

## University of Oxford annual statement on research integrity (2025)

The University is committed to enabling ambitious research of exceptional quality, underpinned by the highest standards of ethics and integrity, to ensure that research is reliable and trustworthy. The University's commitment to research integrity is reflected and embedded in its institutional systems and culture and an ongoing programme of review and improvement. Support for research practice, of which research integrity is a key component, is one of three core pillars of the University's programme of support for research culture.

The University supports and abides by the principles of the [UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#), which requires that all employers of researchers prepare and publish a short annual statement on research integrity. Past annual statements are publicly accessible from the University's [Research Integrity and Practice web page](#).

This statement was prepared for the University's Research and Innovation Committee to fulfil this obligation; it summarises related policies, training, and guidance available to support researchers and to report on activity and initiatives related to research integrity undertaken across the University in calendar year 2025. The statement was drafted and coordinated by Research Services, with contributions from Human Resources, the Proctors' Office, Bodleian Libraries, the Researcher Hub, Divisional Research offices, and IT Services.

### Section

#### 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
<b>1A. Name of organisation</b>	University of Oxford
<b>1B. Type of organisation</b>	Higher Education Institution
<b>1C. Date statement approved by Research and Innovation Committee (on behalf of Council)</b>	5 March 2026
<b>1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page</b>	<a href="https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/research-culture-oxford/research-integrity-and-misconduct">https://www.ox.ac.uk/research/support-researchers/research-culture-oxford/research-integrity-and-misconduct</a>
<b>1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity</b>	Professor Patrick Grant, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) – for research integrity email: <a href="mailto:patrick.grant@admin.ox.ac.uk">patrick.grant@admin.ox.ac.uk</a>  Gill Aitken, Registrar – for allegations of research misconduct email: <a href="mailto:registrar@admin.ox.ac.uk">registrar@admin.ox.ac.uk</a>
<b>1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity</b>	Name: Kate Dunbar, Research Policy Manager (Integrity) email: <a href="mailto:kate.dunbar@admin.ox.ac.uk">kate.dunbar@admin.ox.ac.uk</a>

## 2A. Description of current systems and culture

### Governance of research integrity at the University of Oxford

[Research and Innovation Committee](#), chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, and reporting directly to Council, has central responsibility for advising on policies which promote research integrity (also termed good practice in research). Its members include senior academic representatives from all four Academic Divisions, from Colleges, as well as research staff and student representatives. It has [delegated responsibility](#) to approve, on behalf of Council, the annual statement of compliance with the UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

The Registrar is the senior named officer within the University with designated responsibility for responding to allegations of misconduct in research. The Research Policy Manager (Integrity), Kate Dunbar, is currently named as the [contact](#) for those wishing to raise, in confidence, concerns about the conduct of University research, before any formal allegation is made.

The [Research Practice Subcommittee](#), co-chaired by Professor Susanna-Assunta Sansone, the Academic Lead for Research Culture (Research Practice) and Dr Tanita Casci, Director, Research Strategy & Policy Unit, is responsible for overseeing initiatives and policies to strengthen research culture across the University as this relates to research practice.

### Policies, systems, and support

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity requires the University to have clear policies, practices and procedures relating to research integrity. A summary of the University's related policies is included as Appendix A.

The University's [research ethics policy](#) requires that all research involving human participants and personal data be subject to appropriate ethics review. In the case of clinical trials or research involving National Health Service (NHS) patients, ethics review and approval must be provided via the NHS Research Ethics Committees. Other research involving human participants and personal data is reviewed via processes overseen by the [Central University Research Ethics Committee](#) (CUREC), which reports annually to Research and Innovation Committee, and by CUREC's sub-committees.

The University of Oxford's [animal use policy](#) requires that anyone involved in research that includes the use of animals is proactive in pursuing refinement, reduction, and replacement in procedures involving live animals wherever possible. In addition, all researchers and animal care staff must ensure they engage fully in the approved ethical process of review and monitoring of animal-based research. The [Animal Care and Ethical Review Committee](#) (ACER) is required to report annually to Council on all activities concerned with research management and compliance with licensing.

The [Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure](#) sets out the University's expectations and standards for research conduct for all its staff, students and anyone using the University's premises, facilities or funding for their research. The Code (available via the [Human Resources website](#) and [the University's webpages on Research Integrity](#)) also provides the University's definition of misconduct in research, sets out the formal procedure that applies in the event of suspected misconduct in research, and directs University members to sources of advice and support on good practice, including the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO), of which the University is a subscribing member. Through its UKRIO membership, University staff and students have access to confidential advice and assistance around questions and concerns about the design, conduct and reporting of academic research. UKRIO's popular training events are widely promoted within Oxford.

Institutional services for managing and archiving research data are the [Research File Service](#), [the LabArchives electronic lab notebook service](#), [Oxford University Research Archive \(ORA\)](#) (the University's institutional repository), [Sustainable Digital Scholarship](#), and [Digisafe](#), a digital preservation service.

## Training and development

Research integrity training is compulsory for all University research staff and students.

[Online research integrity training](#) (licensed from Epigeum) provides an introduction to research integrity.

The core introductory research integrity course has been designed to support researchers from all disciplines through some of the key issues that need to be considered when planning, conducting, and reporting research. The core course is compulsory for research students, either on graduate taught courses or studying for research degrees. There is a concise refresher version of the course available, suitable for more experienced researchers, e.g. postdoctoral researchers and established academic staff.

Modules that supplement the core training and only apply to certain types of research, are also available:

- Research involving human participants
- Research involving animals
- Conflicts of interest
- Intellectual property
- Trusted Research and export controls

All these courses are freely available to any University staff or student and are widely promoted to researchers and students by Research Services, the University's ethics committees, Divisions, Departments, Faculties, and Doctoral Training Centres, including at induction and related training events. Information about the training is outlined in the Research and Innovation intranet pages, Divisional, and Departmental websites; the research integrity courses are also signposted within ethics application forms and embedded within graduate student forms and processes.

Uptake and completion of research integrity training is monitored by the Research Practice team in Research Services. In 2025, there has been an increase of 7% over 2024 in the total number of research staff and students completing both the online core research integrity training and the refresher training (Table 1).

Table 1. Research Integrity course (core and refresher) completion numbers in 2025 (with 2024 numbers for comparison)

	Students	Staff	Total (2025)	(2024 total numbers)
Research Integrity core course	2,074	573	2,647	(2,283)
Research Integrity refresher course	121	535	656	(800)
			3,303	(3,083)

To gain an understanding of the uptake of research integrity training by researchers, course completion rates were determined for 2024/25 new staff appointments whose contracts are classified as having the primary purpose of teaching & research or research only. The period for training selected was 2022-2025, for which course completion data is available, but also to capture course completion for those staff who previously were students or held a different appointment. Due to the inherent difficulty of using staff contract data to report on people, certain approximations had to be made that mean that the results by Division should be taken as indicative. Of the 2047 new appointees, we estimate that just under a third, 31% have completed the course at some point since 2022, with completion rates higher than this overall figure for appointments in the Medical Sciences and Social Sciences Divisions and lower for appointments in the Humanities and Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Divisions.

Beyond the main research integrity training provision above, there is a wide variety of in-person training and other professional development available related to research integrity and practice (e.g. Good Clinical Practice (GCP), human research ethics, animal research ethics, research data management, open access, research methodology, experimental design, and research skills training. These are organised and delivered by the University's Divisions, Departments and Faculties, [Doctoral Training Centres](#), [Bodleian Libraries](#), [People and Organisational Development](#), [IT Services](#), [Biomedical Services](#), the [Researcher Hub](#) and [Research Services](#).

A major focus of activity in 2025 has been the promotion and communication of the core online training in good research practice now freely available to all Oxford researchers.

The modules include:

- Research Integrity, Ethics and Governance at Oxford
- Open Research Practices
- Research Design
- Collaboration
- Data
- Authorship, Publication and Peer Review
- Engagement and Impact

The course contents will be made available to external users and other institutions in 2026.

Induction events for new research staff, organised centrally by the Researcher Hub, include a session about research integrity and good practice, delivered by members of the Research Practice team. In 2025, 6 induction events were delivered, 3 online and 3 in-person. Participants receive an invitation to attend within the first 18 months of their contract start date; in 2025, 178 attendees attended an induction event.

Termly induction events for new research staff organised by the Divisions include sessions about research integrity and practice, delivered by members of the relevant division with support from the central Research Practice team and the Research Governance Ethics and Assurance team. Bespoke induction events organised by Departments and Faculties include, on request, sessions about research integrity and practice, delivered by members of the Research Practice team and the Research Governance Ethics and Assurance team.

The research integrity checklist (available internally), structured in relation to different aspects of research integrity, and reviewed annually, has been designed to assist supervisors and researchers not only to abide by the principles set out in the [University's Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure](#) but also to engage in a broader dialogue about research integrity and good practice in research.

The [Researcher's Trailmap](#), distributed and promoted via the Researcher Hub (and reviewed annually), has been designed to help Principal Investigators to have structured conversations with research staff about research practice and career development. The Trailmap lists completing research integrity training as the first action on joining Oxford.

In 2025, the Research Governance, Ethics and Assurance team continued to deliver Health Research Authority (HRA) & Ethics training (98 people attending) and GCP for Labs (51 people attending).

### **Research culture**

The University's [research culture programme](#) is centred on three pillars, adopted as a framework for investment and communication:

- Research practice: enabling researchers to do reliable, reproducible, transparent research
- Valuing contributions: recognising diverse talents, skills, outputs, and activities
- Careers: assessing research fairly, within an equitable working environment and supporting the professional development of researchers at all career stages

The pillars are necessarily interconnected, and underpinning projects span more than one pillar.

The University's five Research Culture Facilitators (supported by the Research England Enhancing Culture Fund), are based in the Divisions; their role is to support the development and implementation of the University's research culture programme, and to share learning and best practice.

The University's RISN (Research and Innovation Support Network) has several communities of practice (CoPs), including the Research Culture CoP; RISN has a membership of 980 research and innovation support professionals.

### **Sector engagement relating to research integrity and practice**

The University recognises the importance of collaborating with partner institutions, at a national and international level, to facilitate networking and good practice in how to support and encourage research integrity.

- Members of Research Services continue to be active members of the Russell Group Research Integrity Forum, and the League of European Research Universities (LERU) Research Integrity Policy Group.
- Throughout 2025, members of the Research Strategy and Policy Unit and RISN were invited to participate in various national and international events about research culture and practice. Colleagues gave presentations on developing and enabling cultures of good research practice as part of [University of Florida's seminar series on Rigor and Reproducibility](#), and were part of panels on Data-Driven Benchmarking and Assessment in Research at the [Academic Publishing in Europe \(APE 2025\)](#) conference in Berlin, and on "Collective Action and Innovative Approaches to Recognition and Reward: International Inspiration" and "Participant Dialogue: Building on International Initiatives" at the [2025 National Conference on Research Integrity](#) in Chicago, USA. Others contributed a book chapter on collegiality in academia and are also on the external advisory board for the University of Durham's Wellcome-funded project on [inclusivity in university governance](#).
- The Director, Research Strategy & Policy Unit, was an external advisor to UKRIO on developing the "Detailed template procedure for investigating breaches of research integrity".
- Team members were awarded competitive places on the [UKRI Data sandpit for metascience](#) that brought together metascience researchers to interrogate UKRI funding data and find actionable insights to improve UKRI decision-making. The team members joined cross-institutional teams, which were awarded research grants for 2 metascience projects: investigating how to use past award data to predict future popular topics and identify excellent researchers, and to improve peer review for grant awards.
- The University is an institutional member of the [UK Reproducibility Network \(UKRN\)](#) and is an active participant in the [UKRN Open Research Programme](#), with particular engagement in the Training work package.
- The University volunteered to participate in the [REF People, Culture and Environment \(PCE\) pilot](#), as one of 40 HEIs which together produced 115 submissions at unit-level across 8 Units of Assessment (UOA), and 40 institution level submissions for assessment. As part of the pilot, Oxford submitted 4 UOA-level statements and one institutional-level PCE statement.

## **2B. Changes and developments during the period under review**

### **Governance of research integrity at the University of Oxford**

There has been no change to the governance structures (as detailed in section 2A) in 2025.

#### **Policies, systems, and support**

##### **Research ethics**

The Research Ethics policy was reviewed and revised in 2025, with approval in early 2026.

A new Online Ethics Application System (Worktribe) was introduced to support the preparation, submission and review of applications to its institutional research ethics committees. Following a successful phased rollout across each division in 2024, all ethics applications under CUREC are managed via this system which has so far supported nearly 2,000 applications. The system is improving administration and providing transparency for our ethics review pathways.

The research ethics secretariat in the Research Governance, Ethics and Assurance team has recorded a suite of online training materials for applicants and reviewers, and delivered 3 divisional termly talks and 4 bespoke departmental training sessions to a total of 247 staff and students in 2025.

Suggested updates to the Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure were agreed by Research and Innovation Committee at their meeting in October 2025, in response to updates to the UK Concordat on Research Integrity. The Code will be updated and approved in 2026.

### **Emerging research policy issues**

In 2025, the [Policy for using Generative AI in Research](#) was developed through a process of co-creation with researchers who use Generative AI in their research and domain experts. The policy aims to enable and support the responsible use of Generative AI by researchers and professional staff. It sets out seven expectations, all researchers and professional staff supporting researchers are expected to meet, while also complying with relevant funder and publisher policies, and professional guidelines. The policy lists support provided by the University; it will be reviewed on a termly basis by a specially convened policy advisory group to ensure the policy is kept up to date. The policy should be read alongside a list of FAQs that provide good practice advice.

### **Research Practice**

One of the key pillars of the wider University programme to advance research culture is providing enhanced support for research practice, including research integrity. This work is coordinated by the [Research Practice Subcommittee](#), working closely with the Divisions and forms part of the [Research Culture](#) programme.

The Research Practice Subcommittee received University funding for a programme of work of key interventions to:

1. Support researchers in finding support for and implementing beneficial research practice.
2. Mitigate the biggest risks for the researcher and the University (e.g., data loss) and increase regulatory compliance.
3. Increase operational efficiency by creating a virtual collaborative team drawn from the range of relevant expertise.

This Research Practice Subcommittee programme was the outcome of a collaborative consultation with the Divisions. The five interventions span:

- i. Developing a “concierge” service that, through a single first point of contact (web, human, AI-enabled), supports users to discover and use the resources, policies and support available for research practice.
- ii. Creating an integrated RDM environment at Oxford which helps researchers to store, process, analyse, preserve and share their research data easily and securely.
- iii. Enhancing provision and discovery of cross-disciplinary research practice training and skills development.
- iv. Extending current repository provision to research outputs including code, workflows, and artefacts. Supporting the grassroots Reproducible Research Oxford (RROx) community in promoting open and reproducible research.
- v. Updating or consolidating policies, and supporting preparations for REF 2029.

Work on these interventions started in 2025 and will continue in 2026.

### **Open research**

[Shortform Hosting at Oxford \(SHOx\)](#), which went live in November 2025, is a new service supporting a variety of shortform open access publication types set up and run by Oxford staff and students, including peer-reviewed journals, conference proceedings, reports and working papers. Designed for researchers and editors who want a

professional, sustainable, and scholar-led publishing platform, SHOx supports the entire publishing workflow, including submission, peer review and online publication. Works are made available under a ‘diamond’ open access model: they are free to publish and read.

In July 2025, the Open Access Compliance Project concluded successfully, delivering enhancements to ORA. In this project, ORA account-holders were invited to affiliate their ORCID iD with their Oxford single-sign-on (SSO); notices sent out have significantly boosted Oxford-linked ORCID affiliations (~34K). A major communications campaign was prepared in tandem to prepare researchers for new REF 2029 open access requirements from 1 January 2026.

In December 2025, the University signed up to an 18-month pilot of the [protocols.io](https://protocols.io) platform, which offers centralised storage and management of research method content, to facilitate ethical open research practice and enable strong collaboration between researchers.

Symplectic Elements, the University's current research information system, is configured to allow users to record their contribution to a research output via a dropdown menu as per [Contributor Roles Taxonomy](#) (CRediT). This functionality is promoted via our 'CRediT and Symplectic Elements' webpage. In calendar year 2025, uptake has been as follows (table 6):

Table 6: CRediT roles

<b>CRediT roles recorded</b>	2,254
<b>Outputs with CRediT role recorded</b>	352
<b>People with a CRediT role recorded</b>	521

### Research data management

In line with Oxford's move to make institutional information more findable and less fragmented, support materials from the Research Data Oxford web site have been migrated to the new intranet.

The [Research File Service](#) (RFS), which provides research data storage facilities for data volumes between 100GB and 20TB, continues to build its user base and storage, while making changes to how users authenticate to enhance ease of use. In January 2025, there were ~ 350 users, 160 projects and ~ 0.23PB used. At the end of 2025, RFS had over 700 users, over 250 projects, and stored just under 0.5PB of data.

A Text Data Mining (TDM) pilot project was completed in 2025, providing resources, guidance and training to researchers and librarians, to access and work with very large volumes of data or text.

With the University a member of the [SafePod](#) network, providing secure on-site access to sensitive datasets for research purposes. A Bodleian Libraries staff member was the first Coordinator in the UK to achieve Platinum status through the SPN Coordinator Awards Scheme by successfully managing 200 SafePod bookings.

### International research collaboration

The University introduced a new University-wide export control policy in early 2025. This has been supported by expanded Trusted Research awareness campaigns and training, enhancing awareness and understanding across the University, focussing on the higher-risk areas of physical, engineering, and medical sciences. The University has provided a range of resources to support academics and departments in implementing Trusted Research risk management and related compliance, included a dedicated central support team and resource hub.

In 2025, 1,032 staff attended training across the year, with many attending multiple training events to varying depths of knowledge; a 3.5-fold increase on the previous year. Plans for the coming year include the roll-out of a screening tool enabling researchers to identify quickly which risks to consider, a new, more effective, due diligence process, and a Trusted Research training programme for researchers.

The University regularly engages with the Research Collaboration and Advice Team in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), participates in the National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) STEM Universities Forum, and collaborates with sector groups to share good practice.

### Training and development

As of December 2025 a PowerBI dashboard is in operation to improve and standardise data and visualisation of research integrity mandatory and refresher training course uptake, allowing departments and divisions to monitor course completion by staff and students; the report does not yet permit easy tracking of staff and students who should be completing the course or provide an institutional level view on percentages of course completion.

In mid-2023, termly live online Narrative CV (NCV) training was launched, and has so far reached over 1,000 attendees. Learning outcomes are evidenced through pre and post training polls, which continue to show increases in both awareness of and preparedness to write NCVs, with typical scores rising from around 1 to 3 out of 5.

New for the 2025–26 academic year is NCV for career development provision. The MSD Research Culture team has developed a tool that uses the narrative CV to support career planning and professional development. This sits alongside a 'Narrative CVs for Career Development' training pack created by the Careers Service and informed by a successful pilot delivered at the MSD Research Staff Forum in November 2025. The training pack will be made available to colleagues across the University to support localised delivery.

As part of Oxford's participation in UKRN, three new early-career UKRN Local Network Leads (LNL) were appointed to join the remaining two experienced leads to champion and support open and transparent research practices across the University as part of RROx. In 2025, the LNLs ran events that included 2 Software Carpentries workshops, with 61 and 30 participants respectively, the "Ultimate Lab Mishaps Quiz" in the Nuffield Department of Medicine, with 14 participants working through 12 stories focused on reproducible research and common laboratory mishaps, and RROx Runners, a newly established run-walk group to provide a low-pressure environment for "thinking out loud" about reproducible research.

A workshop on Responsible Research and Innovation was organised for more than 25 students in the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences Division (MPLS) in January 2025.

In the academic year 2024/25 there were 45 library iSkills workshops in Open Scholarship/Open Research, with 516 attendees.

The Oxford Research Software Engineering Group is offering regular termly [software engineering courses](#) for Oxford graduate students and staff.

### Research culture

Many projects are underway to advance [research culture](#), including improved support for research practice.

To aid clarity and consistency of approach across the University, a research culture "toolkit" was developed to identify where gaps might exist in how culture is supported and to surface existing good practice. The Toolkit is being used by the divisional Research Culture Facilitators and colleagues as a framework for providing structured support to Departments and Faculties, which will also aid the University's preparations for REF 2029. The Toolkit uses a framework of Topics, and Departments and Faculties use a Template to collate information, as well as providing signposting to useful information and ideas for strengthening research culture.

Following a successful pilot phase in 2024, the Toolkit was rolled out to all Departments and Faculties in early 2025 and >80% of Departments and Faculties provided information on their research culture activities via the Toolkit. Findings were discussed at the university 'Research Culture at Oxford: What's Next?' event in June 2025. The project team has reviewed information gathered from the Toolkit interactions with Departments and Faculties and the 'What's Next?' event and identified and prioritised areas that would benefit from coordinated interventions. Departments and Faculties will be further supported to enhance good practice through new resources and by the divisional Research Culture Facilitators and will be asked for updates to their Toolkit information during 2026.

The [2025 Oxford Forum of Open Scholarship \(OxFOS\)](#) was a two-week festival on open research, aimed primarily at researchers and research support staff, covering a range of topical issues, with over 600 attendees.

Other research culture projects include the development of the [Academic Career & Reward Framework \(ACRF\)](#) to improve the career paths, workload, and reward and recognition of academics (including in the areas of rigorous and responsible practice). In 2025, ACRF Workstream Leads coordinated an extensive programme of engagement including over 70 meetings, during which more than 400 staff across the collegiate University informed the framework's development.

The [Vice-Chancellor's Awards](#) are a University-wide celebration of outstanding people. In 2025, the Research Culture award to recognise those who have contributed to a positive, inclusive, and equitable research culture was awarded to the Wellcome Centre for Integrative Neuroimaging's annual Ambassador Programmes, for their work providing training, support, and recognition for students and staff on public engagement, open science and EDI since 2017, and the TORCH Medical Humanities Research Hub for highlighting the contribution of the humanities to the understanding of health, disease, and medicine.

## 2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

### Training and development

The development of research integrity and practice training is taking place in a wider environment of greater awareness of and engagement with related issues. The advantage of online training is that it provides University-wide access to generic introductory training. An ongoing challenge remains the ability to deliver discipline-specific training, at scale, to all researchers. Divisions have already requested extensions of online training modules to be created as in-person workshops, with research integrity as the first topic, but also expanding to include other topics in the research practice programme.

In 2025, 5 induction and information sessions were run on the research practice training modules, presented to over 100 people. These were:

- Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee
- MSD Graduate School
- Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology & Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS)
- History Graduates
- Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology
- Faculty of History, Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities
- Uehiro Oxford Institute

Departments and divisions can monitor research practice training modules' completion by staff and students with the assistance of the Power BI dashboard that harvests data from the University's training and course management system platform.

### Research practice survey

In spring 2025, a University-wide survey of research staff and students was conducted around good practice in research (including research integrity), which served to raise awareness of related policies and practices, but also helped to shape the development of future policy, guidance and training in research practice. This survey adds to results of a similar survey held in 2024, allowing the tracking of changes in user experience and knowledge. A similar survey but targeted specifically at open research practices and part of a nationwide survey effort by UK Reproducibility Network, was also run at the same time as the 2025 survey.

Both surveys targeted a representative sample of staff and students involved in research across all Divisions and career stages at the University in May–June 2025, receiving over 500 full responses. Taken together, the surveys

revealed a disparity in awareness of facets of research practice (e.g., FAIR data, Trusted Research, and preregistration are much less known and used than others) while some practices were well-known and embraced (e.g., Open Access). The surveys also revealed that a wide range of facilitators could improve use of good practices, including better dissemination of University resources (guidance, training) to researchers.

The University's research practice survey will run again in 2026 to measure progress made in these areas as a result of improved support and training, and also to identify where there is still work to be done.

### Support for reporting concerns

The University is keen to ensure that students and staff feel supported to seek advice and report concerns at the earliest stage. The Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure is currently undergoing a significant update which will clarify the guidance and support available as well as standardise case handling of concerns and potential breaches in research integrity.

The number of allegations is recorded in section 3B. To note, there has been a significant spike in the numbers of cases of unauthorised use of AI, primarily by students. Other main issues noted are plagiarism and misrepresentation of author affiliations.

## 2D. Case study on good practice (optional)

### Case Study: Research Practice Governance Committee

In a complex and fast-paced policy environment, we wish to ensure that implementing best practice is streamlined by making good practice visible and accessible.

Research Practice Governance Committee was established in December 2024 to provide institution-level leadership for meeting the highest standards of practice in how research is designed, planned, executed, and reported. Its aims are to facilitate excellent research by improving the researcher experience, reducing the risks of errors and non-compliance, and increasing operational efficiency by creating a virtual collaborative team drawn from the range of relevant expertise.



Operationally, the Committee spans five domains of research practice: Integrity and Ethics; FAIR Data Management and Sharing; Reproducibility and Methods; Engagement and Impact; and Publishing, Authorship, and Peer Review (Figure 1).

Comprising both academics and professional services staff, the Committee aims to enhance each research practice domain across three dimensions: policy and guidelines, digital infrastructure (tools, services and related projects), and enabling mechanisms (training and expertise). The Committee benefits from representation of expertise across all five domains, as well as from academic representation across the four divisions.

Figure 1: Domains and dimensions of activity of Research Practice Governance Committee

The following five interventions have been identified for 2025–26:

- i. A **“concierge” service** that, through a single first point of contact (web, human, AI-enabled), supports users to discover and use the resources, policies and support available for research practice.
- ii. Create a more integrated **institutional RDM environment** by enhancing: storage interoperability; FAIR compliance; RDM service management; data management planning support; and the process of demonstrating compliance.

- iii. Expanding and enhancing discovery of cross-disciplinary **research practice training and skills development**.
- iv. **Extending outputs repository provision** to include code, workflows, and artefacts; support the **grassroots community** in promoting open and reproducible research.
- v. Updating or consolidating **policies** and supporting preparations for the Strategy, People and Research Environment (SPRE) component of REF 2029.

The main beneficiaries will be the institution's research community, comprising research students and staff, research technicians and engineers, and research support staff.

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

As set out in [the Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure](#), the Registrar is the senior officer designated within the University with responsibility for receiving and responding to allegations of misconduct in research. When such allegations involve students, the Registrar may refer these to the [University Proctors](#) for further investigation (the Proctors having responsibility for the investigation of possible breaches of University disciplinary codes and bringing charges against students accused of infringing these codes). The Registrar is supported by the Human Resources Policy Advisor and the Research Policy Manager (Integrity) in operating the Procedure.

The Procedure was last updated with minor amendments in August 2025 and is currently undergoing substantial revisions.

Any concerns, complaints or allegations may also be made under the University's [Public interest disclosure \(whistle-blowing\) Code of Practice](#) (updated in 2022).

The [Research Misconduct](#) webpage includes details of the relevant procedures and contacts for those with questions about research integrity or those considering raising concerns.

The [Harassment policy](#) (updated in 2023) sets out the process that will apply in the event that complaints of bullying and harassment are made against University staff or students. Further information about support and advice about bullying and harassment is available at <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/harassment-advice> (which includes information about Harassment Advisors, who are available to support staff or students who feel they have been bullied).

### 3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken

Please complete the table on the number of formal investigations completed during the period under review (including investigations which completed during this period but started in a previous academic year). Information from ongoing investigations should not be submitted. An organisation's procedure may include an initial, preliminary, or screening stage to determine whether a formal investigation needs to be completed. These allegations should be included in the first column but only those that proceeded past this stage, to formal investigations, should be included in the second column.

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	0	0	0	0
Falsification	0	0	0	0
Plagiarism	5	4	3	3
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	3	0	0	0
Misrepresentation (eg data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	6	0	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0	0	0
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	0	0	0	0
Other*	8	8	4	4
<b>Total:</b>	22	12	7	7

\*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.

All the cases identified in the "Other" category above involved unauthorised AI use.

## Appendix A

### Policies and procedures for supporting and promoting research integrity

The University's Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure (last updated in 2022, currently undergoing review) sets out the University's expectations and standards for research conduct for all its staff, students and anyone using the University's premises, facilities or funding for their research. This Code also includes the University's definition of misconduct in research and the procedure which will apply in the event of suspected misconduct in research.

The Code states that it operates in conjunction with a range of other University policies, procedures and codes of practice relating to research integrity. These include the following:

- [Anti-bribery and anti-fraud policy](#)
- [Authorship guidance](#)
- [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech](#)
- [Data protection policy](#)
- [Export control policy](#)
- [Financial regulations](#)
- [Grievance procedures](#)
- [Harassment policy](#)
- [Information security policy](#)
- [Intellectual property policy](#)
- [Open access publications policy](#)
- [Open research position statement](#)
- [Policy and procedure on conflict of interest](#)
- [Policy for using Generative AI in Research: guidelines for researchers and professional staff](#)
- [Public interest disclosure \(whistle-blowing\) code of practice](#)
- [Policy on the use of animals in scientific research](#)
- [Research Data Management policy](#)
- [Research ethics policy](#)
- [Safeguarding 'at risk' adults and children](#)
- [University statement of health and safety policy](#)

These policies are subject to ongoing review to reflect changes in legislation, regulatory and funder requirements as well as evolving research practice.