

Template: annual statement on research integrity

If you have any questions about this template, please contact:
RIsecretariat@universitiesuk.ac.uk.

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	University of Strathclyde
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher Education Institution
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	28/11/2025
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/integrity/
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Tim Bedford
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1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Devon McHugh
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Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture.

Description of actions and activities undertaken

2A. Description of current systems and culture

Policies and systems

Policies

Strathclyde maintains a range of policies and procedures to promote and monitor good practice and ethical conduct in its research. Central to these is an overarching Research Code of Practice which provides a definition of research and outlines the expectations placed on the University and its staff and students in meeting standards of good research practice. It also signposts researchers to a comprehensive list of academic policies and procedures, including the following key research policies and guidelines:

- Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students;
- Open Access Policy;
- Research Data Management and Sharing Policy;
- Code of Practice on Investigations Involving Human Beings;
- Policy on Animal Research (in accordance with the Concordat on Openness).

In recognition that a positive research culture is required to enable researchers to follow best practice in research, Strathclyde has several policies and initiatives to support this, including:

- Dignity and Respect Policy;
- Safe360 Safeguarding Policy;
- Strathclyde Community Commitment;
- Strathclyde Pledge;
- Non-disclosure Agreement Pledge;
- Researcher Development Time Policy.

Broader details about best practice, support available and further materials to promote understanding in both integrity and research culture are included in Strathclyde's *Guide to Good Research Practice*, an online, interactive resource with videos and quizzes to increase engagement with the topic of research integrity. The Guide and the Research Code of Practice, in combination, provide necessary detail to enable researchers to better understand expectations relating to research integrity, in line with the University's commitment in the Research Integrity Concordat to '*support researchers to understand and act according to expected standards, values and behaviours.*'

Governance systems

The University Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC), a strategic committee within Strathclyde's governance structure with reporting responsibilities to University Senate, is responsible for oversight of research and knowledge exchange strategy and policy, and the monitoring of their implementation. Key to this is ensuring that Strathclyde's commitments as signatory to The Concordat to Support Research Integrity are met. Accordingly, the principles of research integrity are supported across all domains by the following bodies with oversight from RKEC:

- University Ethics Committee (UEC);
- Animal Welfare Ethical Review Board (AWERB);
- Research Development and Culture Sub-Committee (RDCSC);
- Researcher Development Concordat Steering Group (RDCSG);
- Knowledge Exchange Sub-Committee (KESC);
- Research Sub-Committee (RSC);
- Open Research Action Group (ORAG).

RKEC also has ultimate responsibility for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers (also termed 'Researcher Development Concordat'), which is a key mechanism for enhancing research culture at Strathclyde. Moreover, the Research Development and Culture Sub-Committee also provides strategic oversight on research culture and researcher development topics, and is developing and piloting a set of key performance indicators to monitor and drive improvements in these areas.

The Strathclyde Doctoral School (SDS), which is governed by a dedicated management board, contributes to the promotion of research integrity and a positive research culture through its work to enrich the postgraduate researcher (PGR) experience, intensify research outputs and opportunities, and ensure development is designed and delivered at the highest levels.

Support systems

The Research Policy and Information Team located in the Research and Knowledge Exchange Services (RKES) directorate is responsible for implementation of the Research Integrity Concordat and is therefore a core part of support systems for research integrity. Their remit includes: maintaining and advising on the Research Code of Practice (which includes the research misconduct process); providing secretariat support for RKEC, UEC and ORAG; supporting the Associate Principal to implement the research misconduct process; and preparing the annual Research Integrity Statement in accordance with the Concordat. The Research Policy Manager, Dr Devon McHugh, acts as the first point of contact for research integrity queries via the dedicated research-integrity@strath.ac.uk mailbox. The Research Policy and Information Team also maintains external and internal webpages related to research integrity, with resources to support researchers to understand the

standards, values and behaviours associated with research integrity. This includes the Guide to Good Research Practice, which mirrors the Strathclyde Research Code of Practice with additional guidance on best practice and signposting to further guidance and support.

Moreover, Strathclyde provides dedicated support in several areas to assist researchers in the fulfilment of their research responsibilities. Colleagues from across Professional Services provide specialist advice on topics with research integrity implications such as:

- Information Governance including GDPR;
- Ethics in Human and Animal Research;
- Records Management;
- Research Data Management and Sharing;
- Open Access and Open Data;
- Responsible Research and Innovation;
- Trusted Research & Innovation;
- Cyber security;
- Dignity and Respect.

This provision is often delivered via cross-disciplinary/departmental groups involving specialists from the Information Governance Unit, Strategy & Planning, Information Services, Human Resources and RKEs, working with academics wherever appropriate.

Communications and engagement

Internal communications and engagement

Within the four Faculties (Engineering; Humanities and Social Sciences; Science; and Strathclyde Business School), information is communicated via staff and student structures as follows:

- Responsibility for research integrity and research culture is distributed through the Faculties via the Vice Deans with responsibility for Research who represent their Faculties on RKEC. Agreement made at committee level is disseminated via Faculty, Departmental and School management structures.
- Each Faculty has now appointed an Associate Dean with responsibility for research culture, which includes fostering a culture that enables good research practice. Associate Deans represent their Faculties on the Research Development and Culture Sub-Committee and cascade information via Faculty structures as appropriate.
- Research staff representatives attend RKEC and relevant RKEC Sub-Committees to include their perspectives in decision-making and facilitate communication of key information to researchers.
- Research student representatives attend RKEC and the Strathclyde Doctoral School Management Board to ensure involvement in decision-making and communication of information into the wider student community.

Expectations, information and guidance are also delivered to research students via their supervisors and postgraduate administrators in order to ensure that they are fully informed of best practice in research.

- Centrally, professional services directorates communicate with researchers at all career stages and disciplines via dedicated Sharepoint Sites (such as the RKES Portal, which holds a wide range of guidance and information relating to research funding, research governance and policy, engaging externals in research and support and training for researchers), corporate communications (such as Inside Strathclyde) and researcher forums (such as the Researchers' Group and Researcher Meet-ups).

External engagement

Strathclyde is a member of various external organisations of relevance to research integrity issues:

- **Universities Scotland (US):** Strathclyde contributes to discussions and activities that support and strengthen research integrity at a sector level through engagement with the Universities Scotland Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC) and its sub-committees. The Associate Principal for Research and Innovation (Named Person) is an active member of the US RKEC.
- **UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO):** Strathclyde is a subscribing member of UKRIO, through which the Research Policy and Information Team attend events and access guidance and resources.
- **UK Committee on Research Integrity (UK CORI):** Strathclyde is engaged with the newly established UK CORI both as a subscriber to its e-newsletter and through attendance and participation in conference sessions delivered by UK CORI Co-Chairs. In March 2025, Strathclyde hosted a member of the Committee (Dr Ralitsa Madsen) as an invited speaker at an event during our Research Integrity and Culture Week.
- **Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA):** Recognising that responsible research assessment is key to promoting good research practice, Strathclyde joined CoARA in late 2022 and has been invited to speak at multiple external events on the topic in this academic year including for the UK Reproducibility Network OR4 community of practice (September 2024), a European Commission meeting on 'National activities supporting research assessment reforms' (October 2024), the Jisc Digital Community (October 2024), the Research Evaluation in Social Sciences and Humanities Conference (May 2025) and a CESAER workshop on CoARA implementation (May 2025). In addition, Strathclyde is a co-lead organisation for the UK CoARA National Chapter. In this role, members of the Research Policy and Information Team have met one-on-one with colleagues at several other UK universities that are considering joining CoARA to provide advice and guidance and have attended workshops with institutional leaders at other UK universities to advocate for responsible research assessment.

- **UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN):** Strathclyde became an Institutional Member of UKRN in September 2022. UKRN is a national peer-led consortium that seeks to understand and address factors that contribute to poor research reproducibility and replicability. UKRN is an active member of the UK CoARA National Chapter and is in regular communication with the Research Policy and Information Team regarding UK-wide activities related to responsible research assessment that enables good research practice.
- **The Higher Education Export Control Association (HEECA):** Strathclyde is a founding member of this organisation which was formed in 2021. This national network of practitioners develops, maintain and promotes best practice in Export Control Compliance and Research Security across the UK Higher Education sector.
- **Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA):** The Research Policy and Information Team are members of ARMA which supports external peer discussion of key issues relating to research management, including ethics, research governance and research integrity, and gives access to events, resources and training. Since 2023, the Research Policy and Information Team supports one of its staff members to co-champion the Research Evaluation Special Interest Group, supporting sector-wide discussion on how responsible research assessments enable, reward and recognise good research practice.
- **Scottish Research Integrity Network:** Strathclyde is also engaged with the Scottish Research Integrity Network (SRIN), a forum aimed at sharing excellence, good practice and expertise in the field of research integrity across all research active institutions in Scotland. Members of the Research Policy and Information Team attend SRIN meetings regularly and engage with the network via a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel.

Through these memberships and networks, as well as through attendance at other sector events, Strathclyde engages in and influences discussions on research integrity, strengthening understanding and application of research integrity issues within the University as well as contributing to the advancement of sector-wide approaches.

Culture, development and leadership

Research integrity is seen as an integral part of promoting a positive research culture and effective collaboration with the team leading on the Researcher Development Concordat has proven to be an effective vehicle for coordinated research integrity activities.

Professional and personal development is a core component of research degrees at Strathclyde ensuring that our doctoral graduates have the skills and experience to be successful both in their studies and their future careers. Good research practice is integrated into PGR inductions by representation of the Research Policy and Information Team at 'marketplace' style events and induction seminars in October and April. In doing so, PGRs are receiving information on research integrity and

research culture from the outset of their programme, from a centralised team, and will be aware of the available resources, training and support. This is intended to promote consistency across the institution, rather than relying on faculty/department/supervisor practices. Our PGR Researcher Development Programme (RDP), delivered by Faculties, Professional Services and external partners, is mapped to Vitae's Researcher Development Framework and Statement (RDF/S), which articulates the knowledge, behaviours and attributes of successful researchers. The tailored RDP provides the postgraduate research community with a range of opportunities to continue their personal, professional and career management skills development and enhance their transferable skills, attributes and competencies for future employability both inside and outside of academia. Specific Research Integrity training is delivered through PGR induction (delivered twice annually) and supplemented by our online PG Essentials and Research Integrity modules. The Convenor of the University Ethics Committee also delivers a 'Researchers' Guide to Ethics' training course to PGRs throughout the year.

Training for staff, including Technicians, Early Career (including postdoctoral researchers, research fellows and research assistants), Mid-Career & Established Academics, is delivered by our Organisational and Staff Development Unit (OSDU). In particular, the Unit's Strathclyde Programme in Research and Leadership (SPIRAL) and Strathclyde Supervisor Development Programme aim to deliver relevant content relating to research, supervision and knowledge exchange. Our tailored Researcher Development provision aims to empower staff by providing them with the skills, experiences and understanding to reach their full potential, whilst at the same time providing the University with a means of assuring and enhancing quality in its research at all levels. SPIRAL focuses on developing and strengthening leadership across research and knowledge exchange while the Supervisor Programme provides comprehensive development opportunities for new and experienced doctoral Supervisors. These open programmes are complemented by cohort-based initiatives such as the Leading Research Programme, Fellowship Academy and new Chancellor's Associate Programme which provide bespoke, longitudinal support for research and early career academic staff. All programmes contribute significantly to the culture of research integrity at Strathclyde.

Research Integrity events are now included as standard within OSDU's Researcher Development provision:

- 'Research Integrity in Practice' (SPIRAL Programme) – a twice-yearly, half-day workshop to support staff to understand and apply the principles of Research Integrity in their everyday work, and to explore how misconduct may arise and ways to alleviate such pressures, as well as drawing attention to Strathclyde's policies and procedures in these areas.
- 'Seven Sins of Research Integrity' (Strathclyde Supervisor Development Programme) (replacing 'Promoting Research Integrity Through Supervision') – a half-day workshop to support PGR supervisors to consider their own

understanding of good research practice, make informed choices based on the principles of Research Integrity and consider how they can embed a culture of integrity within and beyond their supervisory relationships.

- ‘Responsible Research & Innovation’ (SPIRAL Programme) – a half-day workshop to introduce researchers to key principles and tools for responsible research and innovation, allowing them to explore these concepts in their own research contexts. The course ran in 2022 as a blended five-week workshop and was re-structured into its current format in 2023.
- Staff researchers have access to the online suite of ‘Research Integrity’ workshops which is also available to PGRs.
- UKRIO’s online ‘Introduction to Research Integrity’ was piloted in 2024/2025 and will be included as an ongoing element of the Researcher Development provision.

Specific training on research integrity issues is available to groups of researchers on request. For example, online and in-person sessions on open access, research data management and maintaining an accurate research record in our Current Research Information System (CRIS; Pure) are also run regularly, open to staff and research students. One-to-one training sessions on research data management and sharing are provided on request by the cross-directorate Research Data Management and Sharing (RDMS) team. Staff also have access to an online Awareness Raising Training Course on Trusted Research & Innovation.

Leadership in Research Integrity

Demonstrating the strength of Strathclyde’s commitment to research integrity, the Associate Principal with responsibility for Research and Innovation has designated responsibility for ensuring that Strathclyde responds to and upholds the Concordat. This responsibility extends to research and knowledge exchange policies, ethics, postgraduate researcher development and research governance. To ensure confidentiality and encourage disclosure of concerns around misconduct, any queries related to research integrity are directed to a dedicated email address (research-integrity@strath.ac.uk) which is only accessible to the Associate Principal and select members of the Research Policy and Information Team based in Research and Knowledge Exchange Services (RKES). The Associate Principal is supported in this work by the Deputy Associate Principals with Research, Knowledge Exchange and Innovation portfolios and the Vice Deans Research within Faculties.

Monitoring and reporting

The reporting requirements for the Research Integrity Concordat and Researcher Development Concordat (and associated HR Excellence in Research Award process) form the basis of monitoring and reporting on matters related to research integrity. Annual reports are prepared by the Research Policy and Information Team and Organisational and Staff Development Unit for consideration by the University’s Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and relevant sub-committees.

During the year, activity is monitored and directed through the RKEC sub-committees, namely the Research Development and Culture Sub-committee and Research Sub-committee. Periodic reporting on the other research concordats and agreements, including the Concordat on Open Research Data, is also undertaken.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

Summary of 2024-25 activities

Review of research integrity policies

As part of our continuous improvement of research integrity-related practices, policies and procedures, the Research Code of Practice, Strathclyde's core research integrity policy, is reviewed annually, following significant revisions in 2022. This year, review has included checking the Research Code of Practice against the updated version of the Research Integrity Concordat published in April 2025 to ensure continued alignment. This resulted in minor rephrasing to the definitions of research integrity and research misconduct. In addition, reference was included to the newly developed Strathclyde Open Access Policy, which promotes compliance with the REF 2029 Open Access Policy. Clarification was also provided about the inclusion of Rights Retention Statements in journal articles and conference proceedings following Strathclyde's notification of over 100 publishers to our Institutional Rights Retention Statement. This means that the onus is no longer on authors to include specific wording in manuscripts, and the process of making outputs open access without embargo has been streamlined.

Embedding research integrity into research quality

At Strathclyde, work aimed at enhancing the quality of our research takes a broad definition of research quality to include all the diverse practices that contribute to the robustness of processes and the significance of outcomes. The annual Research Quality Review (RQR) process (which is the mechanism for Strathclyde's REF 2029 preparations) has been used to promote good research practice in accordance with the Research Integrity Concordat. As a form of research assessment, the research integrity principles are applied throughout including rigorous design of processes, the transparent articulation of assessment criteria and the care and respect for the individuals whose work is being assessed. Two dedicated sessions on responsible research assessment to Research Quality Leads in all units encourages adherence to these principles. In addition, RQR reporting for August 2025 asked all units to reflect on their approach to providing a vibrant and sustainable research culture and environment that supports high-quality research. This included a specific section on their activities aimed at supporting a culture that values integrity and ethics and enables their staff and students to engage with best practice. Finally, following the

release of the REF 2029 Codes of Practice guidance, Strathclyde has been developing our REF 2029 Code of Practice. Part of this includes looking at best practice in responsible research assessment to ensure that our REF preparations reward and recognise the diverse practices that maximise research quality and impact (including research integrity, open research and research data management and sharing).

This activity to embed research integrity into definitions of research quality is in line with our CoARA Action Plan, which sets out our vision for a positive research culture that recognises and rewards quality in all its forms, promotes research integrity and supports the career development of researchers. In 2024/25, progress against the action plan has included the establishment of a dedicated Responsible Research Assessment Working Group, bringing together professional services colleagues with responsibility for research assessment processes to promote coordinated reform and consistent application of key principles. Through this working group, guidance for annual performance and development reviews with researchers has been updated with clear incorporation of research integrity within the definitions of research quality. Areas where this could be embedded further to enhance the way that research quality is assessment have been identified by the working group.

Encouraging engagement with good research practice

In March 2025, Strathclyde held its third Research Integrity and Culture Week, aimed at promoting research integrity and a positive research culture. The week was delivered in collaboration with Heriot-Watt University, Dundee University and Queen Margaret University. Strathclyde delivered 14 events (three of which were delivered jointly with a collaborating university) and a further 9 events run by collaborating partners were made open to Strathclyde staff. Overall, there were around 400 attendances at events held in person and online at the four institutions across the week. At least 226 people attended events led or co-delivered by Strathclyde with a total of 343 individual attendances. This included 146 Strathclyde members of staff and PGRs and 97 attendees from around 50 external institutions, including universities, government agencies and funders across the UK.

Feedback from attendees was very positive with 92% of respondents saying they found the event they attended valuable and had learnt something that they can apply to their own work. SFC's Scottish Research Cultures Collaboration Manager, Dr Frances Medaney, said the Week was an important example of Scottish universities collaborating and UKRI's Research and Innovation Culture Manager, Hilary Noone, said it was great to see the level of engagement with key topics.

"The round-table discussions ensured that attendees could actively participate and share their thoughts. The atmosphere was welcoming and inclusive." - Professor, Faculty of Science

"I think it's a valuable initiative and I encourage lots of people to attend." -

Knowledge Exchange Fellow, Faculty of Engineering

"I learnt Strathclyde procedures are supportive rather than punitive" - Postgraduate Researcher, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Total attendance numbers from the Strathclyde research community (146) were slightly down compared to 2024 where 168 members of staff and PGRs had attended events. However, there were overall fewer events this year, 14, in comparison to 22 in 2024 and the average number of people at each event was higher at 19 compared to 13 in 2024 suggesting a more compact programme may encourage higher attendance at events. Based on sector interest and the success of collaborative delivery in previous years, Research Integrity and Culture Week is now being broadened to a Scotland-wide initiative supported by SFC's Scottish Research Cultures Collaboration Manager, Dr Frances Medaney.

Two part-time responsible research and innovation (RRI) champions were recruited at the end of 2024 to build on Strathclyde's existing training and resources to support staff in embedding RRI into their work. Between February-May 2025 seven focus groups were conducted to identify in which RRI areas staff need the most support, and what type of resources would be most useful. As a result, a number of resources are in the final stages of development, including an RRI-focused research lifecycle checklist and a series of case studies highlighting RRI practice as inspiring examples. Following focus group feedback, stakeholder and public engagement remains a priority area for developing further resources.

Ethics and Governance

Development of an online ethics application system has continued to progress in this review period. This has been merged with a wider plan to introduce a new pre- and post-award management system, which will have a module dedicated to Ethics. Revisions to the Code of Practice on Investigations Involving Human Beings, is also underway. The intention is to provide simpler documentation than the current CoP and to divide this into three sections:

- The broad principles of ethics review.
- Guide to completing an application for ethics approval.
- An expanded glossary including links to further information.

The Trusted Research & Innovation governance structure has been further developed in 2025, demonstrating the continued institutional wide commitment to embedding Trusted Research & Innovation. These three established groups bring together University-wide expertise to facilitate operational review of relevant cases through to oversight of all matters related to legislative compliance in this area, along with reporting to University Executive team. Notably, the innovative introduction of a 'Rapid Response Group' within the governance structure has ensured agile decision making to take place in accordance with agreed governance without delayed responses, whilst building further University policy, exemplars and

decision frameworks in this area. A Trusted Research & Innovation policy is now in place, further establishing the high-level principles the University will follow along with expectations for staff. As part of Research Integrity Culture Week, Strathclyde co-hosted an event with Dundee University 'Enabling international collaboration through good governance' on the 13th of March 2025, which attracted attendees from across the UK.

Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers ('Researcher Development Concordat')

The University continues to be strongly committed to the professional and career development of researchers to support good research practice, as demonstrated through our implementation of the Researcher Development Concordat. Considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Researcher Development Concordat at Strathclyde during the past year.

The focus of activities has been:

- Research Culture has remained a primary focus of the Researcher Development team in 2024/25. The team have been involved in the development of a new Research Culture Key Performance Indicator, demonstrating the University's continued commitment to improving Strathclyde's research environment.
- In 2025, Strathclyde successfully delivered its annual Research Integrity & Culture Week, this year in collaboration with Heriot Watt, Dundee and QMU Universities. The week saw improved engagement as the average number of unique attendees per activity, and general attendance per activity, increased from 2024.
- The Researcher Development Team continue to sit on and actively feed into the Open Research Action Group at Strathclyde. The Group have been investigating the feasibility of a new open access repository for research data and are in discussions regarding the development of bespoke workshops for Managers of Researchers in 2025/26.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

Reflection on 2024-25 activities

At Strathclyde, there is a strong foundation of policies, procedures and wider support mechanisms to enable good research practice. Though there is good, basic understanding of research integrity matters across the institution, awareness of specific formal procedures and reporting mechanisms, sources of support and guidance, and ongoing initiatives is still in development. When staff and students engage with provision (e.g. during Research Integrity and Culture Week), they are

often surprised by the quality and quantity of resources available to them. Through activities delivered in 2024-25, we have seen a slight increase in engagement with these resources.

However, involvement in research-integrity related sessions and engagement with communications, including targeted communication strategies and events as part of Research Integrity and Culture Week, appears to be limited to a consistent group of highly engaged staff and students. Moreover, participation in Research Integrity and Culture Week this year may have been affected by coincidence with strikes as well as wider resource-challenges that are facing the sector. This impacted on our ability to drive traffic to resources.

Recognising the need to become more efficient and effective in advocacy and awareness raising, activities in 2025-26 will focus on continuing to integrate research integrity into wider workstreams. It is hoped that this will more effectively enable staff and students to engage with key topics and will mitigate perception of engagement with research integrity as an additional burden. Key vehicles for this include REF 2029 preparations through the People, Culture and Environment and Contribution to Knowledge and Understanding elements, reform of responsible research assessment in line with our CoARA Action Plan, and research culture initiatives in alignment with the Researcher Development Concordat. An additional research integrity training course, formatted to be as short as possible whilst focusing on key definitions and signposting to resources, will be run in 2025-26 to test efficacy.

Plans for 2025-26

Research Integrity and Culture Week 2026

As mentioned above, it has been agreed that Research Integrity and Culture Week 2026 will be run as a Scotland-wide initiative with all Scottish institutions invited to participate. This will be coordinated by Dr Frances Medaney, SFC, with support from Strathclyde as a Founding Partner to provide collaborative leadership to a steering board.

Strathclyde will also run its own Research Integrity and Culture Week as part of the wider Scottish week which will include an end of project conference for the Wellcome Trust Institutional Research Culture funded Collaborative Cultures project – a two-day event considering everyday cultures of collaboration - and a Images of Collaboration competition – an exhibition of content designed and co-created with PGRs - alongside other internal and externally facing events as part of the wider Scottish week.

Embedding research integrity into research quality

As part of our REF 2029 Code of Practice, all key decision-makers will require mandatory training to ensure adherence to key principles of fairness and rigour in assessment procedures. At Strathclyde, this is seen as an opportunity to further embed best practice in research assessment, including recognition of the diverse

practices that contribute to the quality and impact of research. Taking a collaborative approach through the Scottish REF Managers' Group, it has been agreed that we will jointly develop shared training materials on key considerations in REF decisions (e.g. review and selection of outputs, review and selection of impact case studies, identification of volume contributing staff). This will cover the principles of responsible research assessment, equality, diversity and inclusion, and research integrity. By sharing these collaborative resources and sustaining a community of support, it is hoped that research managers will be empowered to promote best practice and ensure that assessments of quality are honest, rigorous, transparent, and accountable, with adequate care and respect for the individuals involved.

The Responsible Research Assessment Working Group will continue to embed responsible research assessment practices, including recognition of research integrity within research quality assessments. Procedures currently identified as within scope for 2025/26 include the annual performance and development reviews and the academic promotions procedure.

Encouraging engagement with good research practice

During Research Integrity and Culture Week 2025, an introductory session 'Research Integrity in an Hour' was piloted and well received. It has now been agreed that this will run regularly throughout the year to provide an entry point for staff and students who want to know more about research integrity processes at Strathclyde and meet the people behind the policies and procedures. Feedback indicated that a key benefit of the session was that it made institutional research integrity processes feel less daunting and promoted engagement with existing resources.

Ethics and governance

The ethics module in the pre- and post-awards management system is expected to be obtained in early 2026, with a dedicated systems officer post to support transition to roll out of the online ethics management system. Revisions to the Code of Practice will continue and guidance will be developed alongside to complement the Code.

In terms of Trusted Research & Innovation the focus will continue to be around deepening Departmental specialist knowledge in this area.

Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers ('Researcher Development Concordat')

Over the next year the focus will continue to be to continue to embed integrity and good research practice training within the Researcher and Manager of Researcher focused development programmes, as well as to support the development of KPI7 Research Culture in line with the "Research Culture" theme of the Researcher Development Concordat Action Plan.

Continuous improvement of research integrity related practices, policies and procedures

The Research Policy and Information team will continue to review its practices, policies and procedures to identify any potential actions that might enhance our strategy to promote good research practice. In addition to this, planning for a major review and update of the Procedure for Handling Allegations of Misconduct has commenced and will be progressed in 2025/26. The revisions will draw heavily on the UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research (Version 2.0, published 10/03/23).

2D. Case study on good practice (optional)

The Strathclyde approach on Trusted Research & Innovation (TR&I) underpins our Internationally Leading Research as a key part of our Strathclyde 2030 strategic vision, whilst protecting our people, academic endeavour, and reputation.

Work in this area is led by our Associate Principal Research & Innovation, and we have engaged closely with our Executive Team and Leadership Group to embed TR&I and convey messaging for dissemination. Our Research Code of Practice includes TR&I as a key enabler of collaborative and international research.

In 2023 we established an International Governance Support team in our Research & Knowledge Exchange Services (RKES) Directorate to support and enable international collaboration. The team act as an initial contact point for Departments to triage enquiries and determine escalation where required and also manage engagement with key external organisations and the wider sector. The team manage export control licence applications on behalf of the University.

Our TR&I governance structure, revised in 2025, demonstrates the continued institutional wide commitment to embedding TR&I and brings together University-wide colleagues and expertise across the three review groups.

- The TR&I Oversight Group reports into the University Executive team and is responsible for oversight of all matters related to legislative compliance for Export Control, the Academic Technology Approval Scheme, the National Security and Investment Act, and the forthcoming Foreign Influence Registration Scheme along with associated risk policy and management for the University. It carries out this role by: Developing strategic guidance for the University's approach to TR&I; ensuring informed risk-based decisions in compliance with national legislation and funder conditions; operationalising a TR&I risk framework for the institution, aligned with the University's corporate risk register; establishing a risk management framework consistent with the overall institutional framework to guide decision making around relevant areas of university activity; decision making on enquiries escalated from the TR&I Review Group and review of any TR&I related

policies.

- The TR&I Rapid Response Group is a subgroup of the TR&I Oversight Group and is responsible for ensuring rapid decisions are taken in accordance with the guidelines set by the TR&I Oversight Group on enquiries escalated from the TR&I Review Group or brought to the attention of the Convenor by a member of the Oversight Group and requiring decision prior to the next meeting of the Oversight Group.
- The TR&I Review Group reports to the TR&I Oversight Group is responsible for: decision making on escalated enquiries from RKES International Governance Support team and ensuring complex project level/enquiry decisions are taken in accordance with the guidelines and risk management frameworks set by the TR&I Oversight Group to guide decision making.

Internal processes and associated documents are in place and are continually reviewed to manage review of TR&I enquiries including:

- An Initial TR&I Considerations Form to self-evaluate any TR&I considerations prior to applying for funding for particular calls, this may be used to triage funding applications and provide input to both applicants and internal funding panels on the likely need for TR&I mitigations.
- An International Governance Enquiry Form – to be used when funding is awarded.
- Internal forms to undertake due diligence.

A TR&I policy has been approved by our Executive Team in February 2025. This policy establishes the high-level principles the University will follow along with expectations for staff. Informed by learning from our diverse range of TR&I related enquiries, this policy will be supplemented by an appendix containing detailed operational guidance on TR&I. A draft TR&I Risk Register has been established to record TR&I risks and associated mitigations. This document will be regularly reviewed by the TR&I Oversight Group.

Information and resources are made available to all staff via our dedicated internal portal, which includes links to key sector resources including the NPSA and NCSC Trusted Research Guidance for Academics and Trusted Research Countries and Conferences Guidance, along with recently launched NPSA Implementation Scenario Videos. An online University of Strathclyde awareness raising course on TR&I is available to all staff on our MyPlace system.

The University has implemented the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) and National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) Trusted Research Evaluation Framework (TREF), a maturity model for managing TR&I risks. In January 2025, a TREF baseline assessment exercise was undertaken, engaging extensively with colleagues across several University functional areas including Cybersecurity, Security, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications, Compliance, Innovation and Industry

Engagement, Safety Wellbeing and Resilience and Information Governance. The TR&I Oversight Group has oversight of this working document which will be continually reviewed to shape our approach to TR&I.

Outwith the University, we continue to engage with the sector in this area, both in the UK and internationally. The University a member of the Higher Education Security Forum (HESF) and the NPSA and NCSC Trusted Research Forum. As a founding member of the Higher Education Export Control Association, Strathclyde continues to engage in shaping and delivering HEECA activities, including chairing the HEECA Security Subgroup.

At an operational level, the University engages with both Scottish and UK wide Trusted Research practitioner networks and works closely with other Universities both locally and internationally. As part of Research Integrity Culture Week, we co-hosted an event with University of Dundee 'Enabling international collaboration through good governance' on the 13th of March 2025, which attracted attendees from across the UK. As an active member of CESAER Task Force Openness of Science & Technology, which promotes secure research collaboration across Europe we have presented our work in this area as part of an international Research Security seminar series. As a result of this we will be on the panel of the 'Getting started with research security: safeguarding and advancing open and secure R&I through institutional Practices' session at the European Flagship Conference on Research Security, being held in Brussels in October 2025.

Jonathan Scott, International Governance Support Manager, Research and Knowledge Exchange Services, University of Strathclyde. 22nd August 2025.

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

As outlined in the Research Code of Practice, Strathclyde adopts the Research Integrity Concordat definition of research misconduct and has processes in place for the reporting and investigation of research misconduct. Any allegation of research misconduct involving a researcher at the University is treated as a serious matter and is investigated according to the following procedures:

- Allegations of research misconduct concerning registered University students will be considered under the terms of the University's Student Discipline Procedure: Academic Misconduct.
- Allegations of research misconduct concerning University staff will be investigated in accordance with the Process for Investigating Allegations of Research Misconduct.
- Allegations of research misconduct concerning any individual with visiting, honorary or emeritus status at the University should be addressed in writing to the relevant Dean who will undertake an initial assessment of the allegations, confidentially undertaking informal enquiries as necessary to clarify the nature of the allegations. The Dean may delegate the undertaking of informal enquiries, ensuring that such input avoids conflicts of interest and provides an appropriate level of expertise in the scientific area. As those with visiting, honorary or emeritus status are not University employees, workers or registered students, the process for any further investigation required and for determining subsequent actions will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the relevant Dean.

Planning for a major review and update of the Procedure commenced in 2023-24 and is ongoing. The revisions will draw heavily on the UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research (Version 2.0, published 10/03/23).

The University also has a Public Interest Disclosure Policy which can be invoked in certain circumstances and under which an investigation may be carried out to determine if any impropriety or breach of University regulations has occurred.

Enabling reporting of concerns

The University is committed to acting with no detriment to whistle-blowers who have made allegations of misconduct unless such allegations are made maliciously. This means that the University will take reasonable steps to safeguard the reputation of anyone who appropriately reports concerns about research misconduct, which includes avoiding the inappropriate use of legal instruments, such as non-disclosure agreements. All allegations of research misconduct are taken

seriously and investigated in line with the processes outlined in the Research Code of Practice and the University takes steps to resolve any issues found during the investigation. This can include imposing sanctions, requesting a correction of the research record and reporting action to relevant external bodies. If involvement in research misconduct procedures at any point has an impact on the emotional and mental wellbeing of the complainant or the respondent, the University has a suite of support and guidance resources for staff and for students, including access to counselling. The information listed here with regards to making allegations of research misconduct is stated in the Guide to Good Research Practice and reiterated at research integrity training and events to reassure staff and students that they would be supported if they reported research misconduct.

Inappropriate behaviours, such as bullying and harassment, can occur alongside serious and intentional cases of research misconduct as the researcher attempts to cover their actions. Even where inappropriate behaviours are not associated with research misconduct, they can damage the research culture. The University actively encourages reporting of any incidence of inappropriate behaviour, so that it can be challenged and addressed and so that support can be provided to those affected. To enable this, the University has established a framework, Safe360°, for protecting people's health, safety, wellbeing and human rights within the context of university activity. It underpins the University's duty of care and enhances support mechanisms for students and staff, integrating national guidance and University policies and procedures. As part of Safe360°, the University runs an online reporting tool – Report & Support – which can be used to report inappropriate behaviours such as harassment or discrimination or to raise concerns about safety and issues that undermine the University's inclusive environment. If reports of research misconduct are made via Report & Support, or reports of other inappropriate behaviour mentions potential research misconduct, the report will be shared with research-integrity@strath.ac.uk so that the potential misconduct can be investigated through the appropriate procedures.

Lessons learned

During the reporting period (2024-25), no allegations of misconduct were still under investigation from the previous year, and 9 new expressions of concern were received. Of these, 5 cases were found by the Research Standards Advisory Group to have involved research misconduct and corrective measures were taken. 2 cases were found to have not involved research misconduct. 2 additional cases are still under investigation (August 2025).

In 2024-25 we saw an increased number of reports around misconduct which has influenced the development of our revision of the Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research, which will commence in 2025-6. It is unclear whether this increase in reporting is due to the higher profile given to research misconduct as part of wider research integrity training and awareness raising; this will be

clearer in 2025-26, but indications of increased awareness of centralised University support in this area are positive so far.

The new record keeping system for enquiries and allegations around misconduct which was implemented in 2023-4 has been successful in ensuring excellent recording of issues around misconduct and in recording areas for potential development to be addressed either through training or through the revision of the Code. Cases in 2024-5 have offered increased insights into the needs of the research community around appropriate communications, appeals, and the interaction of the University's systems with external organisations at local, national, and international levels.

3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken in 2024/25

Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication				
Falsification	1			
Plagiarism	1	1		1
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	4	3 [†]		3
Misrepresentation (eg data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	1	1		1
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct				
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	2	2 [†]		
Other*				
Total:	9	7		5
*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.				
<i>[Please insert response if applicable]</i>				

[†] Two investigations are still ongoing (August 2025).