

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

COUNCIL AND RESEARCH AND ENTERPRISE COMMITTEE AND

UNIVERSITY ETHICS AND INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

October 2024

Annual Research Integrity Statement

The [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#) requires employers of researchers to provide a short annual (publicly available) statement that must include:

- a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and the application of research integrity issues (for example postgraduate and researcher training, or process reviews)
- a statement to provide assurance that the processes the institution has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, timely, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation
- a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken, which will include data on the number of investigations. If no formal investigation has been undertaken, this should also be noted
- a statement on what the institution has learned from any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken, including what lessons have been learned to prevent the same type of incident re-occurring
- a statement on how the institution creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct

This statement is drafted by the University Ethics and Integrity Committee and addresses the above points.

Investigations of allegations of misconduct in research

This report covers 01/08/2023 - 31/07/2024

During the reporting period one complaint of research misconduct was received and investigated formally.

Case Reference/Title	Date Received	Outcome
CSSAH/1/2024-Plagiarism	18/04/2024	Three separate allegations of plagiarism were received from a collaborator in the same complaint letter. After thorough investigation the allegations were not upheld by the formal investigation panel. There was no evidence of plagiarism.

Embedding a culture conducive to researchers understanding research integrity and reporting research misconduct

Policy

In the reporting period we undertook to draft new policies and processes which support researchers in relation to the UK Government's Trusted Research agenda. The following policy was created:

- [Export Control and National Security Act](#)

In addition to this, the University issued a [Statement on Dealing with Allegation of Research Misconduct](#) to support United States Public Health Service (USPHS) Research-related Activities. An annual report was submitted to the [US Office of Research Integrity](#) during the reporting period of this report which detailed a nil return for allegations relating to US National of Health research conducted at Leicester.

Process

During the reporting period our new research management platform Infonetica was launched. The platform combines ethical review, research governance, data protection impact assessment and other governance clearance into one easy to use portal. Researchers are guided in their completion of the application form to ensure that they apply for all relevant research approvals.

The implementation of Infonetica supports enhanced compliance with ethical, legal and professional frameworks. Infonetica went live in January 2024 for Staff and Postgraduate research projects. Undergraduate and Masters students transitioned to the new platform from May with the old ethics system decommissioned in the Summer of 2024 for any new research ethics applications.

During the transition we revamped our Research Ethics Committee (REC) provision with the creation of interdisciplinary RECs. The changes place Leicester in a much better position to ensure that researchers are supported in obtaining all approvals before their research starts and avoiding research integrity issues. This provides us with assurance around our REC provision and quality of research projects. We have ensured that research integrity is at the heart of the design so that good research practice is built into projects from the start.

Future Plans

Work is ongoing to further our commitment to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and over the next year we will look to align this with work on our [Research Culture](#).