

Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2018/19

The University of Roehampton is a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, 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 2018/19.

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 Registrar 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
- 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

- 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 attend the Good Clinical Practice training session;
- 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's Legal Secretary and Contracts Officer provide support for researchers who are conducting research and ensure that it adheres to the highest standards of research integrity.

2018/19 activities to support 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.
- Information and guidance has been provided regarding GDPR, including a mandatory online course for staff.

Research Misconduct

In 2018/ 19 there has been one case of research misconduct reported against a staff member. Following investigation it was determined that there was no evidence of research misconduct.

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 are supported in adopting a rigorous approach to research and its integrity.

Identified actions for 2019/ 20

- Launch a Guide to Good Research Practice and Integrity, which will supersede the Code of Good Research Practice;
- The mandatory online GDPR course for staff will be extended to research students.