



Annual Research Integrity Statement 2022-2023

1. Introduction

This is Leeds Beckett University's (LBU) [6th statement](#) since signing up to the commitments of the 'Concordat to Support Research Integrity'.

All Universities in receipt of a Research England grant are required to comply with the 'Concordat to Support Research Integrity,' hereafter referred to as the 'Concordat' published by Universities UK.

In compliance, Leeds Beckett University (LBU) produces an annual, public statement detailing the activities that enhance, develop, and strengthen research integrity and the monitoring of research misconduct at the University.

LBU's Statement is approved annually by the Academic Board and is received through the Research and Enterprise Committee. It is also shared with the University's Audit Committee for assurance purposes. The Governance structure of the University can be viewed here [Governance | Leeds Beckett University](#).

This Statement, along with all previously published Annual Statements, can be found at [Research integrity ethics misconduct | Research | Leeds Beckett University](#).

2. Supporting and strengthening research integrity, including research culture and leadership

Our policies and procedures in support of Research Integrity can be viewed at <https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/research/research-and-information-governance/>.

Additionally, all the University's current and revised statutory and governance policies including those related to research, are accessible on one site [University policies | Leeds Beckett University](#)). They include our Whistleblowing Policy.

2.1 Key Contacts

Overarching responsibility for matters relating to research integrity are the responsibility of the following named senior contacts, who will receive research integrity concerns on behalf of the University.

Professor Silke Machold	Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation.	Email: ResearchInfoandGovernance@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
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Dr Tina Conkar	Head of Research Information & Governance	Email: ResearchInfoandGovernance@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
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2.2 Integrity in Practice

Concordat to Support Research Integrity - The Research Information & Governance Team (RIG) completed the UKRIO self-assessment to benchmark practice against the principles set out in the Concordat to Support Research Integrity to further improve how the University adheres to the requirements and recommendations set out in the Concordat and to address a recommendation from KPMG (the University's Internal Auditors). An action plan was put together to further enhance practice which included the following areas: Consultation with students concerning research integrity; accessibility and knowledge of guidance concerning research integrity for staff and students; management of research integrity within the Schools of the University; and the signposting of guidance and training regarding research integrity. Most actions have been completed and any that remain will be completed during 2023/24 with the development of a new set of research ethics procedures, a University Framework for Responsible Research, and through the training and development to support integrity in research as set out in section 2.5.

The University's Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Research Misconduct – The Policy and Procedures were re-developed during 2022/23, and approved in July 2023, to ensure continued alignment and compliance with sector guidance published by the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO). Under the new Policy, responsibility for the Policy & Procedures has been transferred from the Secretary & Registrar to the PVC Research and Innovation to ensure more direct oversight and more appropriate ownership.

Research Ethics Policy - The University's Research Ethics Policy was redeveloped during 2022/23 and approved in July 2023 to ensure continued alignment and compliance with sector guidance

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) - EDI matters in relation to research integrity are important to the University and in August 2023, the University was awarded a bronze award under the Race Equality Charter.

Funding Roadmap – The Research & Innovation team has developed a funding roadmap, to inform how we will reach our University target of £10M research income by 2026. The roadmap has been developed in consultation with colleagues in Research & Enterprise (R&E) Services, other professional services and schools. It provides assurance of steps the University is taking, including enhancement of policy and procedures for research integrity, to ensure we reach our income target, with regular reporting and monitoring of progress against our key performance indicators (KPIs).

Aligned Service Support - In April, members of R&E Services met with the Senior Management Accountants from the University's Financial Services, to discuss how to work more effectively together to improve the processes around financial reporting and integrity of research and knowledge exchange projects.

Framework for Responsible Research - During 2023/24 the University will be developing a Framework for Responsible Research that will encompass areas such as research integrity, research ethics, and good practice in research. The Framework will outline the University's position on how our activities and the research we undertake, are aligned with the

principles of responsible research, and how this links with our strategic plan. The Framework will also provide an online resource centre that provides a comprehensive set of guidance and links to training for researchers.

Online Research Ethics Management System – The University will be undertaking a project in 2023/24 to procure a new online research ethics management system to replace the current ageing system that is reaching the end of its lifespan and support.

2.3. University Research Ethics Sub-Committee (URESC) and School Ethics Committees

The University requires that all research projects undertaken under the patronage of the University observe a commitment to good research conduct. In the first instance, the Chair of the University's Sub Committee for Research Ethics (URESC) may also receive concerns over research integrity or misconduct. The sub-committee is accountable to the University Research and Enterprise Committee which has delegated responsibility on behalf of the University on all research matters.

URESC is currently recruiting a new external member to ensure it continues to have external perspective and input into its deliberations. A new postgraduate research student member was also successfully recruited. Both will increase the knowledge and diversity of the current committee members.

During 2022/23 the Sub-Committee considered and endorsed a new Research Ethics Policy and provided input into the redevelopment of the Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research.

URESC has commissioned a short-life working group (SLWG) to conduct the redevelopment of the University Research Ethics Procedures to ensure continued alignment and compliance with sector guidance. As part of the redevelopment the role and remits of the School Research Ethics Groups will be reviewed to ensure consistency of practice across the University and to further enhance consideration of research ethics at the School-level.

2.4 Research Integrity - Students

Postgraduate Research (PGR) students are encouraged to complete the Academic Integrity Induction which is a self-paced module in the University online student portal, MyBeckett, this maps to areas A1 and C1 of the Vitae Research Development Framework. Training is also provided within the Research Training Programme on a variety of topics and through a variety of types of event and workshop including Open Research, Research Data Management and Researcher Identity. These topics in particular help develop honesty, rigour, transparency, and respect within the research community.

2.5 Training and Development in support of Research Integrity

In 2022/23, the University again received Research England funding to deliver activities to support our institutional EDI priorities. The researcher development programme and activities aligned with the Black and Global Majority Research Network, were both paused so that data from our research & enterprise assessment activities could be analysed, to inform how we should best structure our training and development and network activities.

We again delivered our successful Equity and Inclusion Research programme, supporting researchers and the careers of underrepresented groups at the University. A total of 13

projects have been funded, and you can read more about theme here - [Celebrating our Equity and Inclusion Research Fund | Leeds Beckett University](#)

During 2022/23 other research integrity training included:

- Module three of the Advanced HE training (took place July 2022) involved Integrity, ethics & governance (agenda attached).
- Research Data Management training presentation from Library & Student Services (LSS) which contained a research ethics element (took place 23/3/05)
- Vitae's "responsible research and ethics" training that took place 8/12/2022.

Alongside this the guidance provided in the Research Information & Governance webpages provide further resources for research integrity in our University.

2.6. Membership and external engagement in support of research integrity

UKRIO – The University continues to be a subscriber member of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO). During 2022/23 advice was sought to help develop new versions of the University's Research Ethics Policy and its Policy & Procedures for Investigating Allegations of Misconduct in Research.

Research England Visit – in September 2022, Dr Rommany Jenkins, our University's Institutional Engagement Manager at Research England, visited the University to hear about our different research and knowledge exchange (KE) projects and successes. Discussion also took place concerning REF2021 submission, the Knowledge Exchange Concordat (KEC) and the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), and the contribution of diverse universities in the RE portfolio - [blog post](#)

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) visit – In April, our University had a visit from our EPSRC Senior Portfolio Manager, Dr Zaffie Cox, who gave an update on wider upcoming funding opportunities, including how University culture can be optimised to support fellows, as well as specific support and funding under the Advanced Materials theme.

University Alliance (UA) Seminar – On 28th April 2023, the UA organised a helpful seminar on trusted research with the Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT), and UKRI, which was attended by colleagues from R&E Services and our Schools

Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT) - On 1st June 2023, R&E Services welcomed the RCAT, from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to the University. The RCAT team is the first point of contact and trusted source for advice on identifying and mitigating risks to international research collaborations. The team gave an overview of the support available from the regional teams to help our University get the best possible support from government, enabling us to ensure the integrity of our international research and to care for the safety and reputations of researchers working at our University.

University Alliance (UA) visit – In June 2023, a delegation from the UA visited the University as part of their member engagement activities. UA visited the facilities in the school of Sport followed by a wider discussion with colleagues to hear about UA's wider policy/lobbying work and how we can participate and engage in UA-wide activity, such as consultations associated with research culture and integrity. A more in-depth follow up visit is planned for the autumn, once the new Director for R&E is in post.

Yorkshire Universities and the University Alliance - As a member of Yorkshire Universities and the University Alliance respectively, we continue to work with sector to identify opportunities for collective improvements around research integrity.

3. Supporting and strengthening research integrity, including research culture and leadership

The University has a process for dealing with research misconduct which can be viewed here [Research integrity ethics misconduct | Research | Leeds Beckett University](#).

Concordat to Support Research Integrity - As part of its continuing commitment to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity the University is currently conducting its annual benchmarking against the concordat using the UKRIO self-assessment form. The results of this will be considered at the December 2023 Research & Enterprise Committee.

Uniac audit - In late 2022, an internal audit was commissioned by Financial Services, conducted by Uniac, a higher education auditing and assurance service, to provide assurance that approaches for delivering University targets for research and knowledge exchange income, by 2026 are effective and efficient. Uniac undertook fieldwork with colleagues across schools and R&E, then produced a helpful report with agreed actions to support the delivery of our income KPIs. These included improved research data availability and quality for schools, reviewing resources to support activity and costing and pricing guidance to improve costs recovery of research and KE activities.

3.1 Formal investigations of research misconduct

There were no formal investigations of research misconduct in 2022-23. One matter was raised and following consideration by the Deputy Secretary and with advice from Human Resources, was investigated through another University process.

Stuart Morris
REF & Research Policy Manager
Leeds Beckett University
October 2023

Ratified by:

Dr Tina Conkar

Head of Research Information and Governance

Leeds Beckett University

October 2023

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Version History/Summary of Changes