

Policy on research integrity

The University is committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethics and integrity in its research, and places ethics and integrity at the heart of its decision making. As a component of this commitment, the University requires that all research projects undertaken under the auspices of the University observe a commitment to good research conduct as laid out in the [Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#) and the [UK Research and Innovation Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct](#).

This Policy outlines a framework to ensure that all research is conducted in accordance with good research practice. The Policy applies to anyone involved in research under the auspices of the institution. Research should be interpreted broadly to include all investigation undertaken in order to acquire knowledge and understanding, whether funded or unfunded.

Principles

Below are the guiding principles that the University expects its researchers to abide by during all stages of a research project:

- Honesty in all aspects of research
- Compliance with laws, policies, and regulations
- Accountability in the conduct of research
- Transparency and open communication
- Professional courtesy and fairness in working with others
- Independence and impartiality

- Good stewardship of research on behalf of others
- Respect for the duty of care to humans, animals, the environment, or the objects that they study
- Care and rigour in the design and planning of the research project

Responsibilities

The Research Integrity and Governance Committee, and its subcommittees, are responsible to the University Council for ensuring that research is conducted in accordance with the principles of good research conduct.

Staff members and students undertaking research in accordance with this Policy are responsible for:

- Adhering to regulations and policies relevant to their research;
- Conducting research to high ethical standards, including:
 - Disclosing conflicts of interest which could compromise the trustworthiness of the research;
 - Designing and conducting research in ways that avoids haste, inattention, carelessness, negligence, and harm;
 - Ensuring that all data is stored in a secure and accessible form, documented and archived appropriately;
 - Reporting findings fully and objectively;
 - Sharing data and findings openly and promptly;
 - Disseminating the results of the research transparently and honestly;
 - Publishing research in an accurate and timely manner;
- Undertaking appropriate training in order to carry out their duties;
- Ensuring that research collaborations are:

- fair to all parties, acknowledging those who have made significant contributions to the research;
 - conducted with transparency and sources of funding fully and openly declared;
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- Reporting any suspected research misconduct – as defined in the University’s Policy on Misconduct in Research – and other irresponsible research practices that undermine the trustworthiness of the research.

Members of the University engaged in research should be familiar with the policies and codes of practice set out in the Appendix.

Contacts

This Policy will be regularly reviewed in the light of experience and revisions to codes of practice laid down by any relevant professional or learned society. Any comments should be sent to integrity@liverpool.ac.uk.

Appendix

Relevant professional and learned society policies

- [Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#)
- [Singapore Statement on Research Integrity](#)
- [Montreal Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Collaborations](#)
- [The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#)
- [RCUK Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct](#)
- [UK Research Integrity Office Code of Practice for Research](#)

Relevant University policies

- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Dignity at Work and Study Policy](#)
- [Information Security Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Policy on Research Ethics](#)
- [Policy on the Use and Storage of Human Material for Research Purposes](#)
- [Policy on Misconduct in Research](#)
- [Public Interest Disclosure \(Whistleblowing\) Policy](#)
- [Research Data Management Policy](#)
- [Sponsorship Statement of Policy](#)
- [Statement of Policy and Procedure on Disclosure of Interest](#)