

Manchester Metropolitan University Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2014-2015

Background

The Universities UK concordat to support research integrity was developed to provide a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. As part of the HEFCE annual assurance statement, UK higher education institutions will be required to confirm compliance with the concordat as condition of the HEFCE grant for 2014-2015. Commitment 5 of the concordat recommends that organisations should present a short annual report to their governing body that provides:

- A summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues
- Assurances that processes they have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to 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 governing body on 27th November 2015, and 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.

Actions and activities undertaken to support research integrity

Production of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

A research quality management system comprising a suite of SOPs has been developed to ensure that all research is conducted according to best practice.

Review of training/raising awareness

A review of research governance training has taken place across the university. Training on research ethics and governance has been provided to new postgraduate students and members of staff, and undergraduate students receive research training as part of their courses where applicable. Research Integrity presentations have been made to research centre away days and as part of the RKE Future Leaders course.

Update of research misconduct procedure

The procedure for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct has been reviewed and updated. The updated procedure is based on guidance produced by the UK research Integrity Office (UKRIO). It is available to all researchers via the University's research governance web page.

Updated research website

The University's research web pages have been updated, allowing all guidance on research integrity and research governance to be located in one place. Further revisions to the site are planned for the forthcoming year.

Review of ethics processes and development of new online ethics system

The University's research ethics processes have been updated to ensure that all research (staff, undergraduate and postgraduate) is undergoing an appropriate level of review. Funding has been approved for the development of a new online research ethics system which will streamline the approval process, whilst also providing appropriate guidance to researchers through links to SOPs and legislation. The requirements for the system are currently in development.

Processes for handling allegations of misconduct

The [Procedure for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct](#) provides assurance that the processes in place for dealing with allegations of research misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation.

Formal Investigations of research Misconduct

Staff: There have been no formal investigations of research misconduct during 2014/15.

Students: There has been one formal investigation of research misconduct on one postgraduate research student during 2014/15.

Research Integrity Statement 2015-16

The next annual statement will be published in November 2016.