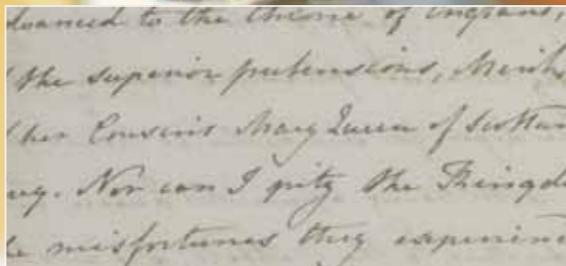The University provides information and resources about different aspects of the responsible conduct of research. Some of these are specific to certain research disciplines, others are generic to all research. >>>

>>> Specific topics:

Clinical Trials and Research Governance
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/ctrg/

Collaborative Research
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity/collaborative/

Conflict of interest
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity/conflict/

Human participants in research
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity/human/

Intellectual property
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/ip/

Plagiarism
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/epsc/plagiarism/index.shtml

Publication and authorship
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity/publication/

Research data and records management
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/rdm/

Research involving animals
www.ox.ac.uk/animal_research/index.html

External resources

UK Research Integrity Office
www.ukrio.org/
The UK Research Integrity Office is an independent body which provides expert advice and guidance about the conduct of research. Covering all subject areas, it offers support in research integrity to the research community, including to individual researchers.

US Office of Research Integrity
http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/
The US Office of Research Integrity's Educational Resources webpage provides free access to a range of materials and online training.

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"The scientific enterprise is built on a foundation of trust. Society trusts that scientific research results are an honest and accurate reflection of a researcher's work. Researchers equally trust that their colleagues have gathered data carefully, have used appropriate analytic and statistical techniques, have reported their results accurately, and have treated the work of other researchers with respect."

On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research (2009), Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy

Supported by

Oxford Biomedical Research Centre
Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust
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NHS National Institute for Health Research

RESEARCH INTEGRITY

www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity

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A message from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research

The University of Oxford has a reputation world-wide for the range and excellence of its research, and for the calibre of its researchers. Underpinning the quality of the research activity is a commitment to the highest standards of research integrity. As set out in its `Code of Practice and Procedure', the University expects that everyone engaged in research will observe the highest standards of conduct in this undertaking. The University's Code reinforces Research Councils UK's policy in this respect; we support frameworks that ensure research outputs are robust and defensible and that research is conducted with the utmost honesty, transparency, impartiality and collegiality.

The University promotes good conduct in research in a variety of ways. This leaflet is designed to provide researchers and students with an introduction to the University's policies and procedures, as well as training available in the responsible conduct of research. It also includes some pointers to resources which provide more detailed information and advice about research integrity in general.

We all share responsibility for understanding and upholding policies relating to the conduct of research. I strongly encourage you to read this brochure and find out more about the guidelines and professional practices which can assist you to achieve the highest standards of academic integrity.

Professor Ian Walmsley
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(Research, Academic Services and University Collections)

WHAT IS RESEARCH INTEGRITY?

The terms `research integrity' or the responsible conduct of research are used by institutions to refer to a wide range of areas of research compliance, professional conduct and personal responsibility.

For the University as an institution, research integrity is a commitment to creating an environment that promotes responsible conduct by embracing standards of excellence, trustworthiness and lawfulness.

"Creating a climate that promotes research integrity requires awareness, openness and communication with regard to competing concerns and interests of various members of the research team, the research community and society as a whole. This takes time and effort, but everyone benefits in the long run."

Science and Engineering Ethics (2006) 12, 411–412

For individual researchers, research integrity entails a commitment to a range of practices including but not limited to:

- intellectual honesty in proposing, performing, and reporting research;
- accuracy in representing contributions to research proposals and reports;
- fairness in peer review;
- collegiality in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of resources;
- transparency in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest;
- protection of human participants in the conduct of research;
- humane care of animals in the conduct of research;
- adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams[1]

1 Description of research integrity is adapted from the US National Academies report *Integrity in Scientific Research: Creating an Environment That Promotes Responsible Conduct* (2002)

CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH?

There are no universally correct ways to do research. There are, however, standards of practice which apply generally.

Researchers should
- be aware of the legislation, codes of practice and University policies relevant to their field
- have the necessary skills and training for their field
- be aware of the publication rules for the journals they want to publish in
- ask if they feel something isn't quite right
- not ignore problems
- be accountable to the University and their peers for the conduct of their research

All researchers are expected to be committed to ethical principles and professional standards. Not upholding such standards, either intentionally or through lack of knowledge, damages the scientific process and may harm research participants, colleagues, the University and society as a whole. Misconduct or poor practice in research should therefore be challenged.

Sources of advice and support include:
▷ Fellow students and colleagues
▷ Supervisors
▷ Mentors
▷ Senior Tutors
▷ Directors of Graduate Studies
▷ Heads of Department
▷ Research Services
▷ UK Research Integrity Office

For further information, see the University's Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice and Procedure
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www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/cops/researchintegrity/

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHERS

Research integrity website
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/integrity
This provides information about University policy and guidance in the core areas of the responsible conduct of research, with links to other useful information and resources.

Research skills training
https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/skills/res_skil_kit
The University Research Skills Toolkit provides information and links to a wide variety of skills-based training, either in the form of online self-study or taught courses. These cover a range of research integrity themes, including ethics, publishing practice (avoiding plagiarism) etc.

Research supervision
www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision
This provides resources to assist supervisors and new and continuing research students. It covers the process of research for an Oxford doctorate from beginning to end – planning work, establishing an effective and productive working relationship between student and supervisor, through the research itself to the write-up and examination.

Research Services
www.admin.ox.ac.uk/researchsupport/
Research Services promotes the responsible conduct of research and compliance with regulatory and sponsor requirements through specialist information and advice on aspects of research integrity, including policy development, guidance on clinical trials and governance and advice on intellectual property.
Email: research.services@admin.ox.ac.uk