

Sheffield Hallam University's Commitment to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity

The Concordat is the UK's national policy statement on research integrity and has been in operation since 2013. A new version with sanctions for non-compliance was implemented in 2020. The major funding bodies e.g. Research England, UKRI, and Wellcome will now apply funding sanctions for non-compliance by universities and/or for research misconduct that is not dealt with appropriately. The details of compliance for Research England funds and the possible sanctions are in the *Terms and conditions of Research England Grant Terms and conditions of UK Research and Innovation funding administered through Research England (September 2020)*. The University response to the **Concordat to Support Research Integrity** is [here](#)

As part of the university's commitment to the Concordat the following responsibilities fall upon **Directors of Research Centres, Institutes** and **HoDs** who manage research active staff and staff who supervise student research projects.

You are required to:

- have an up-to-date understanding of the University's ethics policy and procedures
- ensure that policies relating to research ethics and research integrity are implemented
- promote a local culture of rigour and integrity in research
- have an up-to-date knowledge of University and relevant funder policy
- promote compliance with all ethical and legal standards and all grant conditions for all research under your management
- encourage staff to update their skills annually in aspects of research ethics and integrity and check compliance as part of the appraisal process
- ensure researchers are provided with guidance for their career development, reinforced through staff appraisal
- ensure at dedicated points of contact staff receive recognition in work plans for their roles
- ensure that researchers are aware of their responsibilities and the standards expected of them
- to provide support, mentoring and developmental opportunities for researchers
- report any observed instance of what appears to be research misconduct

Training resources can be accessed [here](#)

Ongoing issue: The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requires that researchers, and **this includes student researchers** make specific information available to research participants and the organisations they are working with via Information Sheets or their equivalent. This covers the legal basis under which the research occurs, how data will be treated and who to complain to if research participants have concerns. Full information on GDPR requirements re information sheets is provided on the ethics website [here](#). The financial penalties for the University for non-compliance by researchers with GDPR are exceedingly punitive. For less severe breaches, the maximum fine is approximately £8 million or two per cent of a company's annual revenue, whichever is greater. For more severe breaches, the maximum fine is £16million or four per cent of a company's annual revenue, whichever is greater. GDPR also applies to any student research staff are supervising. Guidance on GDPR [here](#)

Professor Ann Macaskill, Head of Research Ethics, March 2021