

Research Integrity at Queen Mary

An introduction

Where does Queen Mary stand on Research Integrity?

Queen Mary is a signatory to the Concordat for Supporting Research Integrity, along with Universities UK, the Wellcome Trust, and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

The purpose of the Concordat is to ensure confidence in research conducted by UK institutions.

Signatories to the Concordat commit to embedding a culture of research integrity, and to a robust and transparent approach to investigating allegations of research misconduct.

Funders will specify their expectations of researchers' conduct. Queen Mary is required to ensure funders' confidence in the integrity of its research.

What are the Core elements of research integrity?

Honesty

Rigour

Transparency and open communication

Care and respect

Accountability

Research Integrity in Practice

Honesty

Researchers should be able to give a coherent, accurate account of their objectives and methods. They should also acknowledge the work of others cited, or otherwise used, in their research.

Rigour

Researchers are expected to adhere to disciplinary norms and standards, which might include approved protocols. These should form the basis for interpretations and conclusions.

Research Integrity in Practice

Transparency and open communication

All involved in producing and presenting research output should declare any conflicts of interest appropriately. The findings of the research should be made widely available. Any data contradicting these should be acknowledged.

Care and respect

Researchers have a responsibility to ensure no harm is caused by their work to people, environments or artefacts. To this end, they should adhere to recognised ethical standards.

Accountability

All funders, employers and researchers have a collective responsibility for their research culture. This extends to ensuring that the standards of research integrity specified by the Concordat are met.

Research Integrity Boiled Down

James Parry, Chief Executive of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)

“Don’t make stuff up.”

“Don’t steal other people’s work.”

“Don’t harm your participants.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvtZ3n3ZI-8>

What is Research Misconduct?

Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or deception in research.

Deviation from formal protocols and regulations leading to risks of harm to people or the environment.

Enabling of, or collusion with, research misconduct.

Damaging or misusing the research property of another researcher.

Please note that genuine errors, and differences of interpretation, do not amount to research misconduct.

Some Definitions of Research Misconduct

Fabrication: the invention of data and results.

Falsification: the manipulation of research processes or data to misrepresent results or to present biased conclusions.

Plagiarism: the appropriation of others' work without giving them due credit.

Deception might involve obtaining data from people without their informed consent.

What to do if you become aware of Research Misconduct

All staff and students have an obligation to report suspected research misconduct.

Concerns can be raised in accordance with the University whistleblowing policy:
<https://hr.qmul.ac.uk/procedures/policies/pid/>

Those with concerns about research integrity should contact the Research Integrity Office. This might be directly by emailing research-integrity@qmul.ac.uk, or through their faculty integrity lead.

Research Integrity: the Broader Context

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee published its report reproducibility and research integrity in May 2023. One of its conclusions is that local research cultures are integral to research integrity. The report concluded with several recommendations, including the following:

- Universities should provide mandatory training for researchers on reproducibility and research integrity.
- Research institutions should manage the pressure on researchers to produce positive results. This includes encouraging greater openness about errors.
- Publishers should be more supportive of researchers who report issues with their published work.

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has set up a national Committee on Research Integrity. One of its aspirations is to create a shared language and understanding about research integrity. The Committee has recently published its strategic plan: : <https://ukcori.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UK-Committee-on-Research-Integrity-Strategic-Plan.pdf>

Guidance on Authorship

Authorship conventions vary between disciplines. However, there is broadly recognised best practice.

Collaborators should agree an approach to authorship at the beginning.

UKRI guidance defines authorship as a substantial intellectual contribution to a work. This includes conception and design, data-analysis, and drafting and revising. Contributions should be reviewed and documented as work progresses.

The contributions of all partners, including junior colleagues, should be acknowledged.

All authors should see and approve the final manuscript.

There is a JRMO webpage providing guidance on authorship: <http://www.jrmo.org.uk/performing-research/research-integrity/authorship-at-queen-mary/>

How to register on Epigeum for research integrity training

1. Go to: <https://courses.epigeum.com/register>
2. Complete the registration form, inserting the token that you have been given, which is **009a8e45**. Please note this is restricted to QMUL email addresses.
3. Click on 'Register'
4. Check your inbox for an email from the Epigeum system. Click on the activation link therein.
5. You will then be able to access the programme(s) by logging into <https://courses.epigeum.com/login> using your chosen username and password.
6. Doctoral students should complete the 'Research Integrity: Core' module.

Research Integrity Checklist 1/2

Familiarise yourself with the core principles of research integrity:

<https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/topics/research-and-innovation/concordat-support-research-integrity>

Ensure you are aware of your funders' integrity requirements. For example, UKRI publish theirs on their website: <https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/research-integrity/>

If you are conducting research with human participants, you will be required to obtain ethical approval: <http://www.jrmo.org.uk/performing-research/conducting-research-with-human-participants-outside-the-nhs/qmerc/>

Research Integrity Checklist 2/2

Ensure you manage your research data in accordance with University policy:
<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/library/research/research-data-management/>

Familiarise yourself with University policy on Intellectual Property (IP):
https://arcs.qmul.ac.uk/media/arcs/policyzone/IP_Policy_Final_Senate_March2015.pdf

Research Integrity Training for doctoral students

All students in the Doctoral Training College are required to complete RI training once during their three-year enrolment. This will normally be in the first year.

This takes the form of the 'Research Integrity: Core' module on the Epigeum platform.

Some departments may require completion of RI training to be completed as a prerequisite for upgrade.

Advice and Training

Queries about research integrity matters can be directed to the Research Integrity Office at research-integrity@qmul.ac.uk.

There is also a dedicated Research Integrity webpage: <http://www.jrmo.org.uk/performing-research/research-integrity/>

The ICMJE provides further guidance on the issue of authorship:
<https://www.icmje.org/recommendations/browse/roles-and-responsibilities/defining-the-role-of-authors-and-contributors.html>

Thank you



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