

Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2019/20

Introduction and Context

As a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, De Montfort University (DMU) has a responsibility to ensure that all research conducted under the auspices of the university is undertaken with integrity. We set out our commitment 'to improve accountability, and provide assurances that measures being taken continue to support consistently high standards of research integrity'.

As employers of researchers, and signatories of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, it is highly desirable to use the UK Research Integrity Office (RIO) (www.ukrio.org.uk) as a resource for research integrity. The UKRIO is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2016 to support research integrity across the UK. It is a member of the Higher Education Funding Councils (HEFCs) and is funded by the Higher Education Funding Councils (HEFCs). The UKRIO is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2016 to support research integrity across the UK. It is a member of the Higher Education Funding Councils (HEFCs) and is funded by the Higher Education Funding Councils (HEFCs).

4. In Business and Law (BAL) steps are still being taken to examine the quality of research ethics processes for students on placement, as well as students in partner institutions, especially those overseas, to ensure their processes align with those of the Faculty and DMU for programme validations.
5. Members of HLS and the Information Governance Team completed an online self-assessment audit that allows organisations to measure their performance against the National Data Guardian's 10 data security standards. The audit requires organisations that have access to NHS patient data and systems to complete the Data Security and Protection Toolkit, to provide assurance that they and relevant staff are practicing good data security and that personal information is handled correctly. Submission is due early in the 2020/21 academic year.

Policies and Initiatives

DMU has continued to review policies and guidelines that inform and guide research practice in line with current legislation.

Policies

1. Guidelines on the ethics of research conducted online, and research with children and young adults have been developed and are awaiting finalisation and approval;
2. The Sensitive Research Policy was reviewed and updated to provide clarity on the use of data for evaluation versus research purposes, between handling sensitive data and handling sensitive materials, and extended to cover teaching, not just research.
3. Guidance for researchers on the General Data Protection Regulations as it intersects with research has been developed, and is pending approval.

New Initiatives

1. In response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, all face to face research was suspended and where possible and with approval, moved to online data collection methods. The situation remains under review pending updates from the UK Government.

