

Annual statement on research integrity

If you have any questions about this template, please contact:
RIsecretariat@universitiesuk.ac.uk.

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	University of London
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher Education Institution
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	Academic Board 30 January 2025
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.london.ac.uk/about/policies/research-governance/research-integrity-annual-statements
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Jo Fox, PVC (Research & Engagement)
	Email address: research@london.ac.uk
1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Sandrine Alarcon-Symonds (Research Policies & Business Intelligence Partner)
	Email address: Sandrine.alarcon-symonds@london.ac.uk

Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture.

Description of actions and activities undertaken

2A. Description of current systems and culture

Please describe how the organisation maintains high standards of research integrity and promotes positive research culture. It should include information on the support provided to researchers to understand standards, values and behaviours, such as training, support and guidance for researchers at different career stages/ disciplines. You may find it helpful to consider the following broad headings:

- Policies and systems
- Communications and engagement
- Culture, development and leadership
- Monitoring and reporting

A: Policies and Governing Structure

- The University works to maintain the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research to meet its obligations under the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity (<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/research-and-innovation/concordat-support-research-integrity>) and the UK Research and Innovation Policy and Guidelines on Governance of Good Research Conduct (<https://www.ukri.org/councils/esrc/guidance-for-applicants/research-ethics-guidance/our-policy-and-guidelines-for-good-research-conduct/>).
 - The University requires that all research projects undertaken under its auspices observe the University Code of Good Conduct in research and all of its associated policies and guidance as laid out here: <https://www.london.ac.uk/research/research-governance>.
 - The University's research integrity framework including research policies are overseen by the University Research and Innovation Committee which reports to the University Academic Board. Its Research Ethics Committee ensures research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards. Research integrity reports are reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee before being considered by the Research Committee and approved by the Academic Board.
2. The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research & Engagement), Professor Jo Fox is responsible for the University's overall research and public engagement strategy.
<https://london.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/pro-vice-chancellor-research-and-public->

[engagement](#). She is chair of the Research Committee, a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Executive Group and a standing member of the Academic Board.

3. The University's commitment to research integrity is reflected in its ongoing programme of review and improvement.
 - Policies are formally reviewed by the University's committees every three years. Any revision involves wide consultation of both researchers and relevant committees.
 - Employment policies are reviewed by the Human Resources Department and are subject to consultation by recognised trades unions.
 - The University also operates a programme of internal audits which include research governance and recommendations are considered and actions monitored.
4. The University Ordinances and other specific policies as noted below support and strengthen the institutional research integrity framework. They are:
 - Ordinance 17 (Code of Student Discipline)
 - Ordinance 20 (Academic Staff) (under review)

Available here: <https://www.london.ac.uk/about/governance/statutes-ordinances>

- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (Ordinance 21)
- Public Interest Disclosure

Available here: <https://www.london.ac.uk/about/policies/core-policies>

B – Communications & Engagement, Culture and development

1. The University's commitment to research integrity is reflected and embedded in its institutional systems, training and culture, including:
 - staff and student handbooks.
 - Intranet communications and internal briefings and newsletters.
 - Inductions and staff meetings.
 - Staff and Student training (face to face and online).
 - Research Training modules
 - Policies and guidance online
 - Signposting on our webpages to existing national and international external resources
2. Staff and students' inductions continue to take place (twice a year for students' intake – October and January) and (four times a year for staff), clarifying expectations and implementation of policies at the beginning of the year.
3. The University offers a wide range of training courses which supports research integrity for staff at all levels, on the University virtual learning environment, including mandatory modules and briefings on:
 - Research Ethics (for both students and staff)
 - Data Protection (staff)
 - Equality and Diversity (staff)
 - A Brief Guide to the Prevent Duty (staff)
 - The Criminal Finances Act 2017 (staff)

4. All academic staff have access to a mentoring programme which is overseen by the Learning and Development programme.
5. The Learning and Development department continues to develop an online space (access is internal only) to provide signposted resources in one place to support career development and training opportunities (inc. promoting research ethics assessments and risk management (UOL), developing and building a research team and developing yourself as a PI – Vitae),
6. Led by the Legal department, several staff workshops on management of personal data on research data management are offered, helping confirm University policies and practice.
7. National events and training are widely advertised through the School of Advanced Study <https://www.sas.ac.uk/support-researchers/research-training> with workshops on:
 - Academic practice and ethics
 - What is Copyright
 - Concept of Digital Humanities
 - Databases for Historians
 - Conducting interviews: Oral History
 - The Imposter Syndrome
 - Interview as a research method
 - Open Access
 - Overview of Journal Publishing
 - Peer Review
 - Methods and sources for historical research
 - Sources to data: recording, sorting, and analysing historical sources digitally
 - Researching human rights: social science research methods

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

Please provide an update on any changes made during the period, such as new initiatives, training, developments, also ongoing changes that are still underway. Drawing on Commitment 3 of the Concordat, please note any new or revised policies, practices and procedures to support researchers; training on research ethics and research integrity; guidelines for academic staff and students on the use of AI and a modification of regulations on the uses of AI, training and mentoring opportunities to support the development of researchers' skills throughout their careers.

1. Policies reviewed in 2023-24 included:

- Research Ethics Policies and Procedures, approved by the Research Ethics Committee
- Protecting Academic Research (Trusted Research) Policies and Procedures approved by the Research Committee
- Code of Good Practice in Research & Procedures to deal with Allegations of misconduct in Research

The final drafting and approval process were put on hold while awaiting the OfS clarifications on the impact of the new legislation on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech.

2. Research Services supported the UKRIO Research Integrity Pilot Module, which continues at the time of writing this report.
3. The Research Services launched for the first time open consultation on the research policies and procedures that were due for review. Consultations were held on the Research Ethics Policies and Protecting Academic Research. Views of all staff and students were sought.
4. Discussions took place on the specific topic of the benefits and rising challenges of artificial intelligence in research. The Senior Management Team was tasked to support the establishment of policy and guidance for both teaching and research. The University will be issuing a new policy in early winter 2025. Meanwhile, working groups are being formed on teaching and research to review the possibilities and implications of using generative AI at the University. We take note of the UK Committee to support research integrity's 2024 statement released in the summer 2024 which highlights that a full report on the matter of AI with recommendations for the sector will be published in 2025. The guidance will be taken into account.
5. The Research Committee acknowledges the sector discussion on potential performance measures on research integrity and looks forward to receiving the report of the UK Committee for research integrity in 2025.
6. Investigation was undertaken when a question from a researcher who used one of UOL open access Working Paper series to publish their research was received. Prior to publication, long conversations were held with the researcher where concerns were raised about the potential risks the publication of their research paper might have for themselves and their family. But the researcher was committed to publish their paper. Following on from threats they and their family received as a result of the publication, the paper was immediately withdrawn from the journal platform as well as any references on social media platforms the University had control of. The Research Ethics Committee indicated that all reasonable steps to assure the researcher's safety had been taken prior to the publications and the decision to withdraw anonymity was solely the researcher's.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

This should include a reflection on the previous year's activity including a review of progress and impact of initiatives if known relating to activities referenced in the previous year's statement. Note any issues that have hindered progress, e.g. resourcing or other issues.

[Please insert response]

1. The University's Audit and Assurance committee agreed to an internal audit in 2024-25 of ethical review processes, the outcomes of which will be reported in next year's statement.
2. Current work has been to devise a variety of guidance and tools that anyone could use as they need to (e.g.: webpage, documentation, training modules, FAQs, blogs, staff pages, handbooks....). These are communicated to staff both through regular bulletins and face-to-face in staff meetings. This is part of our continuous improvement approach.
3. In line with current practice, we will continue to engage with materials published by external organisations that examine and report on UK research ethics and integrity, including Universities UK (UUK), UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO), and the Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA), the UK Committee on Research Integrity and appropriate international sources and developments.
4. The Research and Innovation Committee is commissioning work to map and assess our integrity governance framework continues to meet requirements and provides it and Academic Board with ongoing assurance of the effective management, training and dissemination of good practice. This project is due to be undertaken during 2025 and will be reported in the next Statement.
5. The Research Ethics Committee membership was revised with new members to join at the start of the 2024-25 academic year. Induction and training is planned, including making use of the UKRIO ethics training sessions and internal materials.

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct**3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct**

Please provide:

- a brief summary of relevant organisation policies/ processes (e.g. research misconduct procedure, whistle-blowing policy, bullying/harassment policy; appointment of a third party to act as confidential liaison for persons wishing to raise concerns) and brief information on the periodic review of research misconduct processes (e.g. date of last review; any major changes during the period under review; date when processes will next be reviewed).
- information on how the organisation creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct (e.g. code of practice for research, whistle-blowing, research misconduct procedure, informal liaison process, website signposting for reporting systems, training, mentoring, reflection and evaluation of policies, practices and procedures).
- anonymised key lessons learned from any investigations into allegations of misconduct which either identified opportunities for improvements in the organisation's investigation procedure and/or related policies / processes/ culture or which showed that they were working well.

[Please insert response]

1. The **University Code of Good Conduct in research** and all its associated policies and guidance are laid out here: <https://www.london.ac.uk/about/policies/research-governance>
2. The relevant institutional policies which support research integrity at the University of London can be found here: <https://www.london.ac.uk/research/research-governance#policies-and-protocols-32231> . They include:
 - Code of Good Practice in Research:
 - Allegations of Misconduct:
 - Policy and procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct in research [being revised] (staff and fellows)
 - Academic misconduct policy (students) (reviewed annually)
 - Research Ethics (revisions to be approved in Jan 25)
 - Data Protection Policy (to be reviewed)
 - Research Data Management Policy & Guidance
 - Open Access Policy
 - Protecting Academic Research [to be approved in Jan 25]

The monitoring of UOL research-related policies is included within the terms of reference of each policy. Standard practice is to review every three years, unless there is a need to review earlier, for example when a funder announces revisions of existing terms and conditions or actual policies. 2023-24 has focused on establishing policy and protocols on the management of Trusted Research within the context of the University of London

disciplines (mainly Humanities) (called Protecting Academic Research), on reviewing the Research Ethics Policy as well as the Policy and procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct in Research.

3. Review of research policies is undertaken via the University governance structure as follows:

- The Research and Innovation Committee reviews research policies and monitors activities against institutional strategic objectives.
- The Research Ethics Committee develops policy and has oversight of operational detail. The Chair, as an *ex officio member*, reports to the Research and Innovation Committee, matters which require further discussion.
- The Academic Quality and Assurance committee which assures the quality of the teaching and supervision as well as the quality of the University of London degrees.

University-wide relevant policies: <https://www.london.ac.uk/about/policies/core-policies>

- Dignity and Respect
 - Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion policy
 - Bribery Act Policy and Guidance
 - Anti-slavery and human trafficking statement
 - Safeguarding Policy
 - Conflict of Interest Policy Disclosures Procedures
4. The Research Misconduct guidance draws on the guidance for investigating research misconduct provided by UKRIO.
5. Individuals seeking advice on the University's misconduct procedure contact Research Services in the first instance. Any confidential discussions can be directly addressed to the PVC (Research & Engagement). The University recognises that it can be difficult for staff and students to report instances of research misconduct. The University's long-standing Whistleblowing Policy <https://www.london.ac.uk/about/policies/core-policies> is designed to provide protections for those raising such concerns.
6. Review of misconduct in research is focused on individual instances only and is undertaken as part of the writing of the annual research integrity report. Students' misconduct report is submitted annually to AQAC annually.

3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken

Please complete the table on the number of **formal investigations completed during the period under review** (including investigations which completed during

this period but started in a previous academic year). Information from ongoing investigations should not be submitted.

An organisation's procedure may include an initial, preliminary, or screening stage to determine whether a formal investigation needs to be completed. These allegations should be included in the first column but only those that proceeded past this stage, to formal investigations, should be included in the second column.

Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication	0			
Falsification	0			
Plagiarism	3	3		3
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	0			
Misrepresentation (e.g. data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	0			
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0			
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	0			
Other*	0			
Total:	3	3		3
*If you listed any allegations under the 'Other' category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.				
[Please insert response if applicable]				