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
- Collaborative Research
- Conflict of Interest
- Human Participants in Research
- Intellectual Property
- Plagiarism
- Publication and Authorship
- Research Data and Records Management
- Research Involving Animals
- UK Research Integrity Office

External resources
- UK Research Integrity Office
- 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
- The US Office of Research Integrity’s Educational Resources webpage provides free access to a range of materials and online training.

"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

Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy
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.*


FOR 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 the fair distribution of credit and sharing of research findings;
- transparency in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest;
- protection of human participants in the context of research;
- humane care of animals in the conduct of research;
- adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams.

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. Inattention 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 Code of Practice and Procedure for Research Integrity.

www.ox.ac.uk/research/support_for_researchers/

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

A message from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research

The University of Oxford has a reputation worldwide for the range and excellence of its teaching, and to the calibre of its researchers. Upholding 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 Procedures, the University expects that everyone engaged in research will observe the highest standards of conduct in its undertaking.

The University’s Code upholds the commitments established by Universities UK’s Concordat to Support Research Integrity, and provides a range of guidance on aspects of research integrity, including policy development, guidance on clinical trials and governance and advice on intellectual property.

Sources of advice and support include:

- Junior Researchers
- Directors of Graduate Studies
- Heads of Department
- Research Services
- UK Research Integrity Office

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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