

## Annual Statement 2019/2020

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

### Delays as result of Covid-19

As a result of Covid-19 we have had to delay the implementation of a new ethics approval system, but we continue to improve our processes in order to meet sector standards.

### Supporting Researchers

We worked with UKRIO to provide a Research Ethics module. This was targeted primarily at staff, but was also open students. We are developing online training resources and guidance for researchers and research ethics reviewers.

### Internal Audit

Following the publication of [Research Ethics Support and Review in Research Organisations](#), we conducted an audit using the Audit tool aligned with the core principles of the Concordat to support Research Integrity and the Institution. The recommendations will be reviewed by the Research Ethics Committee to be actioned in 2020/21.

### External Audit

#### UKRI 2019-20 Funding Assurance Report

The University was required to complete a pre audit questionnaire detailing current ethics related processes and practice, the audit report noted the information provided by the Royal Holloway, with no further recommendations.

## Codes, policies and guidance

We have updated the PI Statement of Responsibilities to external and internal practices and policies including anti-bullying.

## Misconduct Allegations

We investigated no allegations of potential research misconduct in 2019/20.

The senior member of staff responsible for overseeing research integrity is the Senior Vice-Principal (Academic Strategy and Research), Professor Ken Badcock [ken.badcock@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:ken.badcock@rhul.ac.uk)

## Policies, regulations and guidance

Relating to Research Integrity include:

- [Statement on Research Performance Expectations](#)
- [Code of Good Research Practice](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Research Ethics Policy](#)
- [Anti-Bribery Policy](#)
- [Code of Practice for Inquiry into Allegations of Misconduct in Relation to Academic Research and Scientific Activity](#)
- [Tobacco industry funding](#)
- [Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Anti-Money Laundering Policy](#)
- [Criminal Finances Act Policy](#)
- [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)
- [Counter-Fraud Policy and Procedures](#)