

MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONCORDAT FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2017/18

Background

The Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity was developed to provide a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. Compliance with the Concordat requires that organisations present to their governing body a short annual report that provides:

- a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues;
- assurances of processes in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct, processes which are transparent, robust, fair, and of continued appropriateness for the needs of the organisation;
- a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

This report was approved by the Board of Governors on the 23rd November 2018. The statement will be publicly available on the University's Research Governance web page to provide assurance that measures are being taken to support consistently high standards of research integrity. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange is responsible for research governance within the University.

Statement for 2017/2018

During 2017/2018, the University has undertaken the following actions and activities to support and strengthen the understanding and application of research integrity:

Ethics Online approval System (EthOS)

A new online ethics approval system called EthOS was fully rolled out to all staff and students between January and May 2018.

EthOS includes a combination of application routes that ensures all research taking place in the University has ethical approval, and that all the records are contained within one system.

The development and roll out of EthOS has given the University an opportunity to create a high-profile engagement campaign around research ethics and governance which includes visual materials and a commitment to going beyond compliance. We have delivered associated training to upwards of 400 staff and students over the past 12 months and the EthOS system has had over 900 applications submitted since its launch.

Policy for Research Misconduct

The University's current procedure for handling research misconduct has been operational since 2016. As part of its annual review, the procedure was amended in light of our experiences in the previous 12 months. These changes will further enhance our already existing rigorous processes for handling research misconduct, and thus, our commitment to research integrity.

Internal Audit of University Approved Research Projects

In November and December 2017, the RKE Directorate audited a number of Manchester Metropolitan ethically approved research projects. The audit identified a number of recommendations and the applicants have been supported in addressing these recommendations. Feedback from these audits has been recorded and followed up in the form of guidance and training by the RKE Directorate.

Wider University Compliance Work

The RKE Directorate is in the process of reviewing and updating existing processes and guidance around data protection in light of the recent legislation changes.

Formal Investigations of Research Misconduct

High-level Statement on Research Misconduct

Following the Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research:

- 3 cases of potential student research misconduct were considered during the academic year 2017/18 and they are ongoing.
- 3 cases of potential staff misconduct were considered during 2017/2018. These cases did not proceed to full investigation, and were resolved by training.

Research Integrity Statement 2018-19

The next Annual Statement will be published in November 2019.

Conclusion

Based on the evidence presented above, we believe that Manchester Metropolitan University complies with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.