

Leeds Beckett University Responsible Research Statement

At Leeds Beckett University, we are committed to conducting, supporting and assessing research in ways that are rigorous, ethical, inclusive, transparent and socially responsible. This statement supports the University's values of integrity and inclusivity and helps to build a positive research culture across all disciplines and career stages. It recognises that responsible research extends across the full research lifecycle: from design and partnership development, through delivery and dissemination, to research assessment, stewardship and longer-term benefit to society.

The principles draw on [UKRI's Framework for Responsible Research & Innovation](#) with its emphasis on research integrity, healthy research culture, open research, and responsible innovation; [UK Research Integrity Office \(UKRIO\) Code of Practice for Research](#); and [DORA's Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#) call for fair, transparent and balanced approaches to assessing research and researchers. Together, these benchmarks encourage institutions to value the quality, integrity and contribution of research rather than relying on narrow or inappropriate indicators.

Principles of responsible research

1. Research at Leeds Beckett University will be underpinned by honesty, rigour, transparency, accountability, care and respect. These are core expectations of the [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#) and are central to trustworthy research.
2. Responsible research is a collective endeavour. Researchers, professional services, leaders, partners, participants, communities, funders and other stakeholders all have a role in shaping research that is ethical, inclusive and of public value.
3. Responsible research applies across the full research lifecycle and includes research integrity, ethics, due diligence, equality, diversity and inclusion, public and community engagement, co-production where appropriate, open research, data stewardship, and responsible innovation.
4. In line with UKRI guidance, we will consider the wider implications of research and innovation by anticipating potential benefits, risks and unintended consequences; reflecting on assumptions and choices; engaging relevant stakeholders; and acting on what is learned.

What this means in practice

5. Researchers are expected to maintain the highest standards of professional conduct, comply with relevant legal, regulatory and disciplinary requirements, and follow University policies, procedures and guidance for research and knowledge exchange activity.
6. Researchers should design and conduct work with due care for participants, communities, animals, cultural heritage, the environment, data and intellectual assets, recognising both immediate responsibilities and longer-term stewardship.
7. Researchers should work openly and transparently wherever possible, supporting reproducibility, verification and responsible sharing of methods, data, outputs and learning, while respecting ethical, legal, commercial and security constraints as set out in the [University's Open Research Policy](#) and the [Statement on the Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Research](#).

8. In international and external collaborations, the University and its researchers will undertake proportionate due diligence and risk management, consistent with UKRI expectations for trusted research and innovation and the safeguarding of people, data, intellectual property and partnerships.
9. The University will assess research and researchers responsibly. In line with DORA, assessment should be based on the quality, rigour and contribution of work, using expert judgement supported by appropriate evidence. We will avoid inappropriate reliance on journal-based metrics or other narrow indicators as proxies for quality. The [University's Statement on the Responsible Use of Research Indicators](#) provides further guidance on the responsible use of research indicators in research assessment.
10. We will recognise a broad range of contributions to research and its enabling environment, including publications, data, software, practice-based outputs, policy engagement, collaboration, supervision, leadership, peer review, open research activity, and contributions to research culture.
11. The University will provide a supportive environment for responsible research through clear governance, proportionate ethics and integrity processes, guidance and training, fair routes for raising concerns, and regular review of policy and practice.

Institutional commitments

Leeds Beckett University is committed to continuous improvement in responsible research. We will keep this statement and the associated policies and statements under review to ensure alignment with external expectations and emerging good practice, including developments in research integrity, open research, trusted research and innovation, the use of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, and responsible research assessment.