

ARU'S ANNUAL STATEMENT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY 2021/22

During 2021/22, we have continued our engagement with the expectations of the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* ([The Concordat to Support Research Integrity \(universitiesuk.ac.uk\)](https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/research-integrity)). We have undertaken the following activities in support of continued compliance with the *Concordat* and to further embed the principles of research integrity in our institution.

- Our Research Integrity Working Group (RIWG) continues to meet 4 times annually. The RIWG reports to our Research and Innovation Committee, which is accountable to Senate.
- The RIWG is now chaired by one of our Professors in Psychology. Members include our Deputy Deans for Research, ensuring senior input and leadership on research integrity. We also have representation from our HR Service, a mid-career researcher and two postgraduate research students, and a current vacancy for an early-career researcher. This means that we have a wide range of representation on the committee and can discuss and explore issues from a range of perspectives.
- We have invited both colleagues and external bodies (e.g. UKRIO) to the meetings to discuss issues relating to research integrity, for example regarding reproducibility and publication.
- All academic staff carrying out research are required to complete mandatory research integrity training. This is either the research integrity (Epigeum) online training or face-to-face sessions that we deliver in-house. The latter have generated very useful discussions. Attendance is monitored via the RIWG.
- RIWG decided to use our *Gap Analysis and Action Plan* as the annual monitoring exercise required by the new *Concordat*. We review and update this document at each meeting.
- We now have an *Inclusivity Policy* for research.
- We also launched a new online ethics system in February 2022, which has helped to enhance our governance processes even further.
- Named contacts for queries regarding research integrity and our previous Annual Statements are available on our website at: [Research Integrity - ARU](#)

Over the coming year, we are proposing to combine RIWG with our Research Ethics Committee. The rationale for this is that research ethics is a component of research integrity and having one committee will further integrate and add cohesion to the processes we have for each.

We are also looking to build or adopt both online research ethics and research integrity courses that we can customise for our university.

We have robust procedures for carrying out research misconduct investigations which are proportionate, transparent and fair, as described in our *Guidance for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research*. Investigations and their outcomes are discussed in anonymised format at our RIWG and Research Ethics Committee.

During 2021/22, 7 DBA students were formally investigated for carrying out research without obtaining ethical approval in the taught part of their programme. For one student, it was subsequently established that plagiarism rather than not obtaining ethical approval was the offence. With regards to the other investigations, one case was dismissed due to being out of the time scale for investigation, 3 cases were classified as moderate research misconduct and 2 as major. All students besides the case which was dismissed were required to destroy their research data. Subsequent revision of the DBA programme will minimise such incidents in future cohorts.

The faculty also has an action plan in place to help prevent issues reoccurring, which includes providing further training to supervisors, creating a forum to discuss issues related to research ethics for PGR students and staff engaged in research, and to establish criteria for informal resolution to pre-submission ethical breaches.