

Code of Good Research Conduct

1. The University's Commitment

The University of Manchester is committed to fostering the highest standards of research integrity within a pioneering research culture that values knowledge-creation for its own sake, for the potential benefits it promises humankind and for the ways it enriches higher learning.

Researchers can expect of the University:

- i. A strong commitment to research integrity from its senior management**
Research Integrity is given priority in the University's strategic plan, Manchester 2020. Leadership in taking forward this priority is provided by the Associate Vice President for Compliance, Risk and Research Integrity.
- ii. Clearly stated standards and expectations**
This Code of Good Research Conduct sets out the University's expectations of its researchers (people who conduct research, including but not limited to: as an employee; as an independent contractor or consultant; as a research student; as a visiting or emeritus member of staff; as a member of staff on a joint clinical or honorary contract). It is supported by a suite of policies and guidelines clarifying the standards of good research practice expected by the University.
- iii. Support to help researchers comply with standards of good research conduct**
To provide administrative support to enable researchers to conduct research in accordance with the standards of good research conduct. For researchers required to comply with regulatory standards, the University's [Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity Team](#) provides information and support for individuals conducting research in regulated areas such as clinical trials and research involving human tissue, human or animal subjects.
- iv. Support to develop excellent researchers**
The University is committed to providing suitable learning, training and mentoring opportunities to encourage the development of its researchers.
- v. Oversight of the implementation of the Code of Good Research Conduct**
Research will be monitored or audited based on an assessment of risk so that the University can be assured of compliance with regulations and standards. The University will report annually to its Board of Governors on the implementation of its Code of Good Research Conduct.
- vi. A robust and fair approach to dealing with allegations of research misconduct**

All allegations of research misconduct are received centrally and considered under the University's [Code of Practice for Investigating Concerns about the Conduct of Research](#).

2. The University's Expectations of its researchers

The University expects the highest standards of research integrity from the researchers it supports. This includes, but is not limited to, people who conduct research as employees; as an independent contractor or consultant; as a research student; as a visiting or emeritus member of staff; or as a member of staff on a joint clinical or honorary contract, irrespective of the sources of their funding, their area of research, their experience as researchers, whether they are lone scholars or members of a research team or where the research is to be conducted. It is the responsibility of all researchers and staff supporting research to conduct their research in accordance with the ten Principles set out below and in compliance with relevant University policies.

Principles of Good Research Conduct

i. Excellence

Researchers are expected to strive for excellence when conducting their research; aiming to design, conduct, produce and disseminate work of the highest quality and ethical standards.

ii. Honesty

Researchers must be honest in respect of their own actions and in their responses to the actions of others. This applies to the whole range of research activity including:

- applying for funding;
- experimental and protocol design;
- generating, recording, analysing and interpreting data;
- publishing and exploiting results;
- acknowledging the direct and indirect contributions of colleagues, collaborators and others;
- and reporting cases of suspected misconduct in a responsible and appropriate manner.

iii. Openness

Researchers must be open when conducting and communicating their research (subject to the terms and conditions of any research contracts and the protection of intellectual property and commercial exploitation). This includes:

- the disclosure of any conflicts of interest;
- the reporting of research data collection methods;
- the analysis and interpretation of data;
- making all research findings widely available (including sharing negative results as appropriate);
- disseminating research in a way that will have the widest impact;
- and promoting public engagement/involvement in research.

iv. Rigour

Researchers must be thorough and meticulous in performing their research. Care must be taken:

- to use the appropriate methods;
- to adhere to an agreed protocol (where appropriate);
- when drawing interpretations and conclusions from the research;
- and when communicating the results.

v. Safety

All research should be conducted in a manner which, so far as is reasonably practicable, is safe for researchers, participants, the University and the environment. Researchers must familiarise themselves, and comply with, the obligations set down by the University in its [policies and guidelines](#), as well as relevant legislation and regulatory practice in this area.

vi. Ethical responsibility

Researchers should have respect for all participants in, and subjects of, research including humans, animals, the environment and cultural objects. The University expects all researchers to consider the ethical implications of their research and to be aware of their responsibilities to society, the environment, their profession, the University, research participants and the organisation(s) funding the research.

vii. Responsible management

Established researchers are responsible for nurturing researchers of the future; fostering a constructive and supportive environment without undue pressure and ensuring that appropriate supervision, mentoring and training are provided.

viii. Regulatory compliance

Researchers are expected to make themselves aware of, and comply with, any legislation or regulations that govern their research. This includes, but is not limited to:

Data Protection

Clinical Trials Regulations

Human Tissue Act

ix. Professional standards

Researchers should observe the standards of practice set out in guidelines published by professional societies, funding agencies and other relevant bodies, where appropriate and available. They must ensure that they have the necessary skills and training to conduct the research.

x. Report research misconduct

Researchers should be aware of the extreme seriousness of research misconduct. Staff and students of the University have an obligation to report suspected research misconduct in accordance with the University's [Code of Practice for Investigating Concerns about the Conduct of Research](#).

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