

Annual Statement on Research Integrity

University of Warwick Annual Statement on Research Integrity

Commitment #5 of the “Concordat to support research integrity” recommends that the institution present a short annual statement to their governing body that is then made publically available. Below is the University of Warwick’s Annual Statement was approved by Council at its meeting on 8 July 2015.

Background

In July 2012, Universities UK published the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (July 2012): a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. HEFCE, NIHR, RCUK and the Wellcome Trust are included among its signatories, and HEFCE in particular has stipulated that compliance with the Concordat is a condition of the HEFCE grant from 2013/14.

The Concordat requires that the University should present a short annual statement to its governing body that:

- (a) Provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues;
- (b) Provides assurances that the processes they have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation;
- (c) Provides a high level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

To improve accountability, and provide assurances that measures being taken continue to support consistently high standards of research integrity, the statement should be made publicly available.

Statement June 2015

- (1) The University of Warwick (‘the University’) takes seriously its compliance with internal and external research governance requirements. As such, it has a well-established committee structure that provides transparency and accountability for matters of research integrity and governance, reporting in this respect to the Senate and Council via the University Research Governance & Ethics Committee (‘RGAEC’).

During the reporting period, and under the guidance of RGAEC, the University reviewed the ways in which it could evolve its internal culture of research integrity. This process involved the Academic Departments, Research & Impact Services, Internal Audit, the Learning & Development Centre and Committee Members. The University, having viewed a number of potential training packages, elected to purchase an online Research Integrity training module ‘Epigeum’, as well as to join the associated ‘Research Integrity Impact Group’.

Consideration was also given to the development of the University’s internal ethics review and approval procedures, with the RGAEC exploring the possibility of enhancing the current systems by providing an ‘ethics’ module within the University’s internal research management system (Ideate). Following a series of internal demonstrations, this will be progressed within the next reporting period.

- (2) The University has an established Research Misconduct Policy, to support the appropriate and timely handling of allegations of research misconduct. Support in all such cases is provided by the central Research & Impact Services, reporting in this respect directly to the Registrar and Vice-Chancellor.
- (3) There have been no formal investigations of research misconduct arising in 2013/14 by a research student or member of staff.