

SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY

Responsibilities of Researchers in relation to Sheffield Hallam University's Commitment to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity

Background: The Concordat to Support Research Integrity was developed in collaboration with the Funding and Research Councils, Wellcome Trust and various government departments, seeking to provide a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and governance. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) requires institutions to demonstrate their compliance with the Concordat annually before any REF related research income is released. The University response to the **Concordat to Support Research Integrity** can be found at <https://www.shu.ac.uk/research/ethics-integrity-and-practice/integrity-concordat>

As a Researcher you have specific responsibilities in relation to the Concordat and the University Research Ethics Policy and procedures.

You **must** ensure that you:

- have an up-to-date understanding of the University's ethics policy and procedures.
- submit all your research projects for research ethics review using the online Ethics Review System. This includes recording low risk research on the online system.
- conduct your research in accordance with the standards and behaviours expected by the University and funders of research. Guidance is provided in the university policy and procedures. <https://www.shu.ac.uk/research/ethics-integrity-and-practice> and training is regularly available face-to-face and online.
- upload a copy to the ethics review system of ethics approvals given externally for research you are undertaking, e.g. NHS, HMPSS or collaborations where the PI is external to SHU, e. g from another HEI.
- keep the relevant documentary evidence of your research projects so you can demonstrate the integrity of your research should the need arise.
- access support and guidance from research managers, Research Ethics Committees, Research and Innovation Office and other central departments as required.
- fully engage with the appraisal process, to identify skills and knowledge that may need to be developed or updated in relation to research or teaching research and attend relevant training.
- act in good faith with regard to allegations of research misconduct and recognise it does not include honest error or honest difference in methodological approach, research design, interpretations or judgements of data.
- report any observed instance of what appears to be research misconduct.

Research Integrity has become a major concern globally specifically so-called 'salami slicing', where multiple publications are produced from the same data set **with no acknowledgment of the existence of the original published dataset or any cross-references to other papers published from it.** What commonly occurs is that the researchers publish the main data set in one paper and then in subsequent papers present a selection of variables/perspectives from the original published data set, without any reference to the existence of the first paper that included the original dataset. This is considered to be unethical as the data is presented to the reader in subsequent papers as if it were new data, not simply subsets of a previously published study. When researchers are producing several papers from the same dataset, to avoid misleading the reader, reference must be made to any earlier papers that emanate from the same study.

Training can be accessed via <https://portal.shu.ac.uk/sites/acpd/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Professor Ann Macaskill, Head of Research Ethics, February 2018.