

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 *Research England [Terms and Conditions](#)*. 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 **Heads of School/Institute**, **School/Institute Research Leads** and **Heads of Research Centres** - 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 policies
- 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, including 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 2% of a company's annual revenue, whichever is greater. For more severe breaches, the maximum fine is £16million or 4% of a company's annual revenue, whichever is greater. GDPR also applies to any student research staff are supervising. Guidance on GDPR [here](#).

Professor Mayur Ranchordas, Head of Research Ethics, September 2025