



Research Integrity in UK Higher Education

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Research integrity in UK higher education

- Why does research integrity matter?
- The UK landscape
- The concordat to support research integrity
- The role of research funders
- The role of universities and research organizations
- Current conversations and next steps



Why does research integrity matter?



The UK Landscape

- The concordat
- Independent bodies
- Funders
- Higher education institutions

The concordat to support research integrity

- The concordat ‘seeks to provide a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance’.
- The concordat:
 - Applies to all fields of research
 - Emphasizes responsibilities and accountabilities
 - Complements existing frameworks
 - Recognizes the autonomy of employers

... the concordat continued

- 5 commitments:
 - To maintain the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research.
 - To ensure research meets appropriate legal, ethical and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.
 - To support a research environment underpinned by integrity and best practice.
 - To use robust, fair and transparent processes to address allegations of misconduct.
 - To review progress regularly and openly.



The role of funders

- Research England: compliance with the concordat is a condition of grant
- Research Councils: policy and guidance on governance of good research conduct
- UKRI: opportunity to consider and shape policies



The role of universities and research organisations

- No ‘one size fits all’ approach – a good research culture recognizes the diversity and autonomy of research organizations.
- Internal processes and policies e.g. for ethics approval and investigation of misconduct allegations
- Training and support for researchers
- Provision of information as laid out in the concordat and by funders’ terms and conditions

Current conversations and next steps

- Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry
 - Expected to report in summer 2018 with recommendations on strengthening integrity and comments on the nature of any misconduct issues in the UK
- Strengthening the concordat to support research integrity
 - Work underway among signatories
- REF 2021
 - Potential to incorporate integrity into environment statements