

Annual statement on Research Integrity

The University is a signatory to [The Concordat to Research Integrity 2019](#).

The following annual statement was been approved by UREC and Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee of Senate and presented to Council in November 2022. The statement will be published externally in line with our responsibilities under the Concordat.

1. *The following actions and activities have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and the application of research integrity issues.*

Completion of review of Procedure for Investigation of Research Misconduct

The revised Procedure for Investigation of Research Misconduct was approved by Council in March 202



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12. Failure to ensure that any appropriate safeguards to protect human participants are embedded and followed.

Any allegation of research misconduct should be reported confidentially to the Secretary to Council or, in the event of a potential conflict of interest or absence, his/her nominated representative appointed by the Chair of Council. Any allegations of fiscal malfeasance or irregularity in relation to research activity should be reported confidentially to the Director of Finance.

3. *Formal investigations of research misconduct 2021/22*

The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) made 49 investigations into research misconduct in 2021/22 (48 of these were student cases, 1 involved a staff member). Of these, 39 cases were upheld.

Twenty-six investigations were resolved formally; none involved research funded by a Research Council.

The University intends to better understand the reasons behind the cases and identify suitable measures by adding standing items to all Research Ethics Committee agendas for reporting of figures and discussion of anonymised cases.

4. *What the University has learned from formal investigations of research misconduct and actions taken to prevent the same type of incident re-occurring*

All but one investigation undertaken during this period involved ethical approval for supervised student research projects; the University continues to provide improved research ethics training provision for academic supervisors, including mandatory training where required. Training for students continues to include lectures, clear course guidance, web-based learning and engagement with research integrity training where the proposed research involves human participants. The University is also reviewing its processes around ethical approval for taught students.

5. *How the University creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct*

Council Ordinance 18 Procedures for Investigation of Research Misconduct outlines a University central contact for cases of suspected misconduct and makes provision for individuals with concerns over research conduct to raise their issues in confidence and for confidentiality during the investigations.



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Students on taught programmes receive guidance from supervisors in relation to ethics and misconduct as part of teaching provision.