

Executive Summary Paper

Committee:	Court			
Title	Research Integrity Annual Statement and Report			
Sponsored by	Professor Cam Donaldson, PVC Research			
Author (if different from sponsor)	Paul Woods, Department of Governance			
Please tick ✓ as appropriate)	For information	<input type="checkbox"/>	For discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	For noting	<input type="checkbox"/>	For approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
	For endorsement	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1. Purpose of the Paper and Summary of Key Issues and Information

The University is committed to meeting the Commitments of the Universities UK *Concordat to support Research Integrity*. As part of that commitment the PVC Research, as the University's designated point of contact for research integrity matters, presents the annual statement on research integrity to the University Court which:

- provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues
- 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
- provides a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken

The final version of the statement will be published on the University's Research Integrity webpage.

2. Recommendations

Court is invited to approve the report.

3. Freedom of Information

Unless you specify otherwise, this paper will be deemed available for unredacted release under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) 2002 Act. If some, or all of the paper, should not be released, briefly explain the reason. Examples include: commercial sensitivity, personal information.

This paper is deemed available for unredacted release under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) 2002 Act. Subject to Court approval it will be published on the University website.

4. Consultation undertaken/required

Who have you consulted when developing the paper?	University Research Committee, University Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee.
Have you already submitted this paper to any other committee for discussion and/or approval? If yes, please state which committee	University Research Committee, University Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee.
Will you require to submit this paper to any other committee following its consideration/approval at this meeting? If yes, please state the committee and date of meeting[s.]	No

5. Promulgation of Decision/Actions and Implementation

Who will be responsible for ensuring the decision taken by the Court/Senate/committee and/or actions arising from the meeting are promulgated to the relevant people for implementation?	URC Secretary
Who will be responsible for overseeing any resultant changes or implementation plan as a result of the decision taken or actions arising from the meeting?	PVC Research

Research Integrity Annual Statement 2018-19

Introduction

The University is committed to meeting the Commitments of the Universities UK *Concordat to support Research Integrity*. As part of that commitment the PVC Research, as the University's designated point of contact for research integrity matters, will provide an annual report on research integrity to the University Court which will:

- provide a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues
- provide 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
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Key Activities in 2018-19

The following summary outlines actions and activity undertaken to support research integrity during session 2018-19:

1. The updated Regulations for the Award of Master of Philosophy, Professional Masters, Doctor of Philosophy and Professional Doctorate were approved by Senate 1 June 2018 with minor additions required by Senate agreed on 12 October 2018.

A working group established by Research Degrees Committee is reviewing *the Regulations for the Award of PhD by Previous works* with a view to publishing a revised version for session 2019-20 following the relevant approval processes of Senate and its Standing Committees.

2. Data Protection guidance (incorporating GDPR guidance) has been published on the University intranet. The *Research Ethics Principles and Procedures Handbook* is being refreshed to update terms, links and references. A review of the University's and provision of information related to ethical procedures (at University and School level) on the website and intranet is being undertaken.
3. Authorship guidelines have been adopted and linked to the GCU Research Integrity webpage (<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/research/researchintegrity/>). PGR Student specific guidance will be added to relevant webpages (Graduate School/Research Integrity).
4. A review of PGR Student guidance is ongoing and in the process of developing a robust guidance framework with appropriately up to date cross referencing to University Policy, Procedure and Support.
5. Via research networks, the Graduate School and Research Degrees Committee, work is ongoing to identify enhancements to PGR training provision in research integrity and key areas related to research integrity (research ethics, research data management, authorship). The relevant web pages are updated as content is refreshed and policy

development is approved via Senate and the Standing Committees.

6. A Research Web Group has been established to review, update and maintain web content related to research, including areas relating to research integrity. The Group will seek to make relevant documentation more accessible to the public via more explicit placement on the University website and review published policy and procedure to ensure that they are consistent and web content is up to date.

Content refresh and creation (see 1-4 above) is continuing in a number of different areas and added to relevant webpages when approved.

7. Research specific data protection/GDPR information session was provided by Thornton's (University Solicitors). Dissemination has been largely via electronic means so far (web and intranet). Provision of research integrity related researcher development has been included in the DARE (Developing Academic Researcher Excellence) Steering Group remit with a view to identifying appropriate methods of disseminating policy, procedures and embedding research integrity principles in all GCU researcher development.
8. The extent to which all policies and procedures address the broad areas of the Concordat to support Research Integrity has been reviewed using the UKRIO Self Assessment Tool *and taking note of the UUK consultation on a revised Concordat*. With this in mind it is intended to establish a named senior member of staff as "first point of contact" for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity, in addition to the PVC Research who will be the named member of staff with the responsibility to oversee research integrity. It is intended that the Assistant Vice Principal Research will undertake the first point of contact role.
9. School Research Committees received the 2017-18 Research Integrity policy statement for consideration and raised no specific subject-area issues.
10. The Research Ethics Subcommittee has been renamed Research Ethics and Integrity Subcommittee.
11. Research Integrity is now embedded in PGR Student induction and researcher development.
12. Scoping of reporting mechanisms is ongoing (potentially integrating elements from REIS, RDC, DARE, People Services, Department of Governance).

Ongoing and Future Activity

1. To review policy and procedure to ensure compliance with the updated Concordat to support Research Integrity.
2. To investigate means by which matters of research integrity can be raised both formally and informally and ensure researchers can access appropriate advice.
3. Investigate how collaborative and shared approaches to ethical guidelines and codes of conduct can be implemented.
4. To explore, via the DARE Steering Group, how to embed research integrity in all

researcher development activity.

5. Development of guidance in relation to research data management.
6. To ensure that web content related to research integrity is updated as appropriate.
7. Consultation with the Associate Deans for Research to identify potential research integrity “champions” within the Schools.

Formal investigations of research misconduct

- No cases of research misconduct in 2018-19 (to date).
- No new cases of research misconduct by postgraduate research students in 2018-19;
1 ongoing

Procedures for Allegations of Misconduct

The *Code of Good Practice for Researchers* outlines procedures to be followed in cases of academic misconduct.

Other procedures relevant to staff:

- Conduct & Capability Policy - applies to current staff (but note that the University may continue the investigation to its natural end regardless of the complainant and/or the respondent resigning or otherwise withdrawing from the process; the complainant withdrawing his/her allegation; and/or an admission of guilt on the part of the respondent)
- Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing)
- Anti-Bribery Policy
- GCU Financial Regulations

Other procedures relevant to students:

- Procedures for Academic Misconduct in Research Degrees (referenced in *Code of Good Practice for Researchers*)
- Code of Student Conduct (also referenced in *Code of Good Practice for Researchers*)
- Student Attendance & Engagement Policy (Research Students)

Research Integrity in the Curriculum

A review will be undertaken to identify research integrity coverage in the curriculum and consider strategies for further roll out.