King's College London's Research Integrity Statement, 2019-2020

This statement on research integrity at King's College London relates to the period September 2019 to August 2020 and has been drafted to fulfil our obligation to commitment 5 of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. Many of the actions and activities undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and the application of research integrity issues that are reported relate to the work of the Research Integrity Office. We are aware that there are other areas of the College in which research integrity is embedded within practices and we are working towards collating these instances to create a central record of all efforts to maintain the highest standards of research conduct at King's.

The College is committed to the five high-level commitments of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and we demonstrate these as below with reference to each commitment.

Maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research

Research integrity is defined by five overarching principles: honesty, rigour, transparency, care and respect, and accountability. We are committed to supporting honesty and transparency in all aspects of research, and ensuring that the wellbeing, dignity and safety of research participants and our researchers is protected along with the reputation of the College. The Research Integrity Office promotes the principles of research integrity through our engagement with faculties at research executive meetings and through training sessions delivered by our team. We liaise with academic and professional services colleagues across the College's faculties and directorates to ensure that research integrity is embedded within a range of activities taking place within the institution.

The College has adopted the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) Code of Practice for Research, with accompanying guidance available on university specific expectations and requirements regarding good practice in research in order to ensure that research and the dissemination of the results of research are conducted properly (please visit our page on research integrity for details). Members of the Research Integrity Office can provide staff and students guidance on issues relating to research integrity where this does not already exist.

Ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards

It is the responsibility of all those engaged in research to become familiar with any frameworks relevant to your research. Through research integrity training sessions, the Research Integrity Office promotes the importance of adherence to the appropriate frameworks.

As an institution, King's has a strong and well-developed set of structures and guidance to support research ethics, which aims to ensure that all human subject research is subjected to an appropriate level of ethical scrutiny. All research which carries any risk is subject to a risk assessment at Faculty level or by the Health and Safety Department. The Research Ethics Office provides training and guidance on ethical clearance (where appropriate).

The Research Governance Office provides support, advice, and training to researchers on issues such as GDPR in research, data storage, and data management, and works with colleagues in the College's Information Compliance Team.

With a fully embedded research governance team, we have begun to integrate our ethics and data protection registration systems into one streamlined process for our applicants with two distinct but complementary review processes to support our researchers in fulfilling any legal or ethical requirements for their research.

The Department of Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity publishes a termly newsletter to promote and raise awareness of developments and initiatives across the areas of research ethics, governance, and integrity. Our new external webpages provide enhanced visibility for our teams and set out clearly the College's expectations of researchers, signalling how to find guidance and support.

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

The College has developed a range of policies, procedures, training, and support systems related to the good conduct of research and based on national standards that are designed to create a research environment underpinned by a culture of integrity and good governance. We have processes for dealing with research conducted without ethical approval and allegations of research misconduct. In this academic year, we have been logging all enquiries relating to research integrity to understand better the frequency of concerns and the types of issues affecting our researchers.

The creation of Research Integrity Champions in September 2019 has been a positive development to ensure that research integrity is embedded within the culture of individual faculties and encouraged at senior level. The Champions further ensure that central policies and procedures developed by the Research Integrity Office are informed by researchers. The Research Integrity Champions meet with the Research Integrity Office every two months.

The Research Integrity Office offers training three times a year to all research-active staff and research support staff on research integrity and this is available via Skills Forge. The RIO monitors attendance and circulates feedback questionnaires to enable us to improve our offering. Additionally, bespoke training sessions are delivered on an ad hoc basis across the areas of research ethics, research governance, and research integrity. All training across the department is recorded with attendance figures. Further training is offered to research staff and student researchers by the Centre for Doctoral Studies and the Centre for Research Staff Development.

Using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise

The College has a formal policy and procedure to investigate and resolve allegations of research misconduct. This procedure is available on our Research Misconduct webpage, along with advice and support, to all staff, students, and individuals external to the university who wish to raise an issue about the conduct of research undertaken in the College's name.

The process for reporting concerns about research conducted in the College's name is communicated to our research community through our training sessions and is also visible on our

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webpages. The Research Integrity Office provides assurance to researchers that they should feel safe to report poor research practices, either to us or at local level. The Research Integrity Office encourages researchers to approach us or local contacts if they feel that they or others have failed to meet the expected standards of good research practice, so that we can offer appropriate advice on how to mitigate any risk, and then advise on the next steps should it be appropriate to report research misconduct. In the course of any investigation, we signpost to mental health support provided by the College to staff and students.

The Research Integrity Office is in the process of revising the College's research misconduct procedure. This has resulted from greater experience and knowledge gained from recent, complex cases. Our proposals have been reviewed and agreed by the College's Research Integrity Champions and they should ensure that our response to allegations is more proportionate. Involvement in recent cases has brought to light further key considerations for our new revised procedure. New clauses will be embedded within the procedure that will allow us to address these complexities, for example how to manage appropriately anonymous allegations of research misconduct, and how to work effectively when legal input is sought from any party.

Working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly

The Research Integrity Office works with colleagues from across King's and externally to strengthen research integrity within the College and across the sector. To increase engagement of researchers, in this academic year the Research integrity Manager has met with every Faculty Vice Dean of Research to discuss research integrity priorities. Each Vice Dean of Research has been appointed as Research Integrity Champion for their area, making research integrity more visible as a priority. The Research Integrity Manager has attended Faculty Research Executive meetings for 6 out of the 9 Faculties at King's. The aim of the Research Integrity Champions is to play a high-level advocacy role, promote research integrity within their faculties, and advise us as we develop new policies and procedures.

The Research Integrity Office is now looking to create Research Integrity Advisors, and these should be in place by September 2020. These Advisors would be a visible point of contact for researchers and will support the Research Integrity Office in delivering discipline-specific training and creating subject-specific guidance based on College-level research integrity principles. The Advisors will enable the creation of a more honest and open research culture.

The Research Integrity Office collaborate with colleagues from other areas of the College, where the work relates to the broader ideas of research culture, such as HR and Research Grants and Contracts in order to comply with funder bullying and harassment policies. Members of the Research Integrity Office attend meetings of the King's Open Research Group Initiative.

The Research Integrity Office reviews and updates the Research Misconduct Procedure every three years, or as required. In light of recent cases and updates to the Concordat, the RIO is undertaking a revision to the current procedure. An annual report on Research Integrity is made to the College Research Committee, and this statement will be made publicly available.

The Research Integrity Office works closely with the UK Research Integrity Office, also attending their conferences and online webinars, as well as attending national events hosted by organisations such as Universities UK and the Westminster HE Forum. This enables us to both share best practice

and gain support on best practice. We are an active member of the Russell Group Research Integrity Forum and the Association of Research Managers and Administrators. In June 2020, King's became an institutional member of the UK Reproducibility Network, with the Dean of Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity acting as our institutional lead. This will enable us to participate in the governance of this peer-led consortium. In July 2020, we co-founded (with City University) the London Research Integrity Consortium (LRIC) to collaborate effectively on issues of research integrity with our neighbouring institutions. We are also one of the first UK universities to implement a fully integrated online research ethics management application system (REMAS), and we are advocates of this approach and support other universities by sharing good practice on how to improve their ethics processes.

Summary of activities to improve research integrity, September 2019-August 2020

- Creation of Research Integrity Champions in September 2019 and convening of the Research Integrity Champions Forum every two months
- Creation of 'Research Integrity: the fundamentals of research excellence at King's' training, available to be booked via Skills Forge. Held once a term, with three sessions delivered in 2019-20
- Training on research integrity, research ethics, and research governance to doctoral researchers in Law, Business, and the NERC and MRC DTPs
- Presentations on Research Integrity to central College staff: RMID 'Lunch and Learn'; R&R Network; and Research Grants and Contracts International Team
- Presentation to the RIOTS Club on research integrity and research governance
- Agreement in principle for research integrity training to be a mandatory requirement at upgrade stage
- Creation of RGEI newsletter to raise awareness of issues around integrity, governance, and ethics to all research-active and research support staff in the College
- Establishment of the London Research Integrity Consortium
- Formal institutional membership of the UKRN
- Integration of the research ethics and data protection registration systems into a streamlined process, providing two distinct but complementary processes
- Review of Research Misconduct Procedure with input from the RICh forum
- Creation of SOP to handle anonymous allegations
- Improvement to internal processes to enable better management of research integrity
  - Creation of live tracking platform for all research integrity enquiries and misconduct cases
  - Creation of proforma for reporting allegations of research misconduct
  - Creation of research misconduct file checklist
  - Creation of research misconduct flowchart
  - Logging of training activity across all workstreams

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Research Misconduct

The following table details cases that have been undertaken by the College, under the Procedure for investigating and resolving allegations of research misconduct, over the past 5 years. The Research Integrity Office also advises on matters relating to research integrity, but which do not fall under the remit of the research misconduct procedure.

Date Completed	Source of Allegation	Respondent Status	Allegation
Ongoing	Staff (various)	(i) Former staff; (ii) former PhD student	Fabrication; falsification; misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement; and failure to follow procedures
Ongoing	Anonymous	Staff	Multiple tbd
08/2020	Anonymous source	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
08/2020	Anonymous source	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
08/2020	Anonymous source	Former staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
02/2020	Anonymous source	Former staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
02/2020	Anonymous source	Former staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
02/2020	Anonymous source	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
10/2019	PhD student	Staff	Fabrication; misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement; and failure to follow procedures
10/2019	Anonymous source	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement

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10/2019	Anonymous source	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
06/2019	External Independent Source	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
04/2019	Journal editor	(i) Staff; and (ii) Former PhD student	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
03/2019	External examiners	PhD student	Plagiarism
11/2018	External independent source	Former PhD student	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
11/2018	External examiners	PhD student	Plagiarism
11/2018	External examiners	PhD student	Plagiarism
09/2018	External entity	Staff	Plagiarism
04/2018	Former postdoctoral researcher	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
04/2018	Journal editor	Staff	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
10/2017	Internal Supervisor	PhD student	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
03/2017	External examiner	PhD student	Plagiarism
09/2015	Anonymous source	PhD student	Misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement

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