Annual Statement on Research Integrity

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

During the period of review, the named person for matters of research integrity stood down from the role. We are looking to appoint another academic colleague for this role at the October URIEC meeting. In the interim allegations of research misconduct may be raised directly with the Deputy Named Person Prof Jon Whitehead or the DVC Research and Innovation and informal queries may be raised with the Research Governance Manager.

Named person appointed at URIEC October 2022 meeting – Stephanie Armstrong, Acting Associate Professor

Activities undertaken

- Research Integrity and ethics training mandatory for all PGR students
- Research Integrity and ethics training available to all academic staff as part of the Academic Development Programme
- Research Integrity in Practice training available to academic and professional services staff, and PGR students
- The University’s external webpages updated to reflect the ongoing commitment to the Concordat for Research Integrity
- Internal webpages have been reviewed and updated to provide practical guidance and links in relation to research integrity
- Training material further developed to support the Research Ethics process – incorporating aspects of Research Integrity where relevant
- Updates as required via the Research and Industrial Partnerships newsletter / all staff emails and news.
- Research Integrity information cascaded to academic colleagues by the research ethics leads / ethics leads form / module leads (for student research)
- The Human Tissue Oversight Group (HTOG) have undertaken a desk-based audit to check compliance with Human Tissue (Research) Quality Management System
- UKRIO Self-Assessment Tool for The Concordat to Support Research Integrity completed, which has identified actions for the 22/23 academic year
• The new university Research Knowledge Exchange Strategy gives specific reference research integrity
• All UG/PGT students moved to the university’s online ethics system LEAS.

**Action Plan for 2022/2023:**

• Further increase engagement awareness amongst staff and PGR students by actively engaging in Doctoral School Inductions
• Review UKRIO Self-Assessment Tool for The Concordat to Support Research Integrity V2.0 and work on improving research culture.
• Continue delivering Research Integrity in Practice (RIP) training and make available to all staff and PGR community. Identify academic colleagues to cascade training to UG/PGT community.
• Review the University’s e-learning provision for Research Integrity and Ethics training – developing training in relation to ethics, Responsible Research and Innovation, Impact, Clinical Governance SOP compliance.
• Undertake a review of the university’s electronic ethics platform (LEAS) in response to feedback from a variety of stakeholders (academic, professional services and students).

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

The university adopted the 2008 UKRIO Procedure for the investigation of misconduct in research.

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

The university has not undertaken any formal investigations of research misconduct in the period of this annual statement.

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

No formal investigations have been undertaken.

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**

In the line with the new Research Knowledge Exchange Strategy the university is committed to nurture a research, knowledge exchange and impact culture that is ambitious, collegiate, focused and agile, and upholds integrity.

The university is looking to further develop in relation to further raising the profile of ethics leads and developing forums to act as safe spaces for colleagues (staff and students) to discuss ethical dilemmas, errors and mistakes in research practice, reproducibility and research improvement which is supportive.

6. **Information on periodic review of research misconduct processes**

The universities Procedure for the investigation of research misconduct requires review and update in line with the UKRIO revisions – this will be undertaken in 22/23 academic year.

7. **Contact details for queries**

Please email ethics@lincoln.ac.uk