

Annual Statement on Research Integrity

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Supporting High Quality Research

The University of Lincoln is committed to encouraging research of the highest quality by supporting good research conduct and helping to prevent misconduct.

The University intends to uphold the following commitments outlined in the [UUK Concordat to support Research Integrity](#) (the concordat). The Concordat provides a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance:

- maintain the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
- ensure that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal, and professional frameworks, obligations, and standards
- support a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice, and support for the development of researchers
- use transparent, robust, and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise
- work together to strengthen the integrity of research and to review progress regularly and openly.

In compliance with the Concordat, the University is publishing a Statement on Research Integrity on an annual basis. The following Statement covers the period from **Sep 2019 to August 2020** and summarises the University's status relative to the expectations of the Concordat. It outlines the actions and activities undertaken, and the framework in place in support of fostering a culture of research integrity. It also provides a high-level summary of investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken by the University.

Code of Practice for Research

The University of Lincoln's [Code of Practice for Research](#) (CoPR) provides a comprehensive framework for good research conduct and the governance of all research carried out across the University.

The CoPR sets out the principles governing the conduct of research by individual researchers and the University; and lists the fundamental standards for good practice in research with which both researchers and the institution should comply.

The CoPR has been reviewed (Aug 2020) in light of the revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity (Oct 2019) and to incorporate the [Trusted Research – guidance for academia](#) which aims to support the integrity of the system of international research collaboration and the University's new [Due Diligence \(International Research\) policy](#) pending Academic Board approval (late 2020).

Research Ethics

The University of Lincoln's [Research Ethics Policy](#) is intended to support good conduct in research, in order to encourage research of the highest quality. It provides general principles and standards for good ethical practice in research, for the individual researcher (staff member or student) and the institution as a whole.

The University of Lincoln seeks to:

- foster a culture within the University that embraces the principles set down in this policy and relevant legislation to protect the rights, dignity and welfare of those involved in research (whether they are participants, third parties, animals (or other living organism) or staff and students);
- provide ethical guidance that communicates regulatory requirements and best practice, and offer ongoing support and training to researchers to maintain high ethical standards; and
- maintain a review process that subjects research to a level of scrutiny in proportion to the risk of harm or adverse effect.

The [University Research Ethics Committee](#) (UREC) has oversight of the principles and practices of ethical research conduct across the University, specifically the Human and Non-Human Research Ethics Committees. It works in unison with the Research Committee to ensure that the Human/Non-Human Research Ethics Committees are supported to implement, monitor, and report on the ethical research conduct in their respective disciplines.

The Ethics Working Group (EWG) is an interdisciplinary group comprising of academic representatives of each of the

four Colleges (College of Science, College of Social Science, College of Arts and Lincoln International Business School) as well as the Research Governance Manager from Research and Industrial Partnerships. The EWG is responsible for reviewing research related policies and processes with a particular focus on research ethics.

Further information regarding research ethics, may be obtained by contacting ethics@lincoln.ac.uk.

The university's Research Ethics Policy was last reviewed June 2018 – next review due date: June 2021.

Human Tissue Research Licence

In order for the University to store human tissue or hold human tissue material for research purposes, including cadaveric material, or to hold material for anatomical examination or teaching purposes, the institution requires a licence.

The University of Lincoln holds a Human Tissue Authority Licence (Research #12678).

The Corporate Licence holder is the University of Lincoln.

The Designated Individual (DI) is Professor Jon Whitehead.

The Human Tissue Oversight Group (HTOG) ensures its compliance with the Act under the terms and conditions of its license.

The DI and Research Governance Manager have delivered Human Tissue compliance training to 10 staff and students.

The University's Human Tissue Quality Manual (HT-QM) and supporting Standard Operating Procedures (HT-SOPs) outline the university's commitment to comply with its HTA licence for research.

The HT-QM and HT-SOPs were last reviewed November 2018 – next review due date: November 2020.

Activities undertaken to support and raise awareness of research integrity in 2018/19 include:

- All staff and post graduate research (PGR) students submit ethics applications via LEAS the University's online ethics platform)
- Research Integrity and ethics training is mandatory for new PGR students and is also available to academic supervisors
- Research Integrity and ethics training is available to all staff as part of the Academic Development Programme
- Specific Research Integrity and ethics training has been piloted with 2 UG/PGT student cohorts.
- The University's external webpages further updated to reflect the commitment to the Concordat for Research Integrity <https://www.lincoln.ac.uk/home/researchatlincoln/researchethicsandintegrity/>
- Internal webpages updated to provide practical guidance and links
- Ethics newsletters / all staff emails and news.
- The Research Governance team have delivered the following training sessions (these numbers are reduced to COVID-19 pandemic, as a result some sessions were cancelled)

Human Tissue Training - SOP compliance training	10
Ethics reviewer training - reviewing applications	65
Ethics system training - for reviewers	12
UG/PGT Research Integrity and Ethics Training	243
Staff Research Integrity and Ethics training	14
PGR Research Integrity and Ethics training	57

Action Plan for 2019/2020:

- Increase engagement with staff and PGR students undertaking Research Integrity and Ethics Training – promoting through the Academic Development Programme and ResearchFirst week.
- Embed the revised Code of Practice for Research within the academic / student community through dissemination channels (ethics leads and post award teams), updating the applicant and academic supervisor declaration in LEAS as well as publishing on University internal and external webpages. In order to ensure researchers aware of their responsibilities for ensuring research is conducted using the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all

aspects of their research.

- Review the University’s training provision for Research Integrity and Ethics training, with a view that the revised training will become mandatory for all staff / students undertaking research – supported by HR.

Research Misconduct

The University of Lincoln expects all staff, students, and non-members conducting research on University premises to observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation has overall responsibility for research integrity, and the University’s [Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct of Research](#) (UKRIO) outlines the steps to follow in potential cases of research misconduct.

Anyone wishing to raise concerns about the integrity of research can do so in confidence by contacting:

Professor Tim Hodgson (UKRIO Named Person): 01522 86159 or tlhodgson@lincoln.ac.uk

Professor Jon Whitehead (UKRIO Deputy Named Person): 01522 835886 or jwhitehead@lincoln.ac.uk.

Further information may be sought from the university’s Research Governance Manager Sam Lewis on 01522 835490 or by emailing samlewis@lincoln.ac.uk.

Records of Investigations of Research Misconduct shall be kept for 6 years in line with University of Lincoln JISC retention schedule.

Summary of Investigations of Research Misconduct

When investigating allegations of research misconduct, the University follows its Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct of Research.

The table below sets out the overview of investigations and findings in relation to research misconduct covering both staff and postgraduate research (PGR) students.

Academic Year	Number of formal investigations completed			Number of allegations upheld (in whole or in part)		
	2017/2019	2018/2019	2019/2020	2017/2019	2018/2019	2019/2020
Fabrication	0	0	0	0	0	0
Falsification	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plagiarism	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misrepresentation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Breach of duty of care	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (e.g. breach of research ethics policy, unprofessional behaviour, authorship dispute)	1*	0	0		0	0
Details of any allegations upheld in part	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0

**allegation dismissed after investigation panel*