



Senate

<b>Paper Title</b>	<b>Research Integrity Policy</b>
<b>Outcome requested</b>	To <b>approve</b> the revised Research Integrity Policy
<b>Points for Senate members to note and further information</b>	The existing policy, approved by Senate in 2014, is provided in Appendix A for comparison. The most significant amendment is the acknowledgement that the Research Integrity Committee have assumed responsibility for research integrity policy and strategy within the University. Previously, this resided with the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee (QMERC).
<b>Questions for Senate to consider</b>	Is Senate satisfied with the revisions to the policy?
<b>Regulatory/statutory reference points</b>	The University subscribes to the commitments of the Universities UK (UUK) Concordat to Support Research Integrity.
<b>Strategy and risk</b>	Ensuring that our research is carried out with rigour and regard to ethical considerations is a professional responsibility of all researchers and is essential to our reputation for research excellence. This is required to ensure the confidence of funders and others. Ensuring that our governance and processes for dealing with allegations of research misconduct are transparent and robust allows for the quality of our research and reputation to be maintained.
<b>Reporting/consideration route for the paper</b>	
<b>Authors</b>	James Patterson, Research Integrity and Assurance Officer
<b>Sponsor</b>	Professor Andrew Livingston, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)



## **Queen Mary Policy on Research Integrity: Revised version**

Queen Mary University of London is committed to the highest standards of integrity and probity in the conduct of research and our procedures are aligned to those established by the United Kingdom Research Integrity Office (UKRIO). To this end, the University subscribes to the commitments of the Universities UK (UUK) *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*, which are as follows:

- Maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research.
- Ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal, and professional frameworks, obligations, and standards.
- Supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice, and support for the development of researchers.
- Using transparent, robust, and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise.
- Working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

These commitments form an integral part of Queen Mary's approach to the ethical conduct of research, its mission, and values. The Queen Mary Strategy and the statement of our values are published at

<http://www.qmul.ac.uk/strategy/the%20strategy/index.html>

The Queen Mary Research Integrity Committee has been granted authority by Senate to discuss and propose policies for embedding a culture of good research practice, characterised by honesty, rigour, transparency, care and respect, and accountability. This encompasses issues such as training and data-management among others. The Committee is also charged with the oversight of investigations into allegations of research misconduct.

In tandem, the Senate has authorised the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee (Q MERC) to review the ethics of research studies involving human participants recruited outside the NHS. This is to ensure that ethical risks are minimised in accordance with University policy. The Committee is also responsible for ensuring that researchers and other colleagues are advised appropriately about research ethics and for developing relevant policy.

<http://www.jrmo.org.uk/performing-research/conducting-research-with-human-participants-outside-the-nhs/qmerc/>



## Queen Mary Policy on Research Integrity

Queen Mary is committed to producing and promoting high quality research which is conducted according to the highest standards of integrity. To support these aims, in all fields of research, Queen Mary has adopted the commitments of the UUK “*Concordat to support research integrity*”<sup>1</sup> which are:

- Maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research;
- Ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal, and professional frameworks, obligations, and standards;
- Supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice, and support for the development of researchers;
- Using transparent, robust, and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise;
- Working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

These commitments form an integral part of Queen Mary’s approach to the ethical conduct of research, its mission and values. The Queen Mary Strategy and the statement of our values are published at <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/strategy/the%20strategy/index.html>

All Queen Mary research policies require that ethical risks should be minimised; risks should be appropriately and adequately managed where they cannot be eliminated.

Research must be demonstrably independent.

Conflicts of interest should be avoided; if a conflict cannot be avoided, it should be clearly declared to all those involved in the study, its publication, and any work resulting from it.

The Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee has been authorised by Senate to advise on all research policies, to oversee their ethical content, and to provide advice on ethical and related issues arising from their implementation. This includes training of researchers, data management, research misconduct, discrimination, confidentiality, and acceptance of funding.

The Senate has granted authority to the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee to establish criteria, processes, and procedures to enact this policy and to grant approval to research according to its terms.

### Authorisation

This policy was approved by the Queen Mary Senate on 4 December 2014

### Further information

Please see <http://connect.qmul.ac.uk/research/ethics-of-research-committee/index.html>

---

1

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Pages/Theconcordattosupportresearchintegrity.aspx#.UpN4tdJSgqo>