



College Research Integrity Framework (CRIF)

Objectives

Support Schools	By promoting awareness of changing best practice and legal obligations in relation to research integrity
Establish mutual responsibility	Between the institution, its researchers and their respective responsibilities in relation to research integrity.

Scope

Definition of Research	Research is broadly conceived to include any form of disciplined inquiry undertaken by staff and students that aims to contribute to a body of knowledge or theory. Research is conceived broadly to include: staff and student research; pilot, unfunded, funded, and commissioned research; and some consultancy, outreach, knowledge exchange and impact activities.
Definition of Research Integrity	Research Integrity means conducting research in such a way that allows others to have confidence and trust in the methods and the findings of the research. It relates both to the scholarly integrity of conducted research and to the professional integrity of researchers. ¹

Principles

Integrity, transparency, and rigour

Promote high standards of research integrity	Research should meet recognised standards of research integrity. Researchers should maintain independence of research, ensure that research is conducted in a rigorous manner, and make explicit any unavoidable actual or potential conflicts of interest.
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Responsibility and accountability

Good Research Practice	<p>The University is a signatory of the UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity and has adopted the UK Research Integrity Office's (UKRIO) Code of Practice for Researchers. Under these, researchers should be aware of commitments to good research culture, and what constitutes good research practice. This includes the ethical and legal conduct of formal research and also includes (non-exhaustively) areas related to the formal conduct of research such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training and mentoring• Collaborative working and research partnerships• Publication and authorship practices <p>Researchers take responsibility for maintaining up to date knowledge on good research practice, including a knowledge of the frameworks, standards, and responsibilities that apply to their research.</p>
Awareness of Formal Definitions	Researchers should guard against research misconduct. Research misconduct can take many forms, including:

¹ Adapted from the ERO 'Research Integrity' page: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/research-office/research-integrity/what-is-research-integrity>

**of Research
Misconduct**

- Fabrication: making up results or other outputs (e.g. artefacts) and presenting them as if they were real
- Falsification: manipulating research processes or changing or omitting data without good cause
- Plagiarism: using other people's material without giving proper credit
- Misrepresentation: for example, misrepresentation of data, of interests, of qualifications or experience, or of involvement, such as inappropriate claims to authorship or attribution of work
- Breach of duty of care: breach of confidentiality such as disclosing the identity of individuals or groups involved in research without their consent; improper conduct in peer review such as failing to disclose conflicts of interest; or not observing legal and ethical requirements or obligations of care
- Failure to meet ethical, legal and professional obligations: for example, failure to declare competing interests; misrepresentation of involvement or authorship; misrepresentation of interests; breach of confidentiality; lack of informed consent; misuse of personal data; and abuse of research subjects or materials
- Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct: failing to address possible infringements such as attempts to cover up misconduct and reprisals against whistleblowers.

Researchers should make research participants aware of the institution's [misconduct policies and procedures](#).

Supporting Students in Ethics and Integrity

**Supervisor
Responsibilities in
Student Ethics**

While taught students are formally considered as the lead researcher of their dissertation projects, supervisors have a responsibility to guide and mentor student researchers, by:

- Ensuring that the student is aware of ethics process and possessing an ability to guide the student to further information on ethics processes
- Ensuring that they possess an awareness of the status of students ethics applications and processes, checking on these at relevant points in the research process.
- Ensuring that the student is made aware of data management processes, as well as other relevant legal obligations, and possess an ability to guide the student to the further information
- Where appropriate within the School, ensuring that the student is made aware of the forms, methods, or topics of research that can (and cannot) be supported for their level of study
- Addressing any queries the student may have about the research ethics and integrity process and/or being aware of sites for further information
- Mentoring on ethics and integrity issues that may arise over the life course of the project

**Formal Process of
Student Research
Integrity Issues**

Formal complaints on student research misconduct are processed via the Student Conduct Policy, and are escalated via the SAMO to the CAMO.

Understanding Research Integrity Complaints Processes and Procedures for Staff

Support of Research Integrity Issues

CAHSS Schools have identified School Officers and delegates who will be able to informally discuss research integrity issues with affected staff. School REC leads will be able to confidentially guide staff members to appropriate contacts.

Formal Reporting of Research Integrity

The CAHSS Research Misconduct Policy, and the relevant forms for formally reporting Research Misconduct, can be [found on this page](#).

Support

College Research Ethics Committee aims to:

Review changing best practice

Undertake periodical review of these principles to reflect changing best practice and legal requirements in research integrity, in particular where these intersect with research ethics processes.

Promote awareness and understanding

Promote awareness and understanding of best practice and requirements in research integrity throughout the College.

Support research integrity processes

At the request of College, School REC specialists may be drawn upon to serve on Screening Panels as part of formal research integrity processes across the College and University.

Publicise additional support

Ensure that School REC specialists know when, how, and from whom to seek additional support, and are able to guide researchers to appropriate support where requested.

Monitor and report

Monitor, review, and report annually on the research integrity processes and cases within Schools.

CAHSS Research Ethics Committee
University of Edinburgh

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To be reviewed: July 2026