

## ARU'S ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2023/24

**Name of organisation:** Anglia Ruskin University

**Type of organisation:** Higher Education Institute

**Date statement approved by governing body:** 26.11.24

**Web address of organisation's research integrity page:** [Research Integrity - ARU](#)

**Named senior staff members to oversee research integrity**

Professor Yvonne Barnett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation.  
Email address: [yvonne.barnett@aru.ac.uk](mailto:yvonne.barnett@aru.ac.uk)

Professor Peter Bright, Chair, Ethics and Research Integrity Committee:  
Email address: [peter.bright@aru.ac.uk](mailto:peter.bright@aru.ac.uk)

**Named member of staff who will act as first contact for anyone wanting information on research integrity**

Julie Scott, Research Ethics and Integrity Manager.  
Email address: [julie.scott@aru.ac.uk](mailto:julie.scott@aru.ac.uk)

**Academic year 2023/24**

During 2023 to 2024, we have continued our engagement with the expectations of the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* ([The Concordat to Support Research Integrity \(universitiesuk.ac.uk\)](#)).

In March 2024, the former Writtle University College (WUC) merged with ARU.

We have undertaken the following activities in line with our continued compliance with the *Concordat*, and to further embed the principles of research integrity in our institution.

- With consideration of continuity for current students, WUC continued using their online ethical approval process for all students and staff via their Research Ethics and Welfare Committee for the duration of the academic year. It was decided that, given ARU has a much wider range of discipline areas, WUC would move across to ARU's online ethics application system for the start of the academic year 2024/5.
- Further to the merger with WUC, we have signed up to the *Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK* and have a statement covering research with living animals ([ARU statement on research involving living animals](#))

- Our block ethics approval process was launched online in January 2024. Under this process, the Module Leader applies for ethical approval for clearly defined research activities, and taught students apply for approval from their supervisors for research falling under this protocol. The primary aim of this process is to expedite the approval times for students, whilst ensuring that appropriate standards of ethical practice are maintained.
- We have run training for supervisors and ethics committee members in using the block ethics approval system and continue to run sessions focused on the main system throughout the year.
- We have updated our *Research Ethics Policy*, and this has been approved by our Ethics and Research Integrity Committee (ERIC), Research and Innovation Committee and Senate.
- Our institutional research data management policy has been refreshed and, together with an implementation plan, approved by Senate.
- Our *Human Biological Material Policy* has also been updated and approved.
- We have updated our inhouse online *Introduction to Research and Professional Ethics* course, which is mandatory for taught students applying for ethical approval, and their supervisors. The aim of the course is to help students with their ethics applications.
- Research integrity training remains mandatory for all academic staff responsible for research. Completion is monitored and discussed at each ERIC.
- Our Head of Health and Safety and Head of Risk and Insurance ran a session on risk assessments and insurance for research, which was well attended.

### **Current developments**

- We have now established a new ethics committee for the former WUC (Agriculture, Animals and Environmental School Research Ethics Panel), integrated the questions from their former research ethics application form into our online application system, and subsequently provided training to supervisors and committee members in its use. In addition, we have reviewed all research ethics guidance at ARU and the former WUC, with a view to merging this information where appropriate.
- We have a dedicated working group considering use of artificial intelligence (AI) for research purposes, with the aim of understanding risks and opportunities, and developing guidelines.
- We continue to regularly review and update our Gap Analysis and Action Plan, which is our annual monitoring exercise, in line with the requirements of the *Concordat*. The Gap Analysis is discussed at each of our ERIC meetings.

There were no cases of formal research misconduct during the last academic year at ARU. Any alleged cases continue to be investigated via our *Guidance for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research*.

We investigated a case with another HEI regarding a former student of ours and current student of theirs, regarding the publication of journal articles in both ARU's and the other institution's name. It was found that formal misconduct had taken place, with the findings being misrepresentation and running a papermill, and corresponding concerns about the veracity of the data. The journals have been contacted to request retraction. No further action was taken by ARU because the student was withdrawn from their course and left without graduating.

Version 1.0