

2(a): Queen Mary Policy on Research Integrity

2(a).1 Scope

Queen Mary is committed to producing and promoting high-quality research which is conducted according to the highest standards of integrity.

As a component of this commitment, this policy lays out the foundations for the proper conduct of research and provides direction on the standards expected by the University researchers in upholding these standards. This Policy applies to all disciplines in which research is undertaken under the auspices of Queen Mary.

Research is defined as ‘the attempt to derive generalisable or transferable new knowledge to answer questions with scientifically sound methods including studies that aim to generate hypotheses as well as studies that aim to test them, in addition to simply descriptive studies.’ (Source: HRA).

2(a).2 Commitments

To support these aims, in all fields of research, Queen Mary has adopted the commitments of the UUK “Concordat to support research integrity” (2019) which are:

- Upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research;
- Ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal, and professional frameworks, obligations, and standards;
- Supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice, and support for the development of researchers;
- Using transparent, timely, robust, and fair processes to handle allegations of research misconduct when they arise; and
- Working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

These commitments form an integral part of Queen Mary’s approach to the ethical conduct of research, its mission and values. The Queen Mary Strategy and the statement of our values are published at <http://www.qmul.ac.uk/strategy/the%20strategy/index.html>.

2(a).3 Principles

[Queen Mary researchers are expected to adhere to the core elements of integrity as defined by the Concordat to Support Research Integrity \(2019\):](#)

“Honesty in all aspects of research, including in the presentation of research goals, intentions and findings; in reporting on research methods and procedures; in gathering data; in using and acknowledging the work of other researchers; and in conveying valid interpretations and making justifiable claims based on research findings.

Rigour, in line with prevailing disciplinary norms and standards, and in performing research and using appropriate methods; in adhering to an agreed protocol where appropriate; in drawing interpretations and conclusions from the research; and in communicating the results

Transparency and open communication in declaring potential competing interests; in the reporting of research data collection methods; in the analysis and interpretation of data; in

making research findings widely available, which includes publishing or otherwise sharing negative or null results to recognise their value as part of the research process; and in presenting the work to other researchers and the public.

Care and respect for all research participants, and the subjects, users and beneficiaries of research, including humans, animals, the environment and cultural objects. Those engaged with research must also show care and respect for the integrity of the research record.

Accountability of funders, employers and researchers to collectively create a research environment in which individuals and organisations are empowered and enabled to own the research process. Those engaged with research must also ensure that individuals and organisations are held to account when behaviour falls short of the standards set by this concordat.”

2(a).4 Researcher Responsibilities

Queen Mary researchers are required to

- (i) Uphold the highest rigour and integrity standards relevant to their research work at all times.
 - Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data.
 - Avoid bias in research design, data analysis, data interpretation, and other aspects of research.
 - Arrange data management plans from the outset of the research project and throughout the work, within the framework set out by the University data management policies.
 - Make research findings and methods widely available to other researchers and the public in line with the Research Data Access and Management Policy.
 - Declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest relating to research. Researchers should seek advice and/or take steps to resolve them. Reference should be made to the Queen Mary Standards of Business Conduct Policy as applicable.
- (ii) Take responsibility to keep their knowledge up to date on the frameworks and obligations that apply to their work.
- (iii) For research collaborations involving substantial differences in regulatory and legal systems, organisational and funding structures, research cultures, and approaches to training, researchers should be able to address issues related to integrity that might arise in cross-boundary research collaboration.
 - The collaboration must comply with all policies and regulations to which it is subject.
 - Collaborative research should be conducted, and its results disseminated transparently and honestly.
 - Collaborating partners should be accountable to each other, to funders and other stakeholders in the accomplishment of the research.
- (iv) Report suspected cases of research misconduct in line with the Queen Mary [Joint Policy Statement on Research Misconduct](#)

2(a).5 Review of the Policy

The QMERC is responsible for regularly reviewing and updating this policy to ensure it takes

into account current guidelines and relevant legislation.

The most up to date version of the policy will be available to download from the [JRMO research ethics website](#).

2(a).6 Oversight and Reporting

The Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee has been authorised by Senate to advise on all research policies, to oversee their ethical content, and to provide advice on ethical and related issues arising from their implementation.

The Senate has granted authority to the Queen Mary Ethics of Research Committee to establish criteria, processes, and procedures to enact this policy and to grant approval to research according to its terms.

The present policy is subject to oversight by the QMERC, which reports to the Senate of Queen Mary University of London and routinely submits minutes of its meetings.

Further information: Please see the [JRMO research ethics webpage](#).

Contact: For further advice please contact: research-ethics@qmul.ac.uk

This policy applies only to Queen Mary.

