

Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2017

Background

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity was published in July 2012 by Universities UK. A Progress Report published in November 2016 confirmed that the concordat approach continues to be favoured over alternatives such as direct regulation. HEFCE have included compliance with the Concordat as a condition of the HEFCE grant and it is a requirement for receipt of RCUK funding.

The Concordat recommends that institutions should make an annual statement on research integrity which is made publicly available. In accordance with this recommendation this annual statement provides details of activities undertaken to enhance research integrity within the University.

Summary of actions and activities undertaken to support research integrity

The University is committed to the principles outlined in the Concordat and Research Integrity features on the Research Office website in a section on Ethical Research.

Research integrity continues to feature within training sessions for academic staff on the research environment, e.g. Working in the Current Research Environment, and research ethics for research students, e.g. Ethical Thinking in Research. The Graduate School have implemented a one year trial of Epigeum's Research Integrity on-line training programme. This offers an enhanced training programme for PGR and early career research staff/academics and a concise version appropriate for experienced staff.

The University carried out a review in 2013 of its procedures for ethical approval of research involving human participants to ensure that these were robust. Recommendations from that review have been implemented and a process review of the approval procedures is being undertaken by the Research Office in consultation with the University's Change Team. A trial of an on-line submission route is currently being undertaken with a view to developing a solution which will simplify the application process for applicants. The University Code of Practice for Investigations involving Human Participants has been updated and the Sub-Committee has undertaken a review of its Guidance Notes with updated versions having been approved and published.

The membership of the Human Tissue Act Licence Sub-Committee has been expanded to reflect the development of activity which falls under the Human Tissue Act. The HTA Licence Compliance Quality Manual has been updated to reflect these changes.

Loughborough University has implemented procedures to enable it to sponsor projects involving the NHS, which are expected to increase following the opening of the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine. Robust Standard Operating Procedures have been developed to meet the sponsor responsibilities, as defined in the NHS Research Governance Framework. The University continues to participate in the Joint Research and Development Support Office Management Group with UHL and University of Leicester in order to facilitate sharing of best practice and to ensure efficient support for Loughborough staff.

The University is a subscriber to UKRIO (UK Research Integrity Office).

Process for dealing with allegations of research misconduct

The Research Misconduct Policy was approved by Senate and Council in November 2015 and has been made available on the University's website. Informal advice on research integrity is available through the Research Governance Officer in the Research Office and formal reporting of

allegations of misconduct is made directly to the PVC(R) or Chief Operating Officer following discussions with the School's AD(R) and Dean as appropriate.

Statement on formal research misconduct investigations

There had been one on-going formal investigation of research misconduct by a research student and none involving a member of staff during 2016.