



UCL Statement on Research Integrity (Updated March 2020)

UCL is committed to ensuring the highest standards of integrity in all aspects of its research activities and expects that all those involved with research at UCL maintain a similar commitment. These high standards are essential not only for ensuring the highest quality of research, but through this, the continued trust and confidence of other researchers and the public in research, individual researchers, UCL as an institution and the research community as a whole.

UCL welcomed the *2012 Concordat to Support Research Integrity* and the five commitments contained within. The four core elements of integrity within the concordat were adopted as UCL's Principles of Integrity in the 2015 version of this statement. The 2019 revision of the concordat added a fifth element, that of *accountability*. UCL supports accountability and has adopted this into UCL's Principles of Integrity as 'personal responsibility', which is reflected UCL's [Code of Conduct for Research](#).

It is expected that all staff (including honorary staff), students, visitors and collaborators are aware of and adhere to both the Code of Conduct for Research and the Statement on Research Integrity, including the Principles of Integrity.

UCL Principles of Integrity

It is expected that the Principles of Integrity as set out below (adopted from the concordat) are applied to all research at all stages (including the pre and post stages of research such as applying for funding and peer review), regardless of the discipline. This is why a key message of research integrity at UCL is its importance for *every researcher, every discipline, every day*.

- **Honesty** in all aspects of research, including in gathering data; in the presentation of research goals, intentions and findings; in using and acknowledging the work of other researchers; and in conveying valid interpretations and making justifiable claims based on research findings in reporting on research methods and procedures.
- **Rigour**, in line with prevailing disciplinary norms and standards: in designing research and using appropriate methods; in performing research; in adhering to an agreed protocol where appropriate; in drawing interpretations and conclusions from the research; and in communicating the results.
- **Transparency and open communication** in declaring conflicts of interest; in the reporting of research data collection methods; in the analysis and interpretation of data; in making research findings widely available*, which includes sharing negative or null results (as appropriate) to ensure the accuracy of the research record; and in presenting the work to other researchers and to the general public.

*UCL's [Statement on Transparency in Research](#) sets out the expectations for researchers regarding transparency and reproducibility.

- **Care and respect** for all participants in, and subjects of, research (including their data), involving humans, animals, the environment and cultural objects. This includes showing care and respect for other disciplines and researchers, acknowledging the work of others, and respectful communication with those involved in undertaking or supporting research. Those engaged with research must also show care and respect for the stewardship of research and scholarship for future generations through ensuring the accuracy of the research record, including correcting honest errors.

- **Personal responsibility** for your own actions, in how you conduct your research and how you work collaboratively with others. Though everyone involved in research will have their own specific responsibilities and levels of formal accountability, every individual has a responsibility to act with integrity and to take responsibility for their own actions or inactions.

Leading by example

The current [UCL 2034](#) Strategy sets out the mission and Principle Themes for UCL. The first Principle Theme is '[Academic leadership](#) grounded in intellectual excellence'. As stated in the foreword to the 2012 concordat, 'Excellence and integrity are inextricably linked'.

Individuals are expected to be aware of internal research governance as well as any external frameworks or legislation relevant to their area of work. For collaborative and multi-disciplinary research, research teams are expected to share this information across the team and to agree appropriate practices.

To support this UCL will work to ensure that internal governance arrangements and policies, as well as any external requirements are accessible and available. It also aims to support to individuals and research teams through the provision of advice and the promotion of relevant training options.

Culture of integrity

UCL recognises the importance of a collaborative approach to embedding and promoting a culture of integrity, by not only encouraging individuals working in research at UCL to take an active approach, but to support them in doing so though the environment in which they work.

The [research integrity website](#) acts as UCL's living Framework for research integrity, providing up-to-date advice and guidance on research at UCL and its associated policies and processes. Included is the [Research Integrity Training Framework](#) which, like this Statement, applies to all researchers (staff and student) across all disciplines. The training framework is designed to guide researchers throughout their career in assessing training needs to ensure that they have the requisite training to be able to conduct research with rigour, regardless of discipline.