

Statement on Research Integrity 2016/2017

As an outstanding UK research-intensive university, the University of Exeter recognises that the highest standards of scientific, scholarly and professional integrity must be maintained and promoted. We aim to give due consideration to the ethical, social and environmental issues arising from our activities and are actively working to ensure that research integrity is embedded in the University's research culture and environment.

We are committed to acting in accordance with the principles described in the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and have developed a policy framework which aims to maintain the safety, rights, welfare and dignity of all members of the University and their research participants, and to maintain public trust:

- Ethics Policy
- Research Ethics Framework
- Policy on working with animals
- Code of Good Practice in the Conduct of Research
- Misconduct in Research
- Codes of Conduct
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy

In 2016/17, actions undertaken to promote and embed research integrity included the following:

- Regular training sessions for research and CPD students, early career researchers, academic and professional services staff were further developed and delivered, alongside introductory online training modules
- The annual training day for research ethics committee members was successfully delivered and was found to be useful for attendees
- A detailed review of the University's Code of Good Practice in the Conduct of Research and Misconduct in Research process was undertaken
- An online research ethics review application system has been developed and is currently in phased implementation
- The University Ethics Committee and the Dual Assurance portfolio on Research Integrity, Ethics and Governance continues to provide oversight of activities and assurance for the University's governing body
- Ongoing review and implementation of improved research governance and regulatory compliance processes, particularly on health research sponsorship, clinical trials, human tissue and animal research
- The Research Ethics and Governance Team continue to work with colleagues across multiple departments and teams on, for example, responsible research, conflict of interest and a compliance framework

- Active involvement in national networks and events to share best practice and promote research integrity
- Resource for research governance and compliance provided on a recurrent basis

One internal investigation has been completed in 2016/17 in relation to concerns about research misconduct by a member of staff. The preliminary investigation, concerning an allegation of failure to obtain appropriate consent, concluded that there was no case to answer. The procedures for investigating and reporting misconduct are considered to be transparent, robust and generally appropriate to the needs of the organisation. The Code of Good Practice in the Conduct of Research and the Misconduct in Research process were reviewed and updated during the autumn of 2016 to ensure that the definitions, process and reporting routes are clear and consistent.

A programme of ongoing actions is in place to ensure that continued progress towards our all our goals is maintained. Developments, risks and progress are regularly monitored by the Dual Assurance Research Integrity, Ethics and Governance portfolio and by the University Ethics Committee.

For further information on research integrity at the University of Exeter, please contact the [Research Ethics and Governance Team](#)