



Research Integrity Annual Statement - 2022

(for the 2021-22 Academic Year)

Table of Contents

1. Background	1
2. Governance	1
3. Support for Research Integrity.....	3
4. High level statement on any formal investigation of research misconduct.....	5

1. Background

1.1 The University is committed to maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research and to meeting 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/>).

1.2 As a component of this commitment, the University requires that all research projects undertaken under the auspices of the University 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>.

1.3 In accordance with its obligations, the University provides annually a report on research integrity and misconduct. As well as providing an update on the actions taken to support research integrity and to investigate concerns about research during the academic year, this report provides a high-level statement on research integrity in accordance with the University's commitments under the Concordat. A copy of this annual report will be published on the University Research Integrity webpage <https://www.london.ac.uk/research/research-integrity>. This link to the statement will be sent to the secretariat of the signatories to the Concordat.

2. Governance

2.1 The University currently has three departments, which undertake research and studies, called Central Academic Bodies (as noted in [Ordinance 11](#)):

- The School of Advanced Study
- The University of London Institute in Paris
- The University of London Worldwide

2.2 In 2021, the University approved a new governance structure which established an Academic Board and an Academic Quality and Assurance committee. <https://www.london.ac.uk/about-us/university-governance/committees> . These committees started operating in 2021-22. The Research Committee and Research Ethics Committee remained in place, although their membership was slightly revised.

2.3 The University’s research integrity framework including research policies are overseen by the University Research Committee which reports to the University Academic Board. The Research Ethics Committee, which oversees all ethical matters on behalf of the University, reports to the Research Committee.

2.4 Research and Engagement activities (including Public Engagement and Knowledge Exchange) fall under the remit of the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research & Engagement), Professor Jo Fox. <https://london.ac.uk/about-us/our-people/pro-vice-chancellor-research-and-public-engagement>, who is the chair of the Research Committee, a member of the Vice-Chancellor Executive Group and a standing member of the Academic Board. The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research & Engagement) aims to lead the University’s endeavours in the continuous improvement of its policies, guidance, and practices of research integrity.

2.5 The University has a set of Ordinances which support and strengthen the institutional research integrity framework. They are:

- Ordinance 17 (Code of Student Discipline)
- Ordinance 20 (Academic Staff)
- Ordinance 21 (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion)
- Ordinance 23 (Public Interest Disclosure)

They are all available here: <https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/university-governance/statutes-ordinances-and-regulations> .

2.6 The relevant institutional policies which support research integrity at the University of London are as follows:

Policies and Procedures	External links (where applicable)
Research Integrity	https://www.london.ac.uk/research/research-integrity
Ethics	https://www.london.ac.uk/research-ethics
Allegations of Misconduct policy	https://www.london.ac.uk/research/code-good-practice-research-university-london <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Policy and procedures for responding to allegations of misconduct in research</u> [being revised] • <u>Academic misconduct policy</u>
Data Protection Policy	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/policies/data-protection
Research Data Management Policy & Guidance	https://www.london.ac.uk/research/research-data-management-policy
Open Access Policy	https://www.london.ac.uk/research/open-access-policy [being revised]

Bullying and Harassment policy	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/policies https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/University-of-London-Dignity-Respect-Guidance.pdf
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion policy	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/university-governance/statutes-ordinances-and-regulations#university-procedures-ordinances-21-27-2279 https://london.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-and-inclusion
Risk Management policy/strategy	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/university-governance/statutes-ordinances-and-regulations https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/governance/Ordinance-22-Risk-Management-Policy.pdf
Policy covering Anti-Fraud, Corruption and Bribery	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/policies
Conflicts of Interest policy	Ordinance 8: https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/university-governance/statutes-ordinances-and-regulations Also mentioned here: https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/governance/financial-regulations-approved-uol.pdf
Whistleblowing policy	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/university-governance/statutes-ordinances-and-regulations https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/regulations/Ordinance-23-Public-Interest-Disclosure-21.pdf
Procurement policy/relevant procedural documentation	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/policies https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/governance/financial-regulations-approved-uol.pdf
Travel and Subsistence policy	https://london.ac.uk/sites/default/files/governance/financial-regulations-approved-uol.pdf
Modern Slavery Statement	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/policies/anti-slavery-and-human-trafficking
Safeguarding Policy	https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/policies/safeguarding

The policies are to be reviewed formally every three years or when new governmental or funders' directives require earlier revision. Any revision of these policies is done through consultation including review and approval by the relevant internal committees. Employment policies are reviewed by the Human Resources Department and are subject to consultation by recognised trades unions. Communication of these policies is done in several ways including:

- Inclusion in staff and student handbooks.
- Intranet communications and briefings.
- Inductions and staff meetings.
- Staff and Student training (face to face and online).

3. Support for Research Integrity

3.1 To meet the Concordat's enhanced training requirements for researchers, the Research Services Team has developed a dedicated online Research Ethics module which aims to support researchers at all stages of their careers to navigate ethical aspects of undertaking

research. The module is mandatory for staff and students. It should be noted that students' ethical approval is only given when/if the training module has been completed, and progression in study, upgrade or examination status can only take place if ethical approval has first been sought.

- 3.2 Two more online research training modules are being created: one on research data management, which will be complemented by two toolkits; and one on research integrity. The former is currently being written. (launch date expected in 2022-23). We are expecting to contact UKRIO (UK Research Integrity Office) for their advice on the module.
- 3.3 The Research Services Team has also created a dedicated online section: <https://www.london.ac.uk/research/research-integrity> to ensure further engagement and clear institutional commitment to research integrity are clearly and publicly available.
- 3.4 The University's mentoring programme continues to be available, and the number of academic and staff forums has increased, focusing on best practice, and promoting support of individuals' needs within the institutional infrastructure. Debates took place on topics such as research culture, academic freedom, and open research. Combined with the mentoring programme, the forums have also acted as safe spaces to discuss ethical dilemmas, misunderstanding in research practice, and research improvement.
- 3.5 The University continues to embed its research integrity in its student training curriculum which includes courses on data visualization, analytics, statistics, and research methods. Induction meetings are used not only to inform students on ethical approval processes but to also review the many elements that need to be considered when evaluating the ethical soundness of a research project.
- 3.6 The University has approved a recent proposal to strengthen the support structure of its research function and establish additional posts, including the role of a *research policies and business intelligence partner*. The duties of the postholder will include focusing on the management of the University research policies and support compliance in relation to research governance, ethics, integrity, open data, and open research to governmental and other external requirements. The new structure is to be operational in 2022-23.
- 3.7 The University Academic Board has approved in May 2022 the new Research Data Management Policy (<https://www.london.ac.uk/research/research-data-management-policy>) which aims to provide clarity on what research data means for researchers at the University and the responsibilities that everyone (researchers, staff, students, and the institution as a whole) has regarding the policy and its implementation. Its associated guidance covers the various intricacies of research data management and outlines the institutional role to both support and monitor implementation of the policy.
- 3.8 The Research Ethics Committee has agreed to integrate travel risk assessments within ethical approval processes to address more fully researchers' risks and their mitigation plans. This is partially in response to the Covid-19 pandemic which continues to be very much present worldwide.
- 3.9 The new University Safeguarding Policy was approved in September 2021: <https://london.ac.uk/about-us/how-university-run/policies/safeguarding> . An awareness campaign is currently underway.
- 3.10 The work to revise the *procedure to deal with allegations of misconduct in research for staff and fellows* is still ongoing as it aims to take into account the results of the latest UKRIO consultation <https://ukrio.org/news/consultation-new-edition-of-ukrio-research-misconduct-investigation-procedure/> . Meanwhile, our current policy is still in operation and is available here: <https://www.london.ac.uk/research/code-good-practice-research-university-london> .

3.11 It is worth noting that a recent review of our policies by UKRI auditors acknowledged that the University had embedded *best practice to establish the high ethical standards expected for research*.

4. High level statement on any formal investigation of research misconduct

Academic misconduct is reported annually per each department:

1. University of London Institute in Paris:

- In 2021-22, ULIP reported 10 post-graduate taught students and 2 postgraduate research students.
- No academic misconduct involving staff, fellows or students has been recorded.

2. School of Advanced Study:

- In 2021-22, SAS recorded 133 Research Students, and 103 MA students.
- No academic misconduct involving staff or fellows has been recorded.

3. University of London Worldwide

The University of London Worldwide's Academic Committee considers the University of London Assessment offence report, which includes students attending the School's distance learning programmes as well as programmes led by Member Institutions within the Federation.

The statement below covers students registered to the University of London Worldwide programme and Centres, **who are subject solely to the University of London research governance (as noted here: <https://www.london.ac.uk/research-ethics#research-ethics-policies-and-process-guidance-32286> under Appendix 2):**

- In 2021-22, University of London Worldwide-led programmes and Centres, **subject to the University of London research governance**, recorded 1,323 students.
- No academic misconduct involving staff, fellows or students has been recorded.

Approved by the Academic Board, 27 September 2022