

**Cardiff Metropolitan University**

**Annual Statement on Research Integrity: 2019/20**

**1. Introduction and Background**

1.1 Cardiff Metropolitan University is fully committed to supporting the highest levels of research integrity and governance in all its research activity. As a recipient of public funding, Cardiff Met recognises the importance of ensuring that its staff and students maintain exemplary standards of academic practice, integrity and honesty in all aspects of research.

1.2 As a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, Cardiff Met is committed to upholding and maintaining the commitments contained within it. In order to improve accountability and provide assurances that measures are being undertaken to support high standards of research integrity, the Concordat recommends that employers of researchers present a short annual statement to their own governing body which:

- Provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues.
- Provides assurances that the processes they have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust, fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation
- Provides a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

1.3 This is the University's third annual statement on Research Integrity and relates to the 2019/20 academic year. Detailed information regarding the University's overarching approach to research integrity and research misconduct is contained within the University's first Annual Statement published in 2018 and available via the Cardiff Met website<sup>1</sup>.

1.4 As recommended by the Concordat, this statement will be made publicly available on the University website.

**2. Summary of actions and activities undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues**

2.1 Research integrity has remained a key focus for the University in the 2019/20 academic year. Particular activities which have been undertaken during the year are:

- Following the major review of data storage practices related to student led research projects involving participants undertaken in 2018/19, the ethics application form, associated guidance and other documentation including the Participant Consent Form were amended.
- Schools were encouraged to consider if their Ethics Committee would benefit from access to an Ethics Champion ie an individual who is independent of the Committee

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[http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/research/Documents/Research%20Integrity/Annual\\_statement\\_on\\_research\\_integrity\\_June18.pdf](http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/research/Documents/Research%20Integrity/Annual_statement_on_research_integrity_June18.pdf)

but could advise on ethics related matters when needed. All Schools have now either identified an Ethics Champion or revised their practice to allow for wider discussion on ethics queries where necessary.

- University practice in relation to the reimbursement of participants in research projects were reviewed. As a result, guidance for staff and students was revised and clarified.
- Closer collaboration between members of the University Ethics Committee and colleagues working to embed the EDGE (Ethical Digital Global Entrepreneurial) programme has been established and is set to continue into the next academic year.

**3. Processes in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct**

- 3.1 The University's Policy on Research Misconduct was reviewed in 2018/19 and was found to be fit for purpose. The Policy is next scheduled for review in the 2020/21 academic year.

**4. Statement on any formal investigation of research misconduct that have been undertaken**

- 4.1 There were no allegations received under the University's Research Misconduct Procedure during 2019/20.