

ANNUAL RESEARCH INTEGRITY STATEMENT 2021_22

Name of institution: Falmouth University	
Period under review: 2021/22	
Date approved by governing body: TBC	Date made publicly available: TBC
Web address of statement: TBC	
Web address of institutional research integrity page: https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/research/research-ethics-integrity	
Named contact points for: Questions/ information on research integrity: Research and Development Support Officer, Katy Shannon: katy.shannon@falmouth.ac.uk Concerns about research integrity/ research misconduct: Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & Knowledge Exchange, Professor David Prior: david.prior@falmouth.ac.uk	
Date statement sent to Concordat Signatories via RIsecretariat@universitiesuk.ac.uk: TBC	

ANNUAL RESEARCH INTEGRITY STATEMENT

1. Summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support research integrity:

Following the retirement of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research & Innovation, Professor Patric Eriksson, in April 2022, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange, Professor David Prior, took over responsibility for ensuring that Falmouth University is compliant with all aspects of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. For any concerns regarding the integrity of research being undertaken at Falmouth University, the Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange can be contacted via the Research & Knowledge Exchange Office (research@falmouth.ac.uk).

Programme Lead for the Design for Health and Wellbeing Programme and Senior Research Fellow, Anna Mankee-Williams, has been nominated as the lead for Research Integrity and Ethics and the research representative at the Equality and Diversity Group.

A number of initiatives have been implemented in recent years to support the development of a research environment that helps to develop good research practice and embeds a culture of research integrity, the key elements of which are honesty, rigour, transparency and the care and respect of all participants. These include:

- The revised Integrity and Ethics Policy launched September 2019. The Integrity and Ethics Policy is supported by a revised process which has integrated elements of the UK Research Integrity Office (UK RIO)'s checklist for researchers. This policy was revised in September 2021 to incorporate research ethics applications for postgraduate research students (formerly following protocols of research degree validating partner, UAL)
- The accompanying Handbook to Support Research Integrity & Ethics for staff and postgraduate research students contains a comprehensive overview of the University's adoption of the five core principles of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (also updated September 2022)
- Online Integrity and Ethics training has been procured through the University of Dundee and has been made available to academic staff involved in new funded research projects.
- Falmouth became members of the UK Research Integrity Office (UK RIO) in 2019, giving access to guidance and externally run training opportunities for staff and RIEC members (with all RIEC members taking part in training in May 2021).
- The University website page for Integrity and Ethics has been revised to ensure that it provides comprehensive detail of the Falmouth approach to Research Integrity and Ethics.
- The Research Integrity & Ethics Committee annual report for 21/22 reviewed the business conducted over the year, confirming that all the terms of reference had been attended to.

- In 2021-22, as part of the institutional wide refresh of the staff intranet to make information clearer and more accessible, the research integrity and ethics information was reviewed and updated.

A broad commitment to research integrity exists across the piece. Research integrity is an integral part of a strong and vibrant research culture, which the University's Strategy to 2030 seeks to cultivate. Capacity within a small institution is a significant issue in hindering progress, with a small R&I team and limited resource available.

Support for researchers to understand research integrity and ethics and how it relates to their research practice are incorporated into both the Research Student Development Programme and Research and Innovation Development Programme. Additionally, more in-depth research integrity training materials are available via the University online learning platform.

While we have a commitment to building a robust training environment, and have made significant steps along this road, there is scope to improve access to training, and to monitor both need and take up.

A more robust system of for monitoring whether researchers have in all cases engaged with the ethical process in terms of training and review. By utilising existing systems, we can begin a simple monitoring process that will be triggered once a year.

We recognise this process to be iterative, and we can assure Academic Board and the Board of Governors that we comply and are developing plans for continued improvement.

2. Statement on processes that the institution has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct:

The University's Whistleblowing Policy outlines the policy and procedural framework of Falmouth University in respect of the reporting of concerns of wrongdoing in the public interest, and the investigation and management of such concerns.

The University's Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research t outlines the process to be followed when allegations of misconduct in research are brought against a researcher in relation to research conducted under the auspices of the Institution. Falmouth University is committed to ensuring that investigations are thorough and fair and conducted in a transparent and timely way.

--

3. High-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken:

Allegations during the period under review	Number
Allegations received during the period under review	1
Allegations received during previous year/s that are concluded during the period under review	0
Allegations undergoing initial investigation/screening	1
Allegations undergoing full investigation	0
Allegations upheld in full after full investigation	0
Allegations upheld in part after full investigation	0
Allegations dismissed after full investigation	0
Allegations still under investigation at time of writing (whether received during the period under review or during previous years)	1

Breakdown of allegations received by subject/ discipline	Number
Health and biomedicine	0
Physical sciences and engineering	0
Social sciences	0
Mathematics	0
Computer sciences	0
Law	0
Arts and humanities	1
Multiple disciplines (when involved in a single allegation)	0
Unknown at time of writing	0

Breakdown of allegations by type <i>(see Commitment 4, Concordat to Support Research Integrity)</i>	Number
Fabrication	0
Falsification	0
Plagiarism	0
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	0

Misrepresentation (e.g. of data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	0
Unknown at time of writing	1
Other	0
[If you listed any allegations under the 'Other' category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.]	

4. Lessons learned from any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken:

N/A

5. Statement on how the institution creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct: ...

Awareness of the standards and behaviours expected of researchers is maintained in a number of ways. The Chair of the Research Integrity & Ethics Committee has produced a training video on undertaking a research ethics review, which compliments the Integrity and Ethics training sessions held within staff and PGR student programmes of researcher development.

The research governance structure at Falmouth was reviewed to ensure that policies relating to research, research integrity and researcher behaviour were implemented effectively. Research and Innovation Programme Leads have been allocated lead roles in key areas of the Research and Innovation environment. Programme Lead for the Design for Health and Wellbeing Programme, Anna Mankee-Williams has been nominated as the lead for Research Integrity and Ethics and will be the research representative at the Equality and Diversity Group.

With these development opportunities and defined internal contacts for research integrity and ethics, Falmouth University aims to create and embed a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel informed and comfortable to report instances of misconduct.

In the 2022/23 academic year, the Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research would be reviewed and updated in line with and tailored against the revised UKRIO template. The revised procedure will be communicated to staff once approved.