices in research at the University.
- 3) Research integrity training
- a) All faculties except HYMS have developed Research Integrity PGTS modules for all postgraduate research student and which will be delivered in Semester 2 of 2015 as expected. Review of the research integrity training in HYMS for Hull based students will form part of the second phase of training development due to commence in 2016. All HYMS students currently have access to research integrity training through the reciprocal relationship with University of York.
 - b) Investigations on developing a blended learning approach to staff training are in progress. This is being coordinated by the Concordat for Supporting Research Integrity Lead with the support of the CSG.
- 4) UREC have approved the CSG recommendation to establish research governance framework. A Research Governance Manager has been appointed to coordinate and manage this process.
- 5) The *University Research Integrity* webpage has been developed and is publicly available at [http://hull.ac.uk/research integrity](http://hull.ac.uk/research%20integrity). This page hosts information regarding research integrity at the University and external resources and expectations. To improve documentation transparency, a *Research Policies, Codes and Guidance* page has been developed that provide easy access for researchers to all research relevant documents.

Research Misconduct Formal investigations

Within the reporting period, no formal investigations of research misconduct have occurred for students or staff.

Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Enterprise

Dr David Richards

November 2015