

## **ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2019/20**

The University of Roehampton is a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (UUK 2012; updated 2019), the national framework for good research conduct and its governance. In accordance with the recommendation of the Concordat, this statement outlines how research integrity is supported and strengthened at the University of Roehampton. It also provides a statement on any cases of research misconduct or formal investigations that have been undertaken in 2019/ 20.

### **Environment for research integrity**

The Provost has overall responsibility for ensuring that the University of Roehampton meets its obligations and observes best practice in research integrity.

Anyone who has any concerns or wishes to raise any issues in relation to research and its integrity at the University is able to communicate with the University Secretary as an independent point of contact. They can be confident that their anonymity will be protected.

### **Policy framework**

The following policies and procedures support a rigorous approach to ensuring research integrity at the University of Roehampton:

- Code of Good Research Practice and Research Integrity
- Ethics Guidelines
- Data Protection Policy
- Data Protection Guidance for Researchers
- Health & Safety Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy
- Disciplinary Procedures (Staff)
- Student Disciplinary Regulations

### **Ongoing activities to support research integrity**

- The Research Committee provides leadership for all research related matters at the University of Roehampton, and includes representatives from all academic departments and the postgraduate research community;
- Research students are supported by the Research Students Degree Programme, an ongoing training programme covering all aspects of research activity and personal development;
- All staff in the Departments of Life Sciences and Psychology who are involved in clinical research are required to complete training in Good Clinical Practice;
- All staff are encouraged to attend Research Integrity training delivered through the Researcher Development Programme;
- Research Supervisors are supported by training, provided by SEDA (Staff and Educational Development Association);
- The Ethics Committee provides continued oversight and review of ethical considerations of proposed research activity, and provides assurance, reporting to Senate;
- The University Legal Secretary, Data Protection Officer and Contracts Officer provide support for researchers who are conducting research.

## **2019/ 20 activities to support research integrity**

- The updated Concordat to Support Research Integrity informed a comprehensive review of the 2010 Code of Good Research. The resulting Code of Good Research Practice and Integrity, approved by Council in April 2020, demonstrates our commitment to and compliance with the updated Concordat, and draws together our policies, practices, procedures and support and training provision as they relate to research integrity
- Funding has been secured to deliver two Good Research Practice training sessions in 2019/20, through the Research Development Programme. All staff will be invited to attend to support their ongoing professional development.
- All new staff (and research students completing an ethics application) must complete a mandatory online course on GDPR/ data protection.

## **Research Misconduct**

In 2019/ 20 there have been no cases of research misconduct reported.

## **Conclusion**

The University continues to promote and prize research the highest standards of research integrity. We will continue to develop our policies and practice to ensure that our research staff and research students are supported in adopting a rigorous approach to research and its integrity.

## **Identified actions for 2020/ 21**

- Undertake a review of current Ethics Committee and ethics approval procedures
- Undertake a full comparison of University policies and procedures against the UKRIO Self-Assessment Tool for the Concordat to Support Research Integrity
- Further research integrity and ethics training sessions for staff via the Research Development Programme.
- Research integrity to be included in Graduate School induction day sessions.