

Annual Statement on Compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity 2014/15

The University of Glasgow is a broad-based research-intensive University, with more than 25,000 students, from 120 countries worldwide. The University is also a key employer in the city of Glasgow and of its 6,000 staff, 2,000 are active researchers. The Vice Principal for Research is responsible for ensuring standards of good research practice and is supported in this role by a team of staff within the Research Strategy and Innovation Office. This includes coordinating investigations of alleged research misconduct, updating and disseminating the University's [Code of Good Practice in Research](#) and ensuring appropriate training and other measures are in place to support a culture of research integrity. However, we believe that strong local leadership is imperative to embed this culture and, in 2013/14, we launched three work-strands to support this agenda. Summer 2015 provided a timely opportunity to review work in this area and a cross-University Research Integrity Working Group was established for this purpose, involving representation from Graduate Schools, Colleges, Ethics Committees, Human Resources and the Research Strategy and Innovation Office. The Working Group reported to the University's Senior Management Group in October 2015 with the following outcomes:

- **Academic leadership:** We appointed Research Integrity Champions in each of our four Colleges, to actively promote good research practice within the relevant disciplinary context, as well as act as a source of advice and first point of contact for any concerns. The working group agreed that these Champions should be supported with a network of Research Integrity Advisers (circa 20) at the level of School or Research Institute.
- **Training and development:** Mandatory research integrity training is now in place for all new research students (through the Graduate Schools), and staff training is available through Organisational and Employee Development: training is particularly recommended to new research staff at induction. Training in research data management is also available and is strongly recommended for both staff and students. The Researcher Development Committee will work with the newly appointed Research Integrity Advisers / Champions over 2015/16 to consider additional online resources and training, to ensure their suitability for all disciplines and stages (including students, early-career researchers, Supervisors, PIs or group leaders, Heads of School, Advisers or Champions, and research administrators and other relevant staff). This review will include assessing how research integrity training is embedded within the existing, mandatory Supervisor training workshops offered by Graduate Schools.
- **Ensuring best practice:** In Autumn 2014, Glasgow hosted a Scotland-wide event on the theme of research integrity training, to share institutional approaches and learning in this area. We continue to work collaboratively with the Russell Group and other networks (such as the Nuffield Council for Bioethics, UniversitiesUK and UKRIO) and participate in national / international events (e.g. UKRIO conference in May 2015, World Conference on Research Integrity, June 2015, and the Russell Group Integrity Workshop, June 2015) to draw on the experiences and knowledge of other organisations and ensure that our training and approaches are up to date and fit for purpose.
- **Changes to policies and procedures:** The University updated its Code of Good Practice in Research in 2014 and, in 2015, the working group reviewed its [Code of Policy and Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research](#), to ensure that our procedures are transparent, robust and fair, as well as appropriate to the institution. Glasgow has worked with other institutions to share approaches in this area, with the aim of standardising terminology and processes, where possible and, in 2015, additional guidance was drafted to set out the processes for dealing with collaborative investigations.

- **Enhancing the visibility of research integrity and communication:** A [new web portal](#) has been developed, with links to training and resources, information on the Research Integrity Advisers and Champions and a copy of this annual statement. It was agreed that a suite of awareness-raising measures would be put in place for staff and research students, embedded within induction, annual appraisal (i.e. progress review for students or P&DR for staff) and through an annual 'Campus News' communication. Regular communication between the Research Strategy and Innovation Office, University Ethics Committee, Graduate Schools, local Advisers/Champions and the library (particularly Open Access and Data Management Teams) will be important moving forward. The remit of the new Research Integrity Advisers will additionally ensure that awareness and resources will be made visible locally. Work has also been undertaken in 2014/15 to align the research 'ethics' and 'integrity' agendas to ensure clarity around roles, responsibilities, procedures and training.
- **A commitment to strengthening research integrity:** In the interests of openness and accountability and to provide assurance to staff and the wider public that measures are being taken to support consistently high standards, the University is committed to making an annual statement publicly available.

2014/15 also saw the **establishment of a Research Data Management Service** to support researchers in implementing good data management practices and meeting funder requirements. The service comprises three staff members with responsibility for service coordination, technical coordination and staff training and support, respectively. It has developed an institutional research data repository and registry which can be used for long-term safe storage (and appropriate sharing) of data which underpins research publications. The service also provides training on all aspects of research data management for students and staff and can offer tailored support if necessary.

Misconduct allegations and investigations, 2014–2015

The Table below summarises the nature and status of active formal investigations into alleged misconduct over the past year (August 2014–July 2015). A formal investigation is conducted by a panel to examine and evaluate all relevant facts to determine whether there are sufficient grounds for proceeding with the allegation under the Disciplinary Procedures or Student Code of Conduct.

Respondent	Nature of allegation	Status ¹ and next steps	Outcome (where relevant)
PGR Student	Data fabrication	Formal investigation complete	Corrected thesis to be resubmitted
PGR Student	Plagiarism	Formal investigation	Cancellation of viva, pending an investigation
Staff	Citation omission	Investigation by journal editors.	Investigation by journal editors.

¹Definitions of stages in the misconduct investigation process:

Preliminary screen: Initial assessment made to ascertain whether an allegation is mistaken, frivolous, vexatious and/or malicious.

Informal investigation: An investigation conducted by a panel to determine whether there is sufficient evidence of research misconduct to proceed with a formal investigation.

Formal investigation: An investigation conducted by a panel to examine and evaluate all relevant facts to determine whether there are sufficient grounds for proceeding with the allegation under the Disciplinary Procedures or Student Code of Conduct.