

Annual Statement 2022/2023

Excellence in research underpins all of Royal Holloway's activities and aspirations. We aspire to produce world-leading research that substantially advances the knowledge base, and that fosters transformational impacts for individuals, society, and the environment. We also aspire to give our students an education that is informed by the highest standards of research and scholarship.

Royal Holloway is committed to upholding the principles of the [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#) (Universities UK, October 2019)

1. upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
2. ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards
3. 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
4. using transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise
5. working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to review progress regularly and openly

Research Ethics Lead

We have appointed a Research ethics Lead, the purpose of this post is to:

- Chair the Research Ethics Committee and oversee the correct functioning of current ethics processes
- Lead the roll out of the new Research Ethics Reviewing Framework in September 2022, providing oversight and guidance of the Research and Innovation Ethics team responsible for doing this, and to support them in the communication of the framework to Academic Departments.
- Provide oversight and guidance to the Research and Innovation Ethics team in the design and roll-out of a new Research Ethics process for September 2023, including a new IT system and the matching of reviewing requirements to available resources

The Research Ethics Lead has been instrumental in ensuring that the research ethics project is a collaborative process, with input from Academic Colleagues. They have met with representatives of the Schools to raise awareness of the research ethics process and identify contributions needed from each School. As a result, we have been able to secure additional reviewers to process applications and new membership to the committee.

Research Ethics Project

We are currently in the first phase of this three year project, having rolled out the risk review framework, we conducted a review after 6 months. Following feedback from those using the framework we are making revisions and where appropriate have updating guidance.

We have been working closely with IT to deliver an improved solution for the purpose of review. We have conducted several user acceptance tests ahead of a pilot test.

As part of the outreach programme we have met with each School and held forums with Academics to identify their needs and provide information regarding the project and how it will impact the ethics review process

We have outlined and revised the focus of the second phase of the project to focus on training needs whilst we assess provisions for UG and PGT students.

Promotion of research integrity

Research integrity at Royal Holloway is promoted through intranet pages (accessible externally), and through the provision and delivery of research ethics training. Royal Holloway subscribes to an online research ethics training programme provided by Epigeum, and professional services staff from the Department of Research & Innovation (primarily the Research Ethics and Integrity Manager), provide training via:

1. Termly research ethics sessions for postgraduate research students
2. Department or School level training sessions for staff and students
3. An annual research ethics session for probationary staff
4. Ad-hoc meetings with School PGR leads to promote research ethics and address any common issues

Reporting Misconduct

An investigation was conducted into concerns raised regarding a research conduct, no allegations of research misconduct have been upheld.

Misconduct Allegations

The senior member of staff responsible for overseeing research integrity is the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Ruth Livesey ruth.livsey@rhul.ac.uk.

Policies, regulations, and guidance

Relating to Research Integrity include:

- [Research Misconduct Policy](#)
- [Statement on Research Performance Expectations](#)
- [Code of Good Research Practice](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Research Ethics Policy](#)
- [Anti-Bribery Policy](#)
- [Tobacco industry funding](#)
- [Dignity at work Policy](#)

- [Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Anti-Money Laundering Policy](#)
- [Criminal Finances Act Policy](#)
- [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)
- [Counter-Fraud Policy and Procedures](#)