University of Hull

Annual statement on research integrity 2026

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	University of Hull
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)	
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.hull.ac.uk/work-with-us/research/governance
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Fiona Matthews, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
	Email address: pvc-re@hull.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: Katie Skilton, Head of Research Excellence, Governance and Impact
	Email address: researchgovernance@hull.ac.uk

2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture. Description of actions and activities undertaken

2A. Description of current systems and culture

Context

The University of Hull is committed to ensuring the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research undertaken by the institution. This includes, research conducted in the name of the University, or using University resources or facilities. All members of the University community (students, staff (including those visiting or emeritus), contract holders, consultants, and associates) are expected to uphold the principles of honesty, rigour, transparency and open communication, care and respect, and accountability, as detailed within the Concordat.

The University recognises its obligation to research participants, funders, partners and the wider community; and in order to maintain high standards of integrity in research, the University pledges to uphold the commitments outlined within the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

The University has assessed itself in accordance with the 2025 Refreshed Concordat to Support Research Integrity to ensure compliance and has produced a detailed action plan aligned to UKRIO guidance.

In addition to the core principles within the Concordat, researchers must also act in accordance with appropriate ethical and compliance frameworks and abide by requirements set out by the University to ensure appropriate review and approval of research.

This report provides an overview of activities and practices undertaken during academic year 2025/26 to support and enhance integrity in research and looks forward to the year ahead, in accordance with the requirements of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

Policies and systems

The University's Research Governance Framework comprises various policies, procedural documents and codes outlining the standards, expectations and requirements of staff, students, and the University as a whole. These include, the Statement on Research Integrity, Code of Good Research Practice, Code of Practice

for Dealing with Research Misconduct, Research Ethics Policy, and the Whistleblowing Policy. These documents are easily accessible on the University website and via internal SharePoint pages.

These policies, procedures, codes, and general guidance were drafted, and are continually reviewed to remain, in accordance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) self-assessment toolkit. The University recognises the importance of having clear and accessible policies and procedures in embedding a culture of integrity and ethics within research.

Training

The University of Hull implements a multifaceted approach to training for research integrity, ensuring provision for all researchers, staff and students, is accessible and appropriate.

For research staff, training on research integrity is delivered online, as part of an e-learning package developed by the University's Learning and Development team. All academic staff are mandated to complete this training and this must be refreshed periodically, in accordance with the learning and development mandatory training map. The training covers the fundamental principles of research ethics and integrity, forming the foundation for more discipline specific training delivered in face-to-face sessions. This training was reviewed and updated in early 2024 and a further review currently underway to ensure it remains fit for purpose and to also include specific reference to the concordat and to signpost colleagues to practical tools and guidance to ensure robust integrity in practice.

Completion of the mandatory research integrity training module was monitored by the Learning and Development Team who submitted quarterly reports to the Head of Research Excellence and Governance. This report was presented to the Concordat Steering Group (CSG). Compliance in the 2025-26 academic year has been interrupted due to the migration to a new staff management system. Reporting will resume when the migration of staff data is complete.

Training on research ethics and integrity for PGR supervisors is delivered through a training course that is mandatory for all postgraduate supervisors at the University. This has recently been reviewed and revised in July 2025, with an eight-part online course providing a comprehensive cover of topics relevant to supervisors including a new 'Ethics and PGR Supervision' module. This material is now also included in a PGR Supervisors' Handbook as well as available on the Doctoral College SharePoint page for reference.

For undergraduate and postgraduate taught students, basic research ethics and integrity training is built into their programme of study. For postgraduate research students, research ethics and integrity is the subject of the new 'Responsible Researcher' accredited module which must be completed by all PGRs in their first year of study. This module, launched in September 2025, is delivered by the Doctoral College in association with academic and professional services staff. It is delivered in a flipped format, with extensive self-guided material on research integrity, research data management, generative AI, ethical approvals, open research and trusted research being available to PGRs immediately on enrolment in their first trimester of study. PGRs then attend two workshops to prepare them for creating a data management plan and applying for ethical approval for their research project. This module is available three times a year, including one fully-online session, to provide maximum flexibility for research students. This module is continually reviewed to ensure it provides all aspects of ethics and integrity training that postgraduate researchers need.

Monitoring and Reporting

Committee reporting remains of a high standard, with papers on export control, research sponsorship, trusted research and research integrity all planned to be delivered at the University Research and Enterprise Committee (URKEC) this year.

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity continues to be reported into the Concordat Steering Group (CSG) which is a sub-committee of URKEC. Particular scrutiny has been paid to the revisions and compliance with the updated concordat this year, alongside notification of the research governance checklist, both of which will be detailed below.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

Policies and Systems

RAST continues to look after the ethics committees, REF administration, research events, and LEAF administration amongst other things. Work continues to standardise processes with a move towards centralising the various meetings and groups supported by the REG/RAST team.

The Trusted Research Manager continues to shape the institution’s risk appetite using current examples to encourage discussion and direction. The due diligence process is well established and the risk matrix is increasingly used to identify high risk research which may fall within the remit of export control legislation.

An audit of compliance with the Nagoya Protocol was undertaken this year to ensure that the institution is prepared for any future compliance audits. The institution's responsibilities with regards to research involving animals has also been subject to review. This process is robust and in line with expectations.

The Code of Practice for Research Misconduct, which came into effect on the 1 April 2024, has been utilised for investigations during the 2025-26 academic year. Specific information regarding the nature of these investigations will be included within the relevant section below. The next review of the Code of Practice for Research Misconduct is currently underway with a number of changes having been identified.

The Implementation Log for the Concordat to Support Research Integrity has been overhauled and updated in line with the revised 2025 Concordat and UKRIO guidance.

A large-scale project is currently underway to overhaul the university's ethics policy and processes including formal documentation, forms, checklists and associated documents such as risk assessments etc. A working group comprising Faculty Ethics Committee Chairs and members of the Doctoral College meets every 6 weeks or so with the Head of Research Excellence and Governance who is leading on the project to maintain momentum.

A draft AI in Research policy is currently out for consultation. This document has been drafted to comply with sector best practice and the University's broader AI usage framework. The policy will be subject to extensive consultation prior to being approved via the relevant university committee structure.

Open Research

Following its creation in 2023/24, the Open Research Working Group, which comprises of senior leadership, academics (senior and early career) and research support staff continue to deliver on annual plans.

A university strategy for open research was ratified by the university in 2025/26. This strategy formalises policy-level commitments that support and reinforce open research activity as well as expanding the range of open research training.

Activity in service of this strategy has included:

- Establishing a network of Open Research Champions
- Continued membership of UKRN
- Continuing to allocate 0.2fte workload for an open research institutional lead

- Deliver of university-wide open research training focusing on six areas of practice
- Developing and approving a university Open Research Statement
- Undertaking a university-wide survey of open research awareness and activity
- Creating an 'Open Research' category in our refreshed Research Culture awards and in PGR awards
- Inclusion examples of open research practice as indicators in our revised Academic Careers Framework
- Developing and piloting an 'open research thesis statement' to support the development of open research practice in PhD projects

Culture Development

The Researcher Development and Culture Team (RCRD) is embedded into the research structure of the University after its establishment in the 2022-23 academic year. The team launched their Research Culture Action Plan (RCAP) in June 2024 following a period of internal consultation. The RCAP acts as an institutional roadmap for enhancing culture and improving the research environment. It has 4 main strategic objectives: to support research and career development, to facilitate time for research, to enable collaboration and new ways of working, and to enhance and recognise inclusive and responsible research practices. A 5-year workplan has been created to deliver these 4 objectives.

In October 2024 the University launched the Academy for Research & Knowledge Exchange (ARKE). The ARKE has the overarching goal of establishing a supportive environment for researchers at the University of Hull to develop as research professionals, to establish and build interdisciplinary research agendas, and to deliver excellent research activity. ARKE facilitates ongoing consultation with the research community alongside delivery of training and development activities, networking opportunities, and refinement of a set of resources for researchers.

Through ARKE a framework for support and development for early career researchers (ECRs), THRIVE, has been established by the RCRD team. ECRs are supported through THRIVE by a dedicated suite of training, development, workshops and engagement to help navigate the research landscape. In spring 2026 the University piloted cohort-based development programmes for established researchers, combining workshops with dedicated one-to-one coaching provision.

Among the resources made available through ARKE the RCRD have produced a resource to support researchers and academics with equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across the institution: IDEA-R (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equality and Accessibility in Research). IDEA-R is a tailored University of Hull resource, produced through a scoping review of existing EDI activity and information in the research and

innovation landscape. It is designed to build awareness and understanding of EDI in research among the Universities research community and to enable better alignment between Hull researchers and best practice across the sector

Since 2024 the university has held two annual research-focused weeks of events, workshops and activity, one exploring research culture, and the other celebrating and recognising research excellence. Sessions have been held which explore the use of creative practices in interdisciplinary research, the challenges and opportunities resulting from the incorporation of artificial intelligence in research practice, and the use of environmentally sustainable processes and approaches in research. These events give space for colleagues across the university to reflect upon, listen to and share views about good practice and integrity in research.

In 2026 the University has advanced its approach to enhancing awareness and application of open research among its research community. Coordinated by the Institutional Lead for Open Research, and steered by the Open Research Working Group, the University had progressed its first institutional Open Research Strategy. This strategy consolidates and builds upon work progressed over the preceding three years. In 2026 it has enabled the delivery of open research training, with six sessions delivered in May 2026 for PGRs and research staff, and the further embedding of Open Research Champions in academic units, building awareness and sharing best practice with academic schools, while working as an institutional network to ensure open research guidance and support is tailored to disciplinary needs.

The growth and refinement of work at the University to enhance research culture has brought with it significant increase in our institutional responsiveness to the needs of the research community. This has been achieved by ongoing consultation through annual surveys, enhanced coordination between research and teams within organisational development, and regular formal and informal focus groups and listening sessions.

Updates within the Research Excellence and Governance Team

The Head of the Research Excellence and Governance (REG) Team has been leading the research ethics and integrity agenda for the institution, including the broader research governance project detailed within this report below. The Research Excellence Manager post has now been filled which frees up more time to commit to the project.

The Trusted Research Manager (TRM) within REG has continued to make excellent progress around the trusted research agenda as detailed in the report above. The Trusted Research Manager has delivered multiple information sessions across the institution to raise awareness of Trusted Research and associated legislation with

academics, research support staff and senior leadership. At present, training sessions have been delivered to both University-wide and Faculty-based Committees, and with Schools, particularly those engaged in 'high-risk research', to increase awareness and understanding of our responsibilities under the Trusted Research agenda and legislative compliance. A mandatory Trusted Research module for PGR students in relevant subject areas is now included in the new Responsible Researcher package. Further training is planned for the next academic year.

Research Governance Officer has been embedded into the team and has taken on research sponsorship for the University and provides some support for research governance activity. The Research Governance Officer has been tasked with developing and delivering face-to-face training on research sponsorship in response to specific requests from the faculties. Uptake of this training has been low. As such, most information is imparted during 1:1 meetings with applicants.

As noted earlier within this report, the Research Administration Support Team (RAST) is now undergoing further work to review and develop workload planning across the research excellence & governance portfolio.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

The most prominent plan for the upcoming academic year is to continue the root and branch review of the institutions research review processes, including ethics and integrity, risk, due diligence, KE ethics, data protection, AI in research, sensitive research, including security sensitive research, and administrative support for research misconduct, including documents and reporting requirements. This project has been expanding considerably throughout the last year with new workstreams being added to an overarching project. Some activities are already underway, such as the creation of a research governance and planning checklist for researchers, a review and subsequently a planned overhaul of the risk assessment criteria to name a few. There remains a priority to review the University Ethics Policy and to implement a more standardised review of ethical applications and DREFT versions of both the policy, procedure and review checklist are in consultation. The forms are also under development. Training in research integrity has been updated. But further updates will inevitably follow as more work is undertaken in this area.

In order to progress the various workstreams it is essential to utilise all available resource. This has led to a review of the work undertaken by research Administration Support Team (RAST) with a view to streamlining, reducing overlap, providing contingencies for crucial areas of work and administrative support across REG activities including the project detailed above.

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct
The University creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable reporting instances of misconduct. The University's Code of Practice for Dealing with Research Misconduct accepts reports of suspected research misconduct raised internally or externally. Within the research integrity training, researchers are advised that they may raise concerns via a number of routes, including, but not limited to, the named person within the Code, supervisors, peers, or formally to the University Secretary under the institution's whistleblowing policy. The University Code of Practice for Dealing with Research Misconduct also outlines the manner in which a research misconduct investigation should be conducted and how appropriate investigation panels should be organised. The objectives of the policy are to: • ensure that an investigation is thorough and fair; • ensure that, by using an agreed standard process, errors in the conduct of an investigation should be minimised; and • reassure those who are under investigation that the process of investigation will follow a standard procedure consistent with national best practice. The University updated its Code of Practice for Dealing with Research Misconduct (version 3) which was implemented on the 1st April 2024. Since this publication, UKRIO have recently published separate guidance on investigating breaches of research integrity, the Code will be reviewed in light of this new guidance. There have been a number of research misconduct allegations reported in 2024/25. As you will see from the data below there was a number of issues relating to failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations. These figures primarily related to one faculty and related mostly to ethical matters. Further work to overhaul the ethics review process continues with a comms plan being scheduled to refresh academics awareness of their obligations and the support available to them.

3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken				
Type of allegation	**Number of allegations**			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	**Number of formal investigations**	**Number upheld in part after formal investigation**	**Number upheld in full after formal investigation**
Fabrication	<5	<5		<5
Falsification				
Plagiarism	<5	<5		
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	5	<5	<5	<5
Misrepresentation (e.g., data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)				
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	<5	<5		
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	<5	<5		
*Other**				
Total:	**9**	**8**	**<5**	**<5**
***If you listed any allegations under the 'Other' category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.**				
N/A				