

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.

It aims to uphold the following commitments outlined in the [UUK Concordat to support Research Integrity](#) (the concordat), which provide 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 2018 to August 2019** 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](#) provides a comprehensive framework for good research conduct and the governance of all research carried out across the University.

The Code of Practice for Research 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 Code of Practice for Research was last reviewed June 2018 – the next review due date: June 2021 (or sooner in light of any changes to the revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity (due 2019)).

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 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:

- Implementation of online centralised ethics application system for all staff and post graduate research (PGR) students
- Formation of Human and Non-Human Research Ethics Committees – overseeing human and non-human related research ethics applications
- Research Integrity and ethics training is mandatory for new PGR students and is also available to academic supervisors
- The University's external webpages 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.

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) | |
|---|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 | 2017/2018 | 2018/2019 |
| Fabrication | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Falsification | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Plagiarism | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Misrepresentation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Breach of duty of care | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other (e.g. breach of research ethics policy, unprofessional behaviour, authorship dispute) | 1* | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Details of any allegations upheld in part | n/a | 0 | n/a | 0 |

**Allegation dismissed following investigation panel*