

Annual Statement of Research Integrity 2018

With the Size and Shape exercise complete, the University's priority for research governance was to establish business as usual practices. With the restructuring of faculties and administrative support, it was timely to review and implement new governance process and procedures. Last year the research ethics procedure and policy was reviewed and updated to reflect sector and institutional changes. This year, we have focused on implementing these changes and developing procedures, supported by a stronger training provision for staff and students. By strengthening the support and training, the University can continue to ensure robust and high quality research.

a) Training

Developing a more robust training for researchers has been a large focus of the University's effort in providing better support for researchers. We have taken a multifaceted approach, ensuring those that are off-campus are provided with the same level of support as those on campus.

The University had taken the decision to develop an online research ethics and integrity-training programme so that all staff researchers would have access to the training regardless of other commitments or location. The training was developed by Learning and Development, launched in May 2018 and is mandatory for all researchers to complete within the first year of launch. 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. Completing of the training will be monitored by Learning and Development and through the appraisal process with the intention is to report uptake after 12 months of being live.

The basic research integrity training for post-graduate research students was revised. It was initially established as a compulsory module of the PGTS, delivered and managed by the Faculties. As part of the Graduate School's review of the PGTS programme, the research Integrity module is now incorporated into the compulsory "Modern Researcher" module that is delivered and monitored by the Graduate School. The programme is offered to students in two formats: 12 sessions dispersed throughout the year or as a block within Easter postgraduate programme. This flexibility ensures that all students have access to training, providing for students engaged in fieldwork, which has previously been a challenge.

To complement the base level training, Research Governance Seminar Series was initiated last year, covering a range of issues including publication ethics, GDPR and the Nagoya Protocol. These sessions were available to all research staff and graduate research students with good attendance of over 50 for some events. The Series is running again in 2018/19 with the first event scheduled for October 2018. In the coming academic year, Faculties are hosting discipline specific seminars and workshops to extend the centrally provided programmes to support researcher training. PGR students are expected to complete the Modern Researcher module at any point of the study period but must be completed to be awarded the

degree. Given the changes training programme, completion will be reported in the next year to ensure accurate reporting.

b) Governance

The University's Code of Conduct for Staff was approved in May 2018, forming the foundation for all expected behaviours of all staff, including researchers, across all activities that they engage in when conducting University business.

Development of Research Governance Framework continues, responding to sector developments and changes. The Security Sensitive Research Data Policy and Procedure along with the Guidance Note: Research Involving Extreme, Radical or sensitive material have been drafted and await approval.

The Research Governance and Policy Manager has been appointed the University Administrator for Clinicaltrials.gov, ensuring the researchers registering these studies are appropriately supported and monitored.

Another area of focus has been to development stronger governance and support for our researchers engaging in research involving human tissue. Previously identified as a gap in support and guidance, several initiatives have been taken to actively address this gap. The Human Tissue Working Group was established in October 2017, following approval by the University Research Committee. It has convened bimonthly for the past 12 months while the initial work progresses. The current priorities include establishing expected practices and standards for this type of research, develop training programmes and increase communication around current regulations. To achieve this, the Working Group are developing a training programme and guidance note.

The Human Biological Material Register was established, ensuring institutional oversight of all material held on University premises and the identification of our research community that needs support for area of research. This will allow us to communicate specifically with this community, providing them with information regarding current internal and external practice expectations.

A Research Governance Sharepoint site was generated that holds information regarding all areas of research governance and policy relevant to the University of Hull researchers, which is accessible by all staff and students.

c) Research ethics approval

The new Research Ethics Policy and the Procedure for Granting Ethical Approval was implemented this year, the research Governance and Policy Manager has worked with Faculties to ensure this was complete. While most Faculties are approaching completion, some work is still required in some areas. A small working group has been assembled to develop a fully online ethics approval system, however this is still in its infancy.

d) General

RCUK Audit was conducted in April 2018 that included questions related to compliance with the Concordat for Supporting Research Integrity. No further information or action was requested following the initial submission.

The University formally responded to the request for information from Rt Hon Norman Lamb as part of the Science and Technology Committee Inquiry on research Integrity in the UK. The University submitted information regarding our full compliance with the concordat expectation to publish an annual statement that includes the number of research misconduct allegations and investigations.

Research misconduct

Allegations: 6	Initial investigations: 2	Full investigation: 0
Upheld: 0		

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