



UNIVERSITY  
OF HULL

## **Annual Statement of Research Integrity 2019**

### **Introduction**

The University of Hull is committed to ensuring the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects research undertaken by the institution. This includes, research undertaken in the name of the University, or using university resources or facilities. 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 will uphold the commitments outlined within the revised [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#). All members of the university community (students, staff (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.

In addition to these core principles, 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.

The report detailed below provides an overview of activities and practices undertaken during academic year 2018/19 to support and enhance integrity in research, in accordance with the requirements of the revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

### **Activities to support and strengthen understanding and the application of research integrity issues**

#### **Training**

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

For staff, training is delivered online, as part of an e-learning package developed by the University's Learning and Development team. All staff, regardless of location are mandated to complete this training before conducting University research. 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. Completion of the training is monitored by Learning and Development who submit six-monthly reports to the Research Governance and Policy Manager for oversight and additional reporting, as appropriate.

For students, basic research ethics and integrity training is built into their module of study. For Post-graduate research students, research integrity has been incorporated within the compulsory 'Modern Researcher' module of the PGTS (post-graduate training scheme) programme. This module is delivered

and managed by the faculties and monitored by the Doctoral College. 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, including those students engaged in fieldwork.

A number of training events were held for researchers during 2018-19, including, guidance on research involving children and young people; data management and retention in research; publication ethics and authorship and animals in research, amongst others.

### Governance

The University's Research Governance Framework comprises various policies, procedural documents and codes outlining the expectations and requirements of staff, students and the University as a whole. These include, the Statement on Research Integrity, Code of Good Research Practice, Research Misconduct Policy, Research Ethics Policy and the Whistleblowing Policy. These documents are easily accessible on the University website and via internal SharePoint pages.

Support and guidance on matters relating to research integrity is provided by the Research Governance and Policy Manager, in addition to faculty specific support offered by respective ethics administrative services and ethics committees. The Research Governance and Policy Manager also provides support for, and administers, the internal sponsorship approval role for the HRA (Health Research Authority); and is the University Administrator for ClinicalTrials.gov, ensuring appropriate support and oversight of study registration.

An internal audit of our compliance arrangements for the Human Tissue Act (2004) was conducted in June 2019 at the request of the Research and Innovation department. The review included a walk-through of specific registrations with researchers, matching these forms to samples and subsequently taking an alternative sample from storage and matching this to the relevant registration. Researchers were asked about their experience of the Human Biological Material registration process. Governance and oversight procedures were also examined. The report highlighted many areas of good practice and also provided an opportunity to identify some improvements, notably in the areas of training and further development of standard operating procedures. Work is ongoing to implement these internal recommendations.

### External memberships

The University remains up to date with changes in the external research environment via membership of UKRIO (UK Research Integrity Office) and ARMA (Association for Research Administrators)

### **Research 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 Research Misconduct Policy 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: supervisors, peers, or formally to the Registrar under the institution's whistleblowing policy.

The University Research Misconduct Policy 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.

Statistical information pertaining to misconduct in research during academic year 2018/19:

Number of allegations: 1

Number of initial investigations: 1

Number of formal investigations: 1

Number of allegations which we're upheld following formal investigation: 0

Lessons Learned:

There was only one allegation of research misconduct reported to the University during academic year 2018-19. This allegation was not upheld.

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