

# Template: annual statement on research integrity

If you have any questions about this template, please contact:  
riconcordat@ukcori.org.

## Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
<b>1A. Name of organisation</b>	Glasgow Caledonian University
<b>1B. Type of organisation:</b>  higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher Education Institution
<b>1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)</b>	Expected to be presented to University Court on 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
<b>1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)</b>	<a href="https://www.gcu.ac.uk/research/researchstrategy/researchintegrity">https://www.gcu.ac.uk/research/researchstrategy/researchintegrity</a> - public facing page for publication of Research Integrity Annual Reports and key integrity related documentation
<b>1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity</b>	Name: Professor Sharron Dolan, PVC Research (Interim)
	Email address: Sharron.Dolan@gcu.ac.uk
<b>1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for</b>	Name: Professor Gianna Cassidy, Chair of Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee

**anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity**

Email address: [Gianna.Cassidy@gcu.ac.uk](mailto:Gianna.Cassidy@gcu.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

The University is committed to the highest standards of research integrity and good practice in all of its research activities and has committed to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and to adhere to the UKRIO Code of Practice for Research in the conduct of its research.

#### **Policies and Systems**

The University Research Committee has overall responsibility for matters related to research integrity. The following subcommittees and groups have responsibility for supporting the processes, procedures, guidance and development for research integrity matters:

- Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee (REIS)
- Research Culture Subcommittee (RCSC)
- Research Degrees Committee (RDC) for postgraduate research students

The [Code of Good Practice for Researchers](#) outlines procedures to be followed in cases of academic misconduct. Anyone wishing to raise a complaint or concern about research misconduct must follow the University's [Complaints Handling Procedure](#) (CHP), referred to in the Code of Good Practice for Researchers. The CHP involves up to two stages and adheres, as far as possible, to specified timescales.

Other policies and procedures relevant to research integrity:

- [Ethical Guidelines for Students, Staff and Ethics Committees](#)
- [Research Data Management Policy](#)
- [Guidance for Researchers – Data Protection](#)
- [Conduct & Capability Policy](#)
- [Public Interest Disclosure \(Whistleblowing\)](#)
- [GCU Financial Regulations](#)
- [GCU Financial Procedures](#)
- [Procedures for Academic Misconduct in Research Degrees](#)
- [Code of Student Conduct](#)
- [Student Guide to Academic Integrity](#)
- [How can I use Generative Artificial Intelligence in my studies?](#)
- [Guidance to staff on the use of Generative AI \(GenAI\)](#)
- [Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Student Attendance & Engagement Policy \(Research Students\)](#)

### **Communications and engagement**

Research integrity is embedded in researcher and PGR student induction. Researcher Development also hold an 'orientation' event for PGR students about a month after induction where an hour's introduction to ethics and integrity is delivered. Policies and procedures are made available to staff at induction and disseminated via the University website and intranet.

All PGR students are required to complete module 1 of UKRIO's *Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants* course, considered to be essential for researchers conducting research with human participants.

The suite of 3 modules on the UKRIO's *Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants* course has also been rolled out to all researchers involved in Research Ethics Committee.

**Culture, development and leadership**

The Research Culture Subcommittee as a subcommittee of the University Research Committee chaired by the PVC Research, and composed of a diverse range of staff and students, academic and Professional Support Staff with a ranges of grades and experience. Research Integrity is a central pillar in the University's Research Culture and Environment Strategy and Roadmap, and we are committed to strengthening a number of key initiatives to help strengthen transparency, governance and accountability and embed open and responsible research practices in our research community.

**Monitoring and reporting**

Cases of misconduct by research staff or students are monitored by the Department of Governance and Legal Services, who are responsible for governance, student discipline and the University's complaints procedures. This information is provided in Section 3.

School Research Ethics Committees (REC) also complete progress reports at the end of each trimester and at the end of every academic session for submission and review to the Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee (REIS). A composite annual report is prepared for University Research Committee with commentary from the Chair of the REIS.

**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; training and mentoring opportunities to support the

development of researchers' skills throughout their careers.

*[Please insert response]*

### **Research culture**

The University established the Research Culture Subcommittee (RCSC) as a subcommittee of the University Research Committee in November 2024. The subcommittee was established to lead the University's discourse on research culture and advise University Research Committee (URC) on the associated indicators of success, monitoring and evaluation in the context of the University's Strategy 2030 and associated Research plan. It is the RCSC's remit to enhance support for the development of GCU researchers via a more holistic approach throughout their research career journey, including postgraduate student researchers, early career researchers (ECR), experienced researchers and research leaders.

The RCSC has developed a Research Culture Roadmap and Action plan to support Strategy 2030 Research Plan to enhance the University's research culture and environment, to foster innovation and support and develop a thriving research community of staff and students. The four pillars of the roadmap are:

1. Researcher Development
2. Collaboration & Innovation
3. Supportive & Inclusive Environment
4. Research Integrity

The strategic aims of the research integrity pillar are to:

- Foster a culture of integrity and ethical research
- Strengthen transparency, governance and accountability
- Embed open and responsible research practices

### **Enhancements in Research Ethics and Integrity**

The Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee (REIS) conducted an in-depth review of existing School Research Ethics Committee (REC) practices across the University and found considerable variation in local approaches. To strengthen consistency in processes, record-keeping, and reporting, REIS designed a centralised system that was successfully piloted in the School of Health and Life Sciences. This model uses a dedicated MS Teams space, with sub-channels for each local REC, serving as a single repository for all ethics reviews and outcomes. The centralised structure enables clearer oversight by REIS and supports the embedding of consistent ethics practices across the institution.

A decision-making tool has been developed to support students and staff in determining whether an education or research project requires submission to a GCU Research Ethics Committee (REC). The tool is currently undergoing refinement ahead of its full rollout. Its purpose is to provide clear guidance in situations where individuals are uncertain about the need for ethical approval, ensuring that all projects requiring review are accurately identified and appropriately assessed. This will help strengthen assurance that ethical approval processes are applied consistently and comprehensively across the University.

- The University is in the process of rolling out UKRIO Research Integrity training to researchers and will monitor completions during 2025-26.
- All PGR students are required to complete module 1 of UKRIO's Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants course, considered to be essential for researchers conducting research with human participants.
- The suite of 3 modules on the UKRIO's Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants course has also been rolled out to all researchers involved in Research Ethics Committee.
- Launched a new cross-institute seminar series - the Research Exchange to encourage interdisciplinary working and sharing of best practice in research. This has showcased ethics and integrity work and open-access policy.

## 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.

### Progress from 23/24 plan

The Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee (REIS) reviewed the policy's implications and updated ethics documentation accordingly, and made good progress with streamlining application process and ensuring all information is appropriately recorded and auditable. The successful e-thesis pilot also led to updates in Research Degree regulations, and the e-thesis process has now been implemented for all research degree students. Following the introduction of institutional guidance on the educational use of generative AI, a working group was set to devise set of guiding principle for use of generative AI in research. This work is ongoing with further work planned for 2025-26. Following a briefing on Trusted Research-government guidance from the NPSA and NCSC aimed at helping the sector understand and manage risks to research we set up a working group, which is now led through our Research Knowledge Exchange office to review institutional guidance and examine related ethics and integrity considerations through REIS.

### Future Developments

- The Research Culture Subcommittee was established in March 2025 and has made significant progress developing the Research Culture Roadmap, due to be launched in January '26.
- The Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee approved centralised MS Teams site and a new electronic ethics application form and will be reviewed in 2025-26. In addition, a project is planned to review research waste across the University, including the requirements for students to access human participants. The review will consider participant burden, the value and use of resources, and the overall quality of research outputs.
- "The University is reconfiguring its intranet and web provision, with plans to consolidate all resources relating to research culture, including research integrity, into a single, coherent location. This will make currently dispersed materials more easily accessible to researchers.
- The code of good research practice **Principles of Research Integrity in the Conduct of Academic Research** is under review. In addition to information on governance and misconduct, the new guide will also include practical guidance and signposting on: Ethical conduct; Authorship and Publication; Data Management Plan and Data Protection; Failure to Prevent Fraud policy; Generative AI in Research.
- During 2025-26, it is intended to adapt School REC and REIS to allow for reporting of questionable research practices so that practice which falls short of misconduct is captured in future Annual Integrity Reports.

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**2D. Case study on good practice (optional)**

Please describe an anonymised brief, exemplar case study that can be shared as good practice with other organisations. A wide range of case studies are valuable, including small, local implementations. Case studies may also include the impact of implementations or lessons learned.

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## 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.

The [Code of Good Practice for Researchers](#) outlines procedures to be followed in cases of academic misconduct. For PGR Students the Procedures for Academic Misconduct in Research Degrees are followed. Both procedures are currently under review and it is intended to integrate procedures for PGR students with the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#).

*[Please insert response]*

### 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				
Falsification	2	2	2	2
Plagiarism				
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations				
Misrepresentation (e.g. data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)				
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct				
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)				
<i>Other*</i>				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>

**\*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]*