

	INTERNAL
Paper title:	Research Governance
Board/Committee:	Research Committee
Date of meeting:	20 September 2023
Author(s):	Professor Patrick Callagan, APVC Research Professor Peter Doyle, Head of the Research Office
Sponsor(s):	Professor Patrick Callaghan
Purpose:	Paper for Approval
Recommendation:	The paper reports on progress with Researcher Integrity, as evidence of LSBU's compliance with the requirements of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)

Executive Summary

The paper reports on progress with Researcher Integrity, as evidence of LSBU's compliance with the requirements of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO). The following recommendations are made:

1. An annual statement on Research Integrity is published by LSBU on its [Research Pages](#). The annual statement for 2022-23 is provided for approval. As noted below, this requires identification of the point of contact for Research Integrity.
2. A new point of contact for Research Integrity should be appointed following the departure of Professor Peter Doyle. On appointment, this person's details should be added to LSBU's [Research Pages](#), and to the annual statement on Research Integrity, as specified below.
3. It would be valuable to review the fitness for purpose of the following LSBU documents: Policy on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice and Procedure for Investigation of Misconduct in Research
4. It is recommended that Researcher Integrity training becomes a requirement for all those with significant responsibility for research or research management [Course: Research Integrity - DORA \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](#).

Background

LSBU's current procedure, in line with requirements, is as follows:

- LSBU's policy on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice sets out the principles. [Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice \(PDF File 147 KB\)](#)
- LSBU has a procedure to investigate cases of misconduct in research [Procedure for Investigation of Misconduct in Research \(PDF File 316 KB\)](#)
- Anyone wishing to raise concerns about the integrity of research being conducted should contact their Dean.
- [Professor Peter Doyle](#), Head of the Research Office, was the main point of contact for research integrity matters until 6 September 2023.

With staffing changes and the need for due diligence, the following recommendations are made to the University research Committee:

- A new point of contact for Research Integrity should be appointed following the departure of Professor Peter Doyle. On appointment, this person's details should be added to LSBU's [Research Pages](#).
- It would be valuable to review the fitness for purpose of the following LSBU documents: Policy on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice and Procedure for Investigation of Misconduct in Research

An annual statement on Research Integrity is published by LSBU on its [Research Pages](#). This is a requirement and LSBU is fully compliant.

The annual statement for 2022-23 is provided for approval and subsequent upload to the Research Pages. A requirement of this is the appointment of the main point of contact for research integrity. This person should be appointed as a matter of urgency, following which action their name should be added to the statement prior to uploading.

Training provision

Training in Researcher Integrity is provided by the London Doctoral Academy as a mandatory course for all PhD students as part of their Key Skills Development, and is recommended for all other PGR students. This was most recently delivered to the PGR students within the Doctoral Academy on 3 April 2023.

As described in the minutes of the meeting of the URC for 18 May 2022, Training is available for all colleagues involved in Research, by the Research Office. This is available through our Researcher Development handbooks which are disseminated via the Associate Deans for Research and Enterprise. Uptake for this is evidenced by the delivery to the Institute of Health Care ECR community on 11 May 2023.

The online training course developed by the RO in association with Library and Learning Resources (LLR) is live and online in on the OD Learning Station application available here [Course: Research Integrity - DORA \(lsbu.ac.uk\)](#). This

permit all colleagues involved in research to access training at their convenience. This course covers the main principles and responsibilities, as well as considering matters relating appropriate research assessment, and the promotion of the Open Science/Open Knowledge agendas.

Given the significance of Research Integrity, and in particular the importance of the concerns relating to appropriate authorship and assignment of credit, as well as issues of plagiarism, reproducibility and repeatability, it is proposed that completion of this course should become a requirement in due course. It is recommended that this course should be taken by all researchers, and that it should be a requirement of all research managers for all those with significant responsibility for research.

Annual Statement of Research Integrity Compliance 2022-23

Concordat Support Research Integrity: All those engaged with research have a duty to consider how the work they undertake, host or support impacts on the research community and on wider society.

LSBU is committed to the principles set out in the concordat helps demonstrate to government, business, international partners and the public that they can continue to have confidence in the research produced by the UK research community. It provides assurances of the standards expected of all stakeholders, identifying five commitments that all those engaged with research should be able to make.

#	Principle	LSBU Evidence
1	Maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research	Policy on Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice is available on our Corporate Website http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/governance and on the university's intranet pages https://our.lsbu.ac.uk/home/academic-life/research-policies-and-procedures
2	Ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards	The activities of the School Ethics Panels scrutinise aspects of the conduct of research at LSBU, with more complex issues referred to the University Ethics Committee for review. No significant matters associated with research misconduct have been identified in 2022-23.
3	Supporting 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	Research and Enterprise handbook for staff outlining processes and procedures for conducting research and enterprise projects at LSBU - https://blog.lsbu.ac.uk/corporate-strategy/other-information/rei-guide/ The University has a Researcher Development Group with representatives from all Schools. The group supports the practical implementation of the Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/researcher-career-development . The Research Office has a training programme to provide appropriate training and events for development of researchers - this training programme has been launched that includes training in Researcher Integrity, and is mandatory for all PGR students. http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/researcher-career-development
4	Using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise	Corporate Procedure: Procedure for Investigation of Misconduct in Research (PDF File 316 KB) (link from LSBU website, http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/governance). The point of contact for Research Integrity matters is to be appointed http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/governance There have been no formal investigations of research misconduct either by research students or members of staff during the period 2022-23.
5	Working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly	LSBU is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/governance The LSBU Open Access Policy: http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/governance/open-access Research Integrity workshop has been made a compulsory component of the Key Skills Development Programme, one of ten mandatory training sessions for all PGR students http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/researcher-career-development . An online Research Integrity, DORA and Open Research training programme has been available to all staff since 2021, providing increased opportunity for researchers at all stages to better understand researcher integrity. This is available to all staff at Course: Research Integrity - DORA (lsbu.ac.uk)