

University of Edinburgh: Annual Research Integrity Statement 2024-2025

Name of organisation	University of Edinburgh
Type of organisation	Higher Education
Date Statement approved by governing body	11/05/2026
Web address of organisations research integrity page	https://research-office.ed.ac.uk/research-integrity
Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Lorna Thomson Director, Edinburgh Research Office
	Email address: Researchintegrity@ed.ac.uk
Named member of staff who will act as first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Rowena Lamb Head of Research Governance, Compliance and Risk
	Email address: Researchintegrity@ed.ac.uk
Report Compiled by	Chantelle Simpson Research Integrity and Ethics Officer

This statement has been prepared by the University of Edinburgh in alignment with The Concordat to Support Research Integrity 2019. It has been approved by the University Risk Management Committee and will be made publicly available on the University website. This statement covers the academic year 2024-2025.

The University of Edinburgh is firmly committed to ensuring that all research is conducted in accordance with the five commitments outlined in the Concordat. This commitment is supported by the UK Research Integrity Office's Code of Practice for Research and the UKRI Policy on the Governance of Good Research Practice, which together serve as essential resources to guide researchers and institutions in upholding the highest standards of research quality and integrity.

Responsibility for safeguarding the integrity of research is shared across the University. The Edinburgh Research Office oversees key policies, including the Ethics Policy and the Research Misconduct Policy. The Research Governance, Compliance & Risk team (RGC&RT), within the Edinburgh Research Office, ensures that these policies are being revised to align with the Concordat, and adhere to guidance from the UK Research Integrity Office. Additionally, the RGC&RT liaises nationally and internationally on integrity and ethics issues that impact the University's research activities.

The University's colleges are responsible for the research carried out by their staff and students, each maintaining governance and oversight structures to ensure appropriate standards are upheld. Every college has dedicated Research Ethics and Integrity webpages, along with frameworks for managing ethical reviews for staff and students. Named Persons within each college handle allegations of research misconduct, overseeing and managing investigations at the college level.

In adherence to the Concordat, this annual statement provides:

- a summary of actions and initiatives undertaken to enhance understanding and the application of research integrity principles;
- an assurance that the University has transparent, timely, robust, and fair processes for addressing allegations of research misconduct, ensuring these remain fit for purpose;
- a high-level overview of any formal investigations into research misconduct, including data on the number of cases;
- an outline of how the University fosters a research culture where staff, researchers, and students feel supported in reporting concerns about research misconduct.

Importantly, this report highlights the ongoing efforts to further embed a positive research culture, including new initiatives and future plans designed to strengthen research integrity. These efforts include training programs, enhanced support mechanisms for researchers, and forums that engage the University's research community in sharing and promoting best practices.

This annual report represents a snapshot of the dedication and hard work of colleagues across the University to put our institutional commitment to research integrity into practice. As a university community, we aim to ensure that the leadership in good practice demonstrated throughout the year is recognised and celebrated.

Contents

1. Updates from 2023/24 report.....	4
1.1 Changes and developments on policies, processes and procedures	4
University Level	4
CAHSS	4
CMVM	5
CSE	6
1.2 Updates on initiatives and future plans from the 2023/24 year	7
University Level	7
CAHSS	9
CMVM	10
CSE	11
2. New initiatives, training and developments to support a culture of research integrity for 2024/25.....	12
University Level	12
CAHSS	14
CMVM	15
CSE	16
3. Future plans and developments for the 2025/26 year	17
University Level	17
CAHSS	18
CMVM	19
CSE	20
4. External Engagement	21
University Level	21
CAHSS	22
CMVM	23
CSE	23
5. Research Misconduct	24
5.1 Changes during 2024/25	24
5.2 Statement on formal investigations.....	25
5.3 Key lessons learned.....	26

1. Updates from 2023/24 report

1.1 Changes and developments on policies, processes and procedures

University Level

The central Research Governance Compliance and Risk team was expanded this year with a dedicated Research Integrity strand comprising of the newly appointed Research Integrity Manager and Research Integrity & Ethics Officer, who both took up their posts early into 2024-25. The Research Integrity team lead the integrity and ethics strand of the team, providing oversight and strategic leadership in these areas.

The team was further expanded with the recruitment of an additional Export Control Specialist in August 2025, bringing the Research Security strand of the team to three FTE.

Policy review

A key focus for 2024/2025 has been the review and revision of the University Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure. A working group comprised of key individuals from across the University have been working with the team to identify areas of the Policy and Procedure requiring change and/or improvement. It is anticipated that the new Policy and Procedure will be in place in 2026.

In addition, work commenced on the review of the Export Control Policy, with a full review of both the policy and procedure, with the aim of expanding the procedure to create additional guidance for researchers. It is anticipated that the review will continue into the academic year 2025-26.

CAHSS

College-Level Updates/Changes

- The College continued to focus on enhancing cross-school collaboration and knowledge exchange around complex ethical issues.
- Support was provided to Schools in addressing recurring challenges, with particular emphasis on the development of consistent guidance and the sharing of best practice across disciplines.
- Actions have contributed to stronger alignment between local procedures and University-wide expectations for ethical review and governance.

School-Level Updates/Changes

- Several schools reviewed and updated their ethics documentation to reflect emerging and long-standing areas of ethical consideration, including social media research, informed consent, distinctions between consent and assent, opt-in vs. opt-out participation, confidentiality, and the ethical use of generative AI in research.
- Several schools have refined internal processes to make ethics review more efficient—for example, empowering **Subject Area Research Ethics Leads**

(SARELs) to sign off low-risk applications and enabling **Programme Directors** to take a greater role in ethics review.

- Updates to ethics processes across schools have focused on improving efficiency, transparency, and consistency of review procedures. This includes enhanced guidance for taught student research, fieldwork, digital research, and projects involving sensitive materials (e.g., osteoarchaeological research).
- A number of schools have seen changes in Ethics Lead staffing, with efforts made to ensure smooth transitions and continuity in oversight.
- Positive examples of process improvement include:
 - **University of Edinburgh Business School (UEBS)**: Clarified distinctions between ethical risk levels of research, leading to improved allocation of applications and greater consistency in review quality.
 - **School of Health in Social Science (HiSS)**: Implemented a new “fast-track” ethics review process for certain low-risk research categories, achieving a reduced turnaround time of two weeks for first decisions.
- Within the **Moray House School of Education and Sport (MHSES)**, a suite of new resources has been introduced to strengthen ethical awareness and oversight, including:
 - Starting Points for Thinking About Research with Children and Young People (shared at the April 2025 College Research Ethics Committee meeting)
 - Childlight Research Ethics Sub-Committee Terms of Reference
 - Childlight Research Ethics Sub-Committee Secondary Review Process

CMVM

College-Level Updates/Changes

During 2024/25, CMVM implemented a number of policy and procedural updates to strengthen governance, promote responsible research practices, and enhance researcher support.

- **Anonymised Funding Applications:**
The College implemented two rounds of anonymised internal funding calls for **postdoctoral career bridging** ([Edinburgh Career Development Scheme](#)), capturing lessons learned for future assessment and improvement.
- **Image Integrity and Research Misconduct:**
CMVM led the institutional acquisition of **Proofig image analysis software**, providing a robust mechanism to assess potential image manipulation or duplication in research misconduct investigations.
- **Research Culture and Integrity:**
As part of the CMVM Modernisation Change Project, the College established the **Research Cultures Collaboration Group** — a cross-role forum bringing together academic, technical, and professional services staff to support delivery of the University’s Research Cultures Action Plan. The group developed a College-specific **Research Cultures Priorities** document, subsequently endorsed by both the College Research Committee and the University Research Strategy Group.
- **Authorship Guidance:**
[New College-level authorship guidance](#) was developed and published to promote good authorship practice and clarify expectations across CMVM.

- **Training and Development:**

The CMVM Research Office delivered targeted training sessions for early career researchers (ECRs) on:

- Open Access compliance, including REF and funder policies;
- Planning and preparing research funding proposals, linking research strategy with career development.

Ethics and Review Committees Updates/Changes:

Edinburgh Medical School Research Ethics Committee (EMREC)

- Established an internal SharePoint site providing comprehensive resources on data security, AI in research, use of social media data, and global health research. It includes tailored checklists and application guidance.

Human Ethical Review Committee (HERC)

- With changes in the vice-convenor, the committee continued to refine its processes and documentation, incorporating updated guidance for emerging ethical challenges such as AI use and secondary data analysis.

Veterinary Ethics Review Committee (VERC)

- The committee received dedicated administrative support and produced a VERC Processes Document to streamline operations and assist in staff training.

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

- In 2024/25 AWERB continued their work from 2023/24 on developing formalised training for members (alongside existing one-to-one induction). Committee membership was broadened, processes clarified, and communication centralised via a new shared email address. Revised procedures for licence renewal—initiating preparations 18 months before expiry—have ensured successful and uninterrupted authorisation.

ACCORD (UoE–NHS Lothian Research Governance):

- ACCORD published new Standard Operating Procedures to address:
 - Suspected Research Misconduct (SOP CR014): Detailing co-sponsor notification and action procedures for clinical research misconduct.
 - Management of Complaints (SOP CR018): Outlining processes for handling complaints from research participants or investigators regarding co-sponsor actions or decisions.
-

CSE

College-Level Updates/Changes:

Following a review of ethics and integrity processes led by the **College Dean of Research Culture and REF**, in 2024/25 the College has:

- Updated the [College Ethics and Integrity website](#) and [SharePoint pages](#) to improve accessibility and consistency of guidance. A community of practice was also established across the ethics reviewers in different Schools through shared training and discussions.

- Updated Ethics Officers on the role of ACCORD and how it relates to Ethics review processes.
- Established a new [Responsible Research SharePoint site](#), designed to help researchers across schools navigate the **Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)** landscape.

School-Level Updates/Changes:

School of Engineering:

- Established a new **school Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (REIC)**, comprising academics from different disciplines, the school's Ethics and Integrity Officer, and research administrators. The committee reviews the school's ethics self-assessment process, ensuring robust risk categorisation and alignment of applications with appropriate reviewers.

School of Informatics:

- Introduced an internal [ethics wiki](#) to support staff and students while awaiting the roll-out of the EthicsRM system. Additionally, the school reviewed ethics oversight for UG and MSc projects and introduced a new question on MSc project marking forms to confirm completion of ethical self-assessments.

School of Geosciences:

- Transitioned to an online version of its existing ethics application form (previously a Word document) to streamline submissions.

School of Mathematics:

- Updated its ethics application form to include a question about collaborations with external partners, to strengthen due diligence on **Trusted Research** and **Export Control**. Two applications during the reporting period triggered further consultation with the Business Development Team.

School of Biological Sciences:

- Introduced additional ethics-related questions to the school's grant "intention to submit" form, completed six weeks before deadlines, enabling early identification of potential ethical or Trusted Research issues.

1.2 Updates on initiatives and future plans from the 2023/24 year

University Level

The University hosted its third Good Research Practice Week in February 2025, as part of its ongoing commitment to fostering a healthy research culture and promoting best practices. This year's event was organised by a cross-institutional team, all three Colleges as well as central organising and delivering the events. Across the week a total of 27 sessions were held, double the number from the previous year, covering a wide array of topics aimed at enhancing research practices.

This comprised a mixture of online and in person events, with a mixture of talks, round table discussions and co-creation sessions. Feedback received for the events and week was very positive.

Recognition of good research practice

To celebrate and recognise exemplary practices within the University, the research community were invited to nominate colleagues to be recognised for their contributions to enabling and championing good research practices. Nominations from any area of good research practice were sought, with all nominations reviewed against the main criteria that the practice:

- went above and beyond current standard practice in this area;
- exemplified high standards of good research practice and
- showed leadership in embedding good practices within the University and research community.

The categories this year were focussed on recognising practice that;

- Supported and enabled Good Research Practice and research methods;
- Supported and enabled research integrity, or
- Supported and enabled a culture of Good Research Practice and research methods & Supported and enabled research integrity.

Recognitions were presented across each of the three categories to both individuals and teams, and certificates were presented at a recognitions event during the week. Details of those recognised were made available through a dedicated hub site webpage.

Trusted Research Evaluation Framework

During 2024-25 a Trusted Research Evaluation Framework Short Life Working Group, undertook a review of the National Protective Security Authority's (NPSA) Trusted Research Evaluation Framework (TREF)¹, following which a number of recommendations for University Executive consideration. These recommendations included setting out actions over a two-year period toward implementing the TREF. Following the approval of these recommendations, the Implementation of the Trusted Research Evaluation Framework Task and Finish Group (I-TREF) was established to take these actions forward.

The I-TREF group is comprised of members from the Edinburgh Research Office, Edinburgh Global, Information Security and includes College research leadership representation. The group will run for two years and will design and implement an action plan which advances the University in terms of the TREF criteria, through prioritising identified areas for development.

This work contributes to two important outcomes set out in the University's Research & Innovation Strategy 2030; ensuring our activities adhere to research security requirements within the UK; and providing user-friendly processes and efficient systems to support research and innovation activities.

¹ Trusted Research | NPSA

Research Cultures

As the conclusion of the [2023-25 Research Cultures Action Plan](#) approaches, there have been several advancements within Research Cultures. To date, there have been 59 successfully completed actions, representing 76% of the set objectives. A further 15 actions, accounting for 19%, are in progress, while 4 actions, or 5%, will not be finalised within the current timeframe. Notable achievements include the development of a comprehensive suite of resources designed to [support and develop our Principal Investigators](#). We have also published a dedicated [Post-graduate Research Cultures Plan](#), which aims to enhance the environment and support for our postgraduate researchers.

CAHSS

College-Level Changes/Updates

- The **College Research Ethics Committee (CREC)** continues to host a “*Bring a Thorny Issue*” agenda item, providing a forum for Ethics Leads to discuss complex or ambiguous cases. This practice supports reflective learning, shared understanding, and informal training across schools.
- College SharePoint materials are regularly updated to ensure access to current policies, guidance, and resources.
- The **Research Governance Office** has strengthened engagement with College staff to improve understanding of the **sponsorship review process**.
- CREC hosted expert-led sessions on key topics such as *AI and ethics, research with children and young people, and GDPR compliance*, supporting the continued development of ethics expertise across the College.
- At College Research Office (CRO) level, material was collated to support ethical approaches to *research and knowledge exchange in sensitive or challenging contexts*.

School-Level Changes/Updates

- **School SharePoint sites** continue to serve as the main platform for ethics guidance and policy sharing, and are regularly updated with internal and external resources.
- Schools have been preparing for the rollout of the **Ethics RM system**. Preparatory work has clarified training and process changes that will be required once implementation resumes.
- The **Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI)** is reviewing the establishment of an *Ethics Advisory Panel* to provide clearer guidance for students and supervisors on ethics processes, escalation routes, and decision-making support.
- The **School of History, Classics and Archaeology (HCA)** successfully secured funding for a *Data-Driven Research Ambassador* to develop an ethical AI-based transcription tool. Following a successful pilot, the school is now consulting with **EDINA** on implementation and potential integration with existing ELM systems.
- The **Moray House School of Education and Sport (MHSES)** has continued to deliver reviewer training sessions and its *Research Development Series on Ethics*. Sessions this year covered topics including:
 - AI and research ethics
 - Safeguarding and the ethics review process
 - Data ownership in participatory research

- Ethical research with children in educational contexts
 - Ethical approaches to large quantitative datasets
 - Ethics in educational action research
-

CMVM

College-Level Changes/Updates

- **College Research Culture Collaboration (CRCC):**
The CRCC was formally established, bringing together representatives from across the schools, and comprising academic, technical, and professional services members to advance research culture initiatives. Meeting quarterly, with monthly drop-in sessions, the group has successfully highlighted examples of good practice across schools and ensured that College Research Culture Priorities reflect local needs and feedback.
- **Guidance Development:**
[Authorship guidance](#) has now been published on the CMVM website to promote good authorship practice and responsible collaboration.
- **Good Research Practice Week:**
CMVM contributed to the University's Good Research Practice Week, delivering College-led sessions on topics such as publishing, best practice in systematic review, open science, and mentorship. These events were well received and helped raise awareness of integrity in practice across the research community.
- **Postdoctoral Symposium:**
The inaugural CMVM Postdoctoral Symposium was successfully held and will now become an annual event celebrating postdoctoral research and fostering community engagement.

Ethics and Review Committees Updates/Changes:

Edinburgh Medical School Research Ethics Committee (EMREC):

- The EMREC SharePoint site was comprehensively updated to improve applicant navigation and provide clearer guidance on application requirements, training, and external resources.

Human Ethical Review Committee (HERC):

- HERC continued to refine and expand its guidance materials. The HERC SharePoint site, launched in 2023, has seen strong engagement with over 4,200 visits to date. Updated content now includes detailed applicant guidance and links to the Research Methods and Statistics SharePoint site. Additional AI-focused resources were introduced following two publications authored by committee members and colleagues:
 - (2024) *Voucher Now Please: How to Navigate AI Bots and Fraudulent and Mischievous Responders in Online Research* ([Zenodo](#)).
 - (2025) *Guidance for Research Ethics Committees and Researchers on Designing Research in the Age of AI* ([Zenodo](#)).

Veterinary Ethics Review Committee VERC:

- Following a successful proposal to the Head of school, VERC secured dedicated administrative support (0.2 FTE) from March 2025. Training for new administrators is

ongoing and is expected to significantly reduce the administrative burden on Co-Chairs, allowing for greater focus on researcher engagement and visibility initiatives.

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body AWERB:

- AWERB continued work to increase its visibility, with plans for a public-facing website featuring committee information currently under development. A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed with VERC to clarify responsibilities where committee remits overlap. The committee's Terms of Reference were reviewed and updated to align with best practice, and work continues to enhance the Overseas Project Application process to streamline collaboration and improve applicant experience.

Medical Education Unit Research Ethics Committee MEU REC:

- The MEU REC successfully streamlined its processes for reviewing student projects, resulting in a measurable reduction in full review requirements without compromising quality. Updated guidance materials, training resources, and online information have improved applicant experience and transparency.
-

CSE

College-Level Changes/Updates:

- Schools across the College have now appointed **Integrity Officers**, in addition to existing Ethics Officers. These officers act as the first point of contact for informal research misconduct queries, promote awareness of research integrity, and encourage uptake of relevant training opportunities.
- CSE launched a "College Conversation" designed to stimulate discussion around "**responsible research**" — what it means in practice and the actions researchers can take to uphold integrity. A set of slides and a plan for an interactive session were provided but Schools were encouraged to tailor these to be discipline specific. The resulting **discipline-specific ethics and integrity discussions**, explore new and emerging areas of concern, including export control, data protection, and postgraduate research supervision issues.
- Emails and posters were used to raise awareness of the revised Concordat Support Research Integrity, increase visibility of Integrity Officers and their role, and encourage dialogue between research and research-support communities.
- To make engagement more accessible, the College developed a prototype **research integrity board game** for early career researchers and postgraduate students. The game was distributed to all schools and is used as a training and awareness-raising tool. Based on a simple ludo style board game the participants have to answer questions about responsible research to progress at certain points on the board.
- A **College-level induction and training event** was delivered for members of school Research Ethics Committees (RECs), fostering a community of practice and improving consistency across schools.
- The College also compiled a bank of redacted case studies, ethics applications, and scenarios (covering a range of topics and risk levels) to support training and shared learning across the RECs.

School-Level Updates/Changes:

School of Geosciences:

- Introduced **mandatory online ethics training** for all staff with research responsibilities, with uptake monitored through annual review processes.
- Continued to provide **tailored ethics training** to undergraduate, MSc, and PhD students and updated its **online ethics guidance** to ensure materials remain relevant and accessible to all researchers.

School of Engineering:

- The **Fellowship Development Panel (FDP)** continues to support early career researchers. In 2024–25, two FDP rounds (October 2024 and April 2025) reviewed 25 proposals, providing detailed feedback and advice to applicants, ensuring the highest academic standards are upheld.
- One applicant successfully secured a **Royal Academy of Engineering Research Fellowship** following FDP support.
- The school plans to enhance procedures for future rounds, including clearer instructions for both applicants and reviewers.

2. New initiatives, training and developments to support a culture of research integrity for 2024/25

University Level

The Research Governance Compliance and Risk team members have been actively raising the profile of the team and building engagement with Schools and Colleges via working groups, existing networks/committees and via delivering training.

The team have also updated their HUBsite Pages to ensure information given to researchers is clear, up to date and informative. The HUBsite is a centralised platform designed to streamline access to expertise, guidance, and resources. The HUBsite caters to researchers at all career stages and research support colleagues, offering user-focused, intuitive content tailored to their needs. This includes information across both the research integrity and research security strands, with pages revised, expanded and new sections created. A news functions was added to increase awareness of changes. As an example, the Research Integrity Team utilised the news function to disseminate important updates e.g., summary of changes to the Concordat and to share new training from IAD (Institute of Academic Development).

Research Cultures

In response to challenges faced by the community, detailed guidance has been created and published to assist those experiencing [online harassment](#) due to their work at the University. This initiative underscores the ongoing commitment to fostering a safe and supportive research environment.

The University has also committed to sustainability by becoming a signatory of the [UK Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability](#) of Research & Innovation Practice. This reflects the dedication the University has to integrating environmental considerations into

research practices. Additionally, in 2023, the University joined the Coalition to Advance Research Assessment and published the [CoARA Action Plan](#) in early 2025, demonstrating the commitment to improving research assessment methods.

Communications

During 2024/2025, the Edinburgh Research Office (ERO) focused on refining and enhancing its ERO Hubsite platform to better support and inform the University Research Community. The aim was to strengthen the integration of research integrity and ethics into communications. Approximately 125 news posts were published, offering key resources and announcements to keep the research community updated and informed.

Several major areas of the ERO Hubsite saw significant development:

- Comprehensive online resources and information on responsible research, ethics, and integrity were developed, highlighting the support ERO provides in these crucial areas, reinforcing the commitment to upholding high standards in research practice.
- A new page was introduced to outline funder adjustments that support researchers, helping them identify and understand specific provisions that may impact their work, ensuring they are well-informed about the changing funding landscape.
- The University's Research Project Management service launched a dedicated site, offering detailed guidance and support for managing research projects effectively.
- Content was revamped to assist researchers in navigating UK, EU, and international funding opportunities, detailing the extensive support that ERO provides to help secure funding.
- Internal Hubsite pages for ethics and integrity were completely redesigned, enhancing accessibility and ensuring resources align with a commitment to ethical research practices.

Through these initiatives, ERO continues to reinforce the importance of research integrity and ethics, supporting a transparent and responsible research culture across the university.

Institute for Academic Development (IAD)

In 2024/2025, the Institute for Academic Development (IAD) conducted a comprehensive review of its training offerings related to Research Ethics and Integrity. This review considered feedback from users, updates to national concordats and policies, and the growing demand for expanded topics.

As a result, the first two modules—Introduction to Research Integrity and Introduction to Research Ethics—were updated to reflect changes in institutional policy and the updated 2025 UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity. Additionally, the module Good Conduct in Authorship and Publication Practice was transformed from a PDF into an asynchronous self-paced online module, incorporating the latest university and national guidelines on authorship and publication ethics.

Public Engagement and Impact

The Participatory Research Network continues to grow and is now governed by an academic and professional services Ideas Group. Events in 2024/25 included updates from EMREC on

their guidance for ethics and public engagement and a session on involving public participants throughout the research process.

Edinburgh Research Office and Human Resources worked together to produce clarity and guidance on how the new Disclosure Scotland legislation impacts the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) requirements for public engagement work with children and vulnerable groups.

A new Public Engagement with Research Sharepoint site has been launched. This includes resources on PER site risk assessments for engaging with publics, safeguarding guidance and resources for participatory research.

CAHSS

College-Level Updates/Changes

- The College has actively engaged with schools regarding the implementation of the **revised Research Misconduct Policy** to ensure clarity and preparedness.
- Regular distribution of **sector-level training opportunities and resources** (e.g., UKRIO seminars) has supported continued professional development in research culture and integrity.
- The **College Research Ethics Committee (CREC)** facilitated a discussion on record-keeping practices relating to allegations of poor research practice, including when and how to formally report suspected research misconduct.
- The appointment of an **Associate Dean for Research Cultures** has strengthened the College's focus on promoting a positive research culture. (Activities relating to research culture development are reported separately under the [Research Cultures Plan](#).)

School-Level Updates/Changes

- Many schools have undertaken actions to ensure **accessibility and accuracy** of ethics and integrity resources by:
 - Removing outdated content and links
 - Updating school websites and SharePoint pages
 - Refreshing reviewer guidance for **Subject Area Research Ethics Leads (SARELs)**
 - Ensuring up-to-date resources for **ethics, governance, and integrity** are available to both staff and students.
- One school also reported ongoing efforts to develop and disseminate **ethical guidelines on the use of AI in research**, ensuring that staff and students have access to current, discipline-relevant guidance via school websites and SharePoint pages.
- Schools continue to deliver a range of **training activities** to promote ethical awareness and strengthen review capability across staff and students. Examples of good practice include:

Health in Social Science (HiSS):

- **Let's Get Ethical** series featuring sessions on Open Science and Pre-registration, Data Management, NHS Ethics, Sponsorship, and Ethics in Global Mental Health.
- The school reported engagement of over 50 staff and postgraduate researchers.

School of Social and Political Science (SPS) and School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures (LLC):

- Ethical Pressures on Thinking seminar and event series, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on ethical reflection. Attended by staff and post graduate students.
- Topics have included gaps in evidence, ethics across philosophy, sociology and anthropology, co-production in research, and ethical challenges in co-authorship.

School of Social and Political Science (SPS):

- The school has continued its long-standing annual ethics training through the SPS Research Training Centre for MSc and PGR students.
- Ongoing ethics surgeries for staff and students, providing a collaborative space to explore specific ethical issues.

Moray House School of Education and Sport (MHSES):

- Continued **Researcher Development Series on Ethics**, supplemented by new sessions for:
 - PGT supervisors (delivered in partnership with the Masters Dissertation Coordinator and Data Support Officer).
 - PGR students and supervisors (delivered jointly with the PGR representative and Data Support Officer).

[CMVM](#)

College-Level Updates/Changes

- The research office has developed new guidance on **authorship**, and is now creating guidance pertaining to **affiliations, and attribution**, to promote consistency in publication practices and ensure REF eligibility.
- Representatives from the CMVM Research Office met with **school Open Access teams** to align understanding of manuscript deposition in **Pure** and compliance with REF Open Access requirements.

Ethics and Review Committees Updates/Changes:

Edinburgh Medical School Research Ethics Committee (EMREC):

- Introduced an **enhanced reviewer training programme**, incorporating personalised feedback and mentorship between new and experienced reviewers.
- Revised **committee meeting structures** to include open discussions of reviewer concerns.
- Established **short-life working groups** to develop updated guidance and training materials where needed.

Human Ethical Review Committee (HERC):

- Delivered several **ethics training sessions** during 2024/25, with good uptake, alongside regular one-to-one support for complex projects.
- Continued **in-course ethics lectures and guidance** for staff and students to strengthen understanding of ethical review.
- Collaborated with colleagues across the University on **joint publications and conference presentations** focused on ethical research practices and the use of **AI in research**.

- Worked closely with HERC’s external member—an experienced ethics specialist—to review and discuss **complex ethics applications**, particularly those involving **informed consent and participant protection**.
- These collaborations have strengthened the committee’s approach to contemporary ethical challenges and supported shared learning across the institution.

Veterinary Ethics Review Committee (VERC):

- Held **drop-in sessions** for undergraduate veterinary students undertaking Student Research Component (SRC) projects.
- Increased **visibility and accessibility** through presentations at school meetings and one-to-one advisory sessions for researchers.
- Collaborated with hospital stakeholders to develop **overarching VERC applications** for blood/tissue collection and archiving in the R(D)SVS biobank.
- Maintained **membership of the UK Association of Veterinary Ethics Committees**, promoting alignment with national best practice.

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB):

- Published the [BVS Guidance on Writing Animal Research for Publications](#), ensuring compliance with ARRIVE and Laboratory Animal Genetic Reporting Guidelines.
- Improved **reproducibility and transparency** in animal research through clear, accessible guidance for all University researchers.

Medical Education Unit Research Ethics Committee (MEU REC):

- Delivered **targeted training on the ethical use of student data** in educational research, focusing on data protection and compliance.
- Addressed **knowledge gaps** among clinical educational researchers, improving understanding of ethical data handling.

CSE

College-Level Updates/Changes

- The College hosted a workshop on building and sustaining international research collaborations, highlighting both opportunities and challenges associated with working across global contexts.
- **The Research Security and Compliance Manager** from Edinburgh Research Office provided an overview of statutory requirements, including **Trusted Research** considerations for international partnerships.
- The College Research Ethics and Integrity Committee facilitated a discussion on the handling of ethics review for interdisciplinary research projects, which will be developed into new guidance for 2025/26.

School-Level Updates/Changes

School of Informatics:

- Delivered an ethics workshop for undergraduate students, introducing Research Ethics Committee (REC) procedures and engaging students in group discussions around example ethics applications.

School of Mathematics:

- The **Applied and Quantitative (AGQ) CDT**, which welcomed its first PhD cohort this year, launched a new course on **Responsible Research and Innovation**. Sessions explored key themes such as intellectual property, data ethics (collection, management, and reuse), equity and diversity, stakeholder engagement, and institutional compliance. The school plans to repeat and refine this course in the next academic year.
- The **Director of Research** meets regularly with early-career researchers and Chancellor's Fellows to discuss research development, career planning, and targeted funding opportunities.

School of Engineering:

- Strengthened its partnership with **The Edinburgh Research Partnership in Engineering (ERPE)**—a strategic alliance with Heriot-Watt University—through:
 - A **joint community event** held in September 2024.
 - Launch of a **joint PhD programme** and **seed funding scheme** to encourage new collaborative projects.
- Updated and shared its “Writing an Impactful Paper” guidance document with ERPE partners at Heriot-Watt University.

3. Future plans and developments for the 2025/26 year

University Level

The RGC&R Team will focus on a number of key areas for the 2025/26 year. These will include:

Continuing to review Key Policies and Procedures.

During the review of the Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure, it was identified that other key policies will need review to align and streamline processes. This work will commence in the academic year 2025-26.

Increasing scope

During 2024-2025 the Research Ethics and Integrity Review Group (REIRG), during the review of the 2024/25 Annual Integrity Statement, identified a number of actions to both support and collaborate with colleges and schools. To enable this a new sub-group of REIRG was proposed and is due to be created in the new academic year to take these actions forward, which includes reviewing and creating training in identified priority areas.

Research Cultures

The academic promotion process is under review to incorporate new mandatory criteria focusing on Citizenship & Leadership across all grades, set for implementation in the next promotion cycle. This effort aims to better recognize the diverse contributions of our academic staff.

Looking ahead, the institutional research cultures action plan will be refreshed. Set to launch in January 2026, this updated plan will build on previous successes and focus on four key areas: Recognition & Career Development, fostering Engagement & Good Practice, promoting Open & Responsible Research, and enhancing Data & Evaluation. These pillars will guide the ongoing commitment to cultivating a vibrant and inclusive research culture at the University of Edinburgh.

Institute for Academic Development (IAD)

The Institute for Academic Development (IAD) plans to introduce a significant addition to its training series: the Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Research Ethics & Integrity module. This forthcoming module will address ethical considerations and integrity challenges associated with AI in research, reflecting the evolving landscape of research practices. These efforts are designed to ensure that the IAD continues to uphold the highest standards of research integrity and ethics. There will also be continued maintenance and improvement of all training modules in line with any university or sector-wide changes, as well as according to feedback.

Public Engagement and Impact

Terms of Reference for the new Ethics Advisory Group for Engaged Research (EAGER) have been approved and recruitment is underway to form the group in 2026. The remit will include providing guidance and expertise to Research Ethics Committees (RECs) and colleagues across the University of Edinburgh on how to involve and engage members of the public and communities as consultants, participants and/or co-producers in research, in an ethically sound way to maximise the benefit and minimise any harm for everyone involved. The Group will primarily focus on research but will also, where appropriate, provide advice on ethical conduct for projects that don't need formal research ethics approval. This may include community engagement projects involving children and vulnerable groups.

CAHSS

College-Level Developments and Initiatives:

The College Research Ethics Committee (CREC) has agreed the following priority areas for 2025/26:

- Decolonising research and ethics.
- Cross-learning and sharing of best practice across schools.
- Supporting research culture change by enhancing engagement with ethics processes.
- Exploring ethics and AI, with a view to strengthening collective understanding and guidance.

School-Level Developments and Initiatives:

- Initiatives will focus on **raising awareness of research misconduct** and developing informal resolution processes to manage concerns at school level where appropriate.

- Schools will continue to update and enhance their Ethics and SharePoint pages, with plans to:
 - Improve clarity on ethics procedures and approval pathways.
 - Develop **accessible training and development resources** (e.g., online courses, podcasts).
 - Provide strong exemplars of anonymised REC applications and participant materials (information sheets, consent forms) in varied formats.
 - Ongoing training series and events will continue to explore emerging and complex ethical topics, including:
 - Ethical issues in the commercialisation of research.
 - International and decolonial research ethics.
 - Researching with and about disability.
 - Data management and the use of acceptable technological platforms and tools.
 - The responsible and ethical use of AI in research.
 - Planned revisions to ethics forms include:
 - Additional guidance and embedded links to address common queries (FAQs).
 - New questions on multi-site or multi-level ethics approval processes.
 - Rewording of language to align with EDI principles (e.g., updating “disabled persons” to “persons with disabilities”).
 - Schools plan to formalise and further develop their research integrity activities.
 - One school aims to bring together colleagues from across disciplines to consolidate expertise, strengthen collaboration, and foster both a strong culture of research integrity and a healthy, supportive research environment.
-

CMVM

College-Level Developments and Initiatives:

- Establishing two new groups to strengthen research integrity structures:
 - **Research Integrity Collective (RIC):**
 - Will bring together academic, technical, and professional services representatives.
 - Aims to share best practice, identify training and guidance gaps, and serve as a knowledge hub for integrity-related matters.
 - Will provide clear signposting to research misconduct processes.
 - **Misconduct Review Panel:**
 - Will include senior academics from each of the six schools to chair panels investigating allegations of research misconduct.
 - Will identify training and guidance gaps contributing to misconduct and offer confidential guidance to individuals considering raising concerns.
- Updating the **Research Integrity webpages and SharePoint** to include refreshed guidance, expectations, and clear reporting routes for research misconduct.
- The **Associate Dean of Research Integrity** has secured funding through the [RESTORE In Frame \(Wellcome Research Cultures\) project](#) to review UK HEI misconduct policies and identify models for embedding support mechanisms for all parties involved in cases.
- Appointment of a new **Associate Dean for Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)** to ensure engagement with patients and the public is conducted with transparency and integrity.

- **Electronic Lab Books (ELBs)** are being piloted in one school to evaluate their impact on research integrity and reproducibility.
- Development of a “**Good Research Practice Roadmap**” — a visual and practical resource to help researchers plan and conduct projects with rigour and integrity.

Ethics and Review Committees Developments and Initiatives:

Edinburgh Medical School Research Ethics Committee (EMREC)

- Developing new or updated guidance on:
 - Research with **young or vulnerable participants**.
 - **Global health partnerships**.
 - **AI in health research**.
 - Ethical review processes for **undergraduate and postgraduate taught students**.
 - Producing **participant information sheets** tailored to different audiences.

Human Ethical Review Committee (HERC)

- Plans to **streamline the HERC application form** for improved usability.
- Develop additional **guidance materials** on emerging ethics topics.
- Introduce **drop-in clinics** for applicants and supervisors to discuss complex ethical review cases.

Veterinary Ethics Review Committee (VERC)

- Transition to a **new co-Chair** during 2025–26, with a focus on maintaining continuity and supporting leadership transition.
- Continued **training for administrative assistants**, expanding their responsibilities to reduce co-Chair workload.

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

- Further **simplification of the AWERB reviewer form** to improve efficiency.
- Rolling out **formalised training for AWERB members** to strengthen review quality and consistency.
- Conducting a **review of the use of species not currently covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (A(SP)A)** — such as decapod crustaceans — to ensure ethical oversight aligns with evolving standards.

Medical Education Unit Research Ethics Committee (MEU REC)

- Expanding and **rebranding the committee** to reflect its broader remit beyond medical education, as part of the **CMVM Modernisation Change project**.
- Increasing **membership and reviewer pool diversity** to include representation from additional programmes.
- Revising **reviewing structures** to ensure appropriate scrutiny, particularly for projects involving personal data.
- Developing new **guidance and materials** for staff and students to reflect the expanded scope of the committee.

CSE

College-Level developments and initiatives:

The College will continue its theme-based approach to promoting research ethics and integrity, focusing on **Ethics** (October 2025) and **Integrity and Misconduct** (November 2025).

- **October – Ethics Theme:**
 - Raise awareness of research ethics and integrity among incoming PhD students.
 - Provide slides and materials to CDT Directors and Heads of Graduate schools for inclusion in induction and welcome events.
 - Re-run the training event for school Research Ethics Committee (REC) members to strengthen their ability to review ethics applications, enhance networking, and further develop a College-wide community of practice.
- **November – Integrity and Misconduct Theme:**
 - Launch an **awareness campaign** focused on the new **University Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure**.
 - Signpost relevant training and guidance opportunities across the University.
 - In collaboration with the **Edinburgh Research Office (ERO) Research Integrity Team**, host a **meeting for School Integrity Officers** to share best practice and provide a detailed briefing on the new policy.
- CSE also plans to raise awareness of the University's **Research Data Policy** among Directors of Research by inviting speakers to present at the College Research Committee.
- A new **guidance document** will be drafted to provide practical advice for **Ethics Officers, researchers, and PGR students** engaged in interdisciplinary projects involving multiple ethics committees. This guidance will be finalised and circulated in the coming year.
- The Dean of Research Culture and REF is also collaborating on the RESTORE project to review UK HEI misconduct policies and identify models for enhancing support mechanisms for all those involved.

School-level developments and initiatives:

School of Informatics:

- Plans to host a dedicated **ethics workshop for PGR students**, focusing on practical ethical challenges and decision-making in research design.

School of Engineering:

- Plans to integrate existing researcher development activities into a structured annual programme, aligned with support from the Edinburgh Research Office (ERO) and the Institute for Academic Development (IAD).

4. External Engagement

University Level

Engagement with other networks across the UK and Europe:

Scottish Research Integrity Network (SRIN):

SRIN was established in 2019, by colleagues from the University of Edinburgh and the University of Dundee to bring together research integrity practitioners from across Scotland.

The 5th anniversary meeting was held in 2024, attended by representatives from most of the Scottish HEIs. The key takeaway from this meeting was to support succession planning beyond the current leadership of Dundee and Edinburgh and raising the profile of the network, across Scotland and the UK. To support this, a steering group was established, with 3 members of the University part of this. The steering group provides resources to support and coordinate the activities of SRIN and to help drive work forward. University of Edinburgh colleagues have been invited to a number of events to speak about the work of SRIN.

LERU – Integrity:

Members of the Research Governance and Compliance Team are members of the LERU Integrity Group. In 2024/25, they agreed to be part of the affiliations workstream (led by the Head of Governance, Compliance and Risk). Work conducted so far has included a review of current practices for affiliations across HEIs, publishers and journals and also a survey circulated to LERU institutions asking about current policies and best practice around institutional affiliations. The aim of the group is to produce a paper (in 2026) providing guidance around best practice for the use of affiliations, this will be supported by a number of case studies.

UKRIO:

The University is a member of UKRIO and was invited to be involved in pilot testing of the updated UKRIO Research Integrity training module. Testing was carried out by a number of individuals across the University. Feedback was collated and provided.

CAHSS

College-Level External Engagement

- The Associate Dean for Research Ethics and Integrity (ADREI) continues to serve as a member of the **UKRIO Expert Advisory Community**, contributing to the review and development of national guidance — including input on the UKRIO Authorship Guidance released in September 2025.

School-Level External Engagement

School of Health in Social Science (HiSS):

- The Research Ethics Lead for Nursing (NUST), participated in a panel session on ethics during the Impact Festival 2025 at the University of Edinburgh.

School of Social and Political Science (SPS):

- The Ethical Pressures on Thinking network is a discussion and support group which looks to negotiate the ethical pressures on research work. It continues to host Colloquium sessions involving external partners, fostering cross-disciplinary dialogue and expanding ethics conversations with external collaborators and experts.

Moray House School of Education and Sport (MHSES):

- Colleagues from across the school continue to contribute to a broad range of international research ethics and integrity initiatives. Highlights include:
 - Advising Edinburgh City Council on educational research ethics.

- Delivering a funded training session on ethics in digital research methods (addressing issues such as fraudulent participants and bots) as part of the SGSSS/SGSAH Spring into Methods Programme 2025.
- Being members of the Ethics Group for the International and Canadian Children’s Rights Partnership.
- Presenting on behavioural science supporting open research behaviours at the Open Research Conference 2025.
- Presenting ethical conundrums from her research at the British Sociological Association event “Insider–Outsider’: Navigating Challenges and Complexities in Cross-national and Cross-cultural Fieldwork”.

CMVM

College-Level External Engagement

- Representatives from the CMVM Research Office delivered a **workshop on embedding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)** and inclusive practices in research, research management, and demand management at the **International Research Culture Conference**.
- This engagement supports the College’s commitment to fostering inclusive, equitable research environments and sharing good practice with the wider academic community.

Ethics and Review Committees External Engagement:

Veterinary Ethics Review Committee (VERC)

- The VERC co-Chairs are active members of the **Association of Veterinary Ethical Review Committees (AVEC)**, contributing to national discussions on veterinary research ethics and sharing institutional best practice.
- Representation on the **Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Ethical Review Panel** ensures ongoing alignment with ethical standards across UK veterinary institutions and supports progress towards **harmonisation of ethical processes** for multi-centre research projects.
- A Co-Chair authored a chapter on veterinary ethical review in *Veterinary Controversies and Ethical Dilemmas*, contributing to sector-wide understanding and discourse on research ethics.

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

- The establishment’s **Home Office Liaison Contact (HOLC)** was appointed as **Co-Chair of the Home Office Liaison and Training Implementation Forum (HOLTIF)**.
- This role strengthens institutional links with the **Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU)** and contributes to ongoing national initiatives, including the **review of retrospective review processes** under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act.

CSE

College-Level External Engagement

The College is collaborating with **Lancaster University’s “Reimagining Research Practices” project** to deliver **“Cuppa Conundrum” workshops** in early 2026.

- These interactive sessions will explore the **ethical challenges researchers face when using AI and social media data**, encouraging reflection on responsible research practices.
- The workshops will be jointly facilitated by Lancaster and Edinburgh staff and aim to foster discussion across disciplinary boundaries.

School-Level External Engagement

School of Physics and Astronomy

- The School of Physics and Astronomy continues to play an active role in international ethics leadership:
 - The school’s **Ethics Officer** has taken on the role of **Chair of the Ethics Committee** for the **International Association for the Advancement of High-Pressure Science and Technology (AIRAPT)**, following a significant data fabrication case in the field.

School of Informatics’

- The School of Informatics’ recent whitepaper on **responsible AI** research serves as an example of **external collaboration and thought leadership**, showcasing good practice in developing shared standards for ethical research with emerging technologies.

School of Engineering

- The Ethics Officer for the School of Engineering contributed in UKRIO consultation on good authorship practices.

5. Research Misconduct

Information on research misconduct, including the University’s definition and Research Misconduct Policy and procedure is available on the University’s Research Office website, alongside the University’s Whistleblowing Policy. Information relating to college specific procedures, including reporting forms, are available on college specific webpages.

The University’s **Research Misconduct Policy** was last updated in 2018. Following the initial drafting of a revised Policy and Procedure, the formal **review process recommenced in 2024** with the establishment of a dedicated **Research Misconduct Policy Review Group** to lead this work. The Group is currently undertaking a comprehensive review to ensure the Policy and Procedure align with sector-wide best practice and reflect the evolving research environment. Completion and review of the revised Policy is anticipated by the end of **2025**.

5.1 Changes during 2024/25

During 2024–25, CSE at College-level took several steps to raise awareness of research integrity and to clarify procedures for reporting and addressing research misconduct.

Key developments included:

- The creation of a **new Research Ethics and Integrity website** and a Responsible Research SharePoint site, providing accessible information and resources for staff and students.
- College-wide discussions within schools to promote understanding of researcher responsibilities and good research conduct.
- Inclusion of **ethics and integrity induction materials** for new PGR students.
- The appointment of **Integrity Officers** in each school, serving as local points of contact for informal queries and as advocates for a culture of integrity.

These initiatives have made reporting routes more visible and improved overall awareness of misconduct processes. As a possible result of this increased visibility, there has been a rise in the number of research misconduct allegations and investigations reported during the year.

A recurring issue has been authorship disputes, particularly involving PGR students and supervisors. To address this, the College has:

- Worked closely with Scholarly Communications to ensure that guidance on authorship and publication ethics is easily accessible and widely promoted.
- Continued discussions within the College Research Ethics and Integrity Committee on how best to set appropriate expectations for PGR students around authorship and collaborative research.

Within CSE the School of Engineering has also undertaken a review of its authorship and publication guidance to reduce the risk of misunderstandings among collaborators and to promote transparent, fair authorship practices.

At College level within CAHSS, the College Research Ethics Committee (CREC) held discussions on record-keeping practices for cases where schools are fielding queries about poor research practices that do not meet the threshold for escalation. This has helped clarify how such cases should be documented and monitored.

Across schools within CAHSS, updates were made to websites and ethics pages to include clear information on who to contact in cases of both informal and formal research misconduct reporting. These improvements aim to increase transparency and ensure that staff and students understand how to raise concerns appropriately and through the correct channels.

CMVM began investigating the use of **Proofig** image-analysis software to strengthen integrity checks during research misconduct investigations.

5.2 Statement on formal investigations

Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication	3			

Falsification				
Plagiarism	1	2 [^]	1	
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	4			
Misrepresentation (eg data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)				
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct				
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)				
<i>Other*</i>				
<p>[^]One of these cases was reported under the 23/24 reporting period, and one Party stated a wish to lodge an appeal towards the end of 23/24 (so that it was not fully 'closed' in last reporting). The appeal was not formally filed, and the case was closed early in 24/25</p>				
Total:	8	2	1	0

5.3 Key lessons learned

To further strengthen our commitment to responsible research practices, we have introduced several enhancements to existing processes. These improvements proactively address potential challenges and ensure a more robust and supportive research environment. The following key lessons learned have been derived from experiences and practices within individual colleges and schools across the institution, rather than from centrally implemented changes. These insights highlight proactive measures taken locally to enhance research integrity and ethical practice.

- **Support for respondents** is essential throughout and following the misconduct process, regardless of outcome, to mitigate potential reputational and wellbeing impacts.
- **Confidentiality must be maintained rigorously** to protect all parties and prevent unnecessary distress or damage to professional relationships.
- **Timely handling and resolution** of cases are critical to ensuring fairness, minimising anxiety, and maintaining confidence in institutional processes.
- **Access to impartial advice or peer support** can help respondents and complainants navigate the process more constructively and foster trust in institutional procedures.

Report Annex

UNIVERSITY WEBSITES

[University Research Integrity homepage](#)

Links to the REIRG website, external online training resources, College level Research Ethics and Integrity contacts and resources, University policies relevant to Research Ethics and Integrity, Research Misconduct Policy and Procedure, Whistleblowing Policy, Research Funders' policies on Research Ethics and Integrity.

[University Responsible Research webpage](#)

Links to internal and external resources on the theme of responsible and secure international research. Includes links to UK government Trusted Research Guidance for Academia, Edinburgh Global's Partnerships Toolkit, Edinburgh Research Office's webpages on Export Control and the National Security and Investment Act 2021, the University Information Security Team's webpages on working and travelling and a route for access to advice from the Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT).

[Technician Commitment](#)

Information on the commitment and the University's Action Plan.

College Research Ethics and Integrity Websites

[College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences](#)

[College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine](#)

[College of Science & Engineering](#)

Academic & Clinical Central Office for Research and Development (ACCORD)

Covers clinical research-led involving human participants, tissues or data. This includes research falling within the scope of NHS Research Ethics Committee Review and all clinical trials covered by the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical trial regulations). Proposals put to these groups that is considered outside their remit is assessed by relevant University Research Ethics Committees.

Regulation of research involving animals

[Maintaining high standards of Animal ethics and welfare](#)

[Commitment to replace, reduce and refine the use of animals in research](#)

EXTERNAL WEBSITES

Universities UK

[The Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#)

UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)

[UKRIO Code of Practice for Research](#)

[UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research](#)

UK Research and Innovation (umbrella body for UK Research Councils)

[UKRI Policy on the Governance of Good Research Practice](#)