

**Cardiff Metropolitan University**

**Annual Statement on Research Integrity: 2020/21**

**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 fourth annual statement on Research Integrity and relates to the 2020/21 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 2020/21 academic year. Particular activities which have been undertaken during the year are:
- Further work related to data storage practices was undertaken (following on from the major review detailed in previous annual statements). This led to the implementation of an updated Ethics Application Form in the early part of the Academic Year.
  - A major piece of work has been undertaken to develop and implement an online ethics training module. Led by colleagues in the Learning & Teaching Development Unit and Organisational Development, UEC members have advised on content and

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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)

provided “real life” examples for use in the module. The module is scheduled to be launched before the end of the 2020/21 Academic Year.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the way many research projects are designed. A major change has been an increase in the amount of research conducted online, which has implications for how informed consent is gained from participants. A set of guidelines was therefore developed for researchers to follow when conducting online research.
- Minor amendments to the University *Policy on Work Involving Animals or Animal Material* were agreed and a new version of the policy will be launched before the end of the current 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 will next be reviewed in the first half of the 2021/22 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 2020/21.