Annual Statement on Compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity 2016–2017

The University of Glasgow is a broad-based research-intensive University with over 4,500 research-active staff and students. The Vice Principal for Research is responsible for ensuring that standards of good research practice are maintained, and he is supported in this role by a team of staff within Research and Innovation Services.

Below we provide a progress review of activities to promote a culture of research integrity. We are developing a strategy for the longer-term evaluation of the impact of our new measures and will continue to seek out best practice from the sector.

Academic Leadership and Communication

We have embedded the roles of our 29 Research Integrity Champions and Advisers into our Colleges, Schools and Institutes, and have make these more visible to staff and students across the campus. For example, we delivered two briefing sessions to reinforce the purpose of these roles and provided opportunities for them to meet to discuss new and emerging topics as well as to cascade learning to more junior staff.

Each College has taken its own approach to communication around research integrity, such as through local newsletters, to complement the University-wide communication channels. We have also encouraged students and early-career researchers to explore this topic themselves through blogs[1] and events[2].

In the College of Arts, the Integrity Champion and the Advisers and have developed a resource to communicate the importance of this agenda to colleagues in the Arts and Humanities.

Training and Development

Our research integrity training has expanded to include bespoke workshops for particular subject areas (e.g. researchers undertaking creative practice as research), career stage (e.g. supervisors) or for researchers on other University of Glasgow campuses. Where possible, we have embedded the delivery of integrity training within other programmes or events such as our early-career development programme (ECDP) and School/Institute research retreats.

Our evaluation exercise to understand the impact of our workshops has highlighted increased satisfaction levels and attendance throughout the year, as this provision has started to become integrated into how we develop our researchers and the research environment. We were aware that attending face-to-face workshops may be a barrier for researchers who are unable to get on campus. We have therefore successfully piloted a webinar to mirror our face-to-face workshop. We are currently testing some new online resources which will complement the face-to-face opportunities through a blended learning approach.

We work closely with professional service teams that deliver training in related areas such as ethics, publication, or research data management. This year the research data management workshops became mandatory for new postgraduate researchers in the Sciences; the programme has also evolved such that the language used is carefully tailored to Arts and Humanities researchers and to the type of 'data' they are working with. We have also learnt from and adopted good practice from other institutions; for example, we have promoted the University of Aberdeen's guide to the ethics of social media in research. We have also contributed to sector knowledge by sharing our role descriptors for the Adviser and Champion posts widely across the sector.

---

[1] See: http://researcherdevelopment.academicblogs.co.uk/does-academia-struggle-with-integrity/ and https://www.uofgcce.org/single-post/2017/05/08/Research-Ethics

[2] *Shaping your Research Career* event, which was run in partnership with the Academy of Medical Sciences, draws on resources developed by the Royal Society as part of their project *The future of Research Culture in the UK.*

Ensuring Best Practice

The University of Glasgow works extensively with other partners and institutions, including through the Russell Group, UKRIO, Universities Scotland and professional bodies, to share approaches and learning in the area of research integrity, for example, by sharing training materials and approaches to training, as well as collaborating on policy documents and Government consultations.

Changes to Policies and Procedures

We have updated our Code of Good Practice on Research to include more extensive guidance on authorship, as well as more information for researchers on choosing the most appropriate publication venue for their work.

We are also updating our Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research to incorporate the policy recently issued by RCUK regarding the notification of funders and the requirement to have external representation on investigation panels.

Awareness of open access and research data management expectations have been added to induction checklists for new staff and their managers.

Research Data Management (RDM) Service

The University has an RDM Service to support researchers in implementing good data management practices and meeting funder requirements. The service comprises three staff members with responsibility for service coordination, technical coordination, and staff training and support. An institutional research data repository and registry can be used for the long-term storage and appropriate sharing of data that underpin research publications. The service also provides training on all aspects of RDM for students and staff, as well as tailored support. The University is also a signatory to the Concordat on Open Research Data.

Misconduct Investigations, 2016–17

The Table below summarises the nature and status of active formal investigations into alleged misconduct conducted over the past year (August 2016–July 2017). A formal investigation is conducted by a panel to examine and evaluate all relevant facts to determine whether there are sufficient grounds for proceeding with the allegation under the Staff Disciplinary Procedures or Student Code of Conduct.

Cases in italics are ongoing from the previous reporting year.

Respondent(s)	Nature of allegation	Status	Outcome
Postgraduate Research Student (PGR)	Falsification of data	Formal investigation ongoing	N/A
Staff	Falsification of data	Formal investigation complete	Article retracted from the publication record
PGR	*Plagiarism*	*Formal investigation complete; conduct committee investigation complete*	*Thesis not awarded*
Staff and PGRs	*Falsification of data*	*Formal investigation ongoing*	*N/A*