How easy is it to find research integrity contact details from UK university websites?

Elizabeth Wager

Publications Consultant, Sideview

Advisory Board Member, UK Research Integrity Office

UKRIO Code of Practice (2009) states:

- *Institutions should 'identify and make known one or more members of staff ... whom researchers and external organizations ... can contact with any concerns about the conduct of research'*

UKRIO

COPE Guidelines on cooperation between institutions and journals (March 2012) state:

- *Institutions 'should have a research integrity officer … and publish their contact details prominently'*

C|O|P|E COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

The UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity (July 2012) states that employers of researchers:

- *'should identify a senior member of staff to oversee research integrity and to act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity'*

- *'provide a named point of contact … to act as a confidential liaison for whistleblowers or any other person wishing to raise concerns about the integrity of research'*

UKRIO

- US journal editor concerned about possible misconduct -- unable to find contact at major research-intensive UK university

- Asked me …

- I happened to know the RI officer and supplied email address

- I checked the university website but could only find details because I knew the NAME of the RI Officer and Department

- To see how easy it was to find contact information for a staff member responsible for research integrity from UK university websites

- Used UUK listing of 134 UK universities
- Used pre-defined search terms (identified after pilot testing):
  - » research integrity
  - » misconduct
  - » whistleblowing
- Recorded the number of 'clicks' needed to find information from each search

We recorded:

- person's title
  (eg Research Integrity Officer, Pro-VC, Research Governance Officer)

- availability of person's name

- availability of email address

- availability of phone number

- availability of postal address

- Study funded by Sideview

- Research Assistant:
  Alexander Grigg

- Other team members (UKRIO):
  James Parry, Marc Taylor, Michael Farthing

Less than 25% of university websites provided contact details

	Number (n=134)	%
Email address	31	23%
Phone number	27	20%
Postal address	5	3%

It took, on average, 3 clicks to find the information (if present)

	Median	Range
Misconduct	3	1-5
Whistleblowing	3	1-4
Research integrity	3	2-6

We found great variation in the helpfulness and accessibility of information

- The best websites had a dedicated page

- Many searches ended in documents of university regulations (eg PDF >100 pages)

- Some required log-in (ie information only available to university members)

CENTRAL
SCHOOL OF SPEECH & DRAMA

Home » Research

Research

Research Network

Research Centres

Research Degrees

Research Strategy

Code of Good Conduct

Funded Projects

Research Repository

Publications

Knowledge Exchange

CODE OF GOOD CONDUCT IN RESEARCH

The School encourages staff and students to engage in a process of critical self-reflection in relation to intellectual work.

1. General Statement of Policy. It is CSSD's requirem[ent]
and students should accord with the school's equal o[...]
standards of good practice in the treatment of other[...]
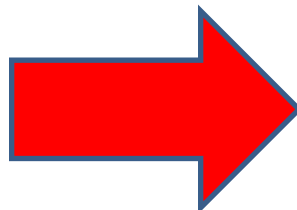
Home » Research

RESEARCH TEAM

Professor Robin Nelson
Director of Research
Email: robin.nelson@cssd.ac.uk

Dr Andrew Redford
Academic Administration, Deputy Academic Registrar
Email: andrew.redford@cssd.ac.uk

« Back to Current Staff

Research

New staff and professional development

Research strengths

Policies and procedures

Research policy and governance

Research Policy Office

Good research practice

Research staff forum

Post-doctoral research staff information

Licensing procedures for Centres and Institutes

Intellectual property

Copyright

Research ethics

Funding opportunities and

Safeguarding good research practice

The Research Committee of the University of St Andrews is responsible for formulating the policy and procedures for inquiring into allegations of misconduct in research involving **staff**. The most recent update (pdf, right) was taken to the Research Committee in 2007 with factual corrections made in 2010. The document includes (i) a statement defining good research practice, (ii) the definition and identification of misconduct in research, and (iii) essential steps in handling allegations of such misconduct. The policy and procedures contained within the document are currently under review. Comments and opinions are encouraged on this document (send to the Research Policy Office, rpo@st-andrews.ac.uk ✉).

Over the last few years a number of Research Councils have published guidance relating to good research pra... recently, **UKRIO** (UK Research Integri... Practice for Research ⌶, a reference... standards for researchers and researc... currently using the UKRIO Code to info... procedures.

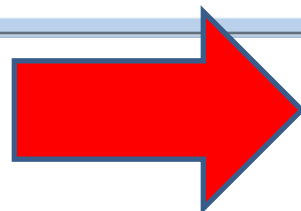## Documents

Good Research Practice 2010 ⌶
(PDF, 164 KB)

Contact

If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised here please contact:

Deputy Principal and Vice-Principal (Research)
College Gate
University of St Andrews
St Andrews
Fife KY16 9AJ

Tel: (01334 46)2542
Email: deputyprincipal@st-andrews.ac.uk ✉

CLT resources :: Learning & Teaching Conference 2012

...the Uni. Key note speaker was great, format works well, would be good to have more pedagogic **research** from subject tutors around the university. It has made me reflect on...

111page PDF
47 page Word Doc
'no results'

Misconduct in Research

Allegations of misconduct in research are rare but the University takes them very seriously. The University is committed to ensuring that allegations of misconduct in research are investigated with all possible thoroughness and vigour. This statement of policy and procedure is for dealing with an allegation of misconduct in research against an officer, member of the unestablished staff or assistant staff of the University.

The University's policy for Misconduct in Research is available here.

Senate has approved a revised version of the **Research Code of Conduct** which applies to all research taking place at the University

The revised **Research Code of Conduct** (CFS login required) via the **R**

At the Council Chamber, Whitehall

The 3rd Day of July 2008

BY THE LORDS OF HER MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL

WHEREAS section 124A(1), (2) and (4) of the Education Reform Act 1988(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") provide that for each higher education corporation established on or after 6th May 1992 there shall be an instrument of government, as prescribed by an order of the Privy Council, providing for the constitution of the corporation, and that the

Misconduct in Research, Code of Practice for Dealing with Complaints of

Summary: n/a

Type: Guideline

Owner: Research and Business Engagement Support Services

📄 Download document

Contact email: research-governance@manchester.ac.uk

- Variability in titles of individuals and departments makes searching difficult

  - Research Policy Manager
  - Convener
  - Academic Registrar
  - Vice-Principal

  - Clerk
  - Pro Vice Chancellor
  - Head of Governance

- Confusion with REC approval and RI processes

- Journal editors / external organizations may want to raise concerns (will not be familiar with university structure)

- Need to contact somebody sufficiently senior without conflicts of interest

- Whistleblowers may wish to be anonymous (phone / postal links preferable)

- Most UK universities do NOT publish clear contact details of staff responsible for research integrity

- Study was done around the time the Concordat was published (summer 2012)
- Plan to repeat study (summer 2013) to see if situation has improved
- Results to be presented at 3rd World Conference on Research Integrity, Montreal, May 2013

University of Sussex
Sussex Internal

| Students | Staff | Schools & services | Sussex Dire |

| Schools | ITS | Library | Professional services |

Schools and services > Professional services > Office of Governance and Secretariat > Policies and guidance > Probity and business > Raising concerns > Whistleblowing

Back to previous menu

> Raising concerns

> Whistleblowing

Office of Governance and Secretariat

Whistleblowing

1. **POLICY STATEMENT**

12. **CONTACTS**

12.1   Contact addresses and numbers for the individuals mentioned in the procedure are:

		Address	Ext	Email
(a)	Registrar & Secretary	Sussex House	3814	registrar@sussex.ac.uk
(b)	Deputy Vice-Chancellor	Sussex House	8215	c.a.mackie@sussex.ac.uk
(c)	Vice-Chancellor	Sussex House	8088	vc@sussex.ac.uk
(d)	Chair of Council	c/o Sussex House	c/o 8794	s.fanshawe@sussex.ac.uk
(e)	Chair of Audit Committee	c/o Sussex House	c/o 8794	sally.james500@googlemail.com

Misconduct in Research

Allegations of misconduc[...]   [...]mmitted to ensuring that
allegations of misconduc[...]   [...]t of policy and procedure is
for dealing with an allega[...]   [...] assistant staff of the
University.

Thank you!

The University's policy for Misconduct in Research is available here.

Complaints about Research Misconduct

Complaints about SOAS research will be handled in accordance with the School's Policy for the Investigation of Allegations of Research Misconduct. Please note that:

- Complaints must be submitted in writing.
- The complaint must include the name and contact details of the complainant. Anonymous complaints will not be investigated.
- The complaint should identify the research which is the subject of the complaint as precisely as possible (e.g. citing the specific publication), and should explain why, in the complainant's view, the research is not in accordance with SOAS's Research Ethics Policy.
- Complaints will only be accepted on the basis that full details of the complaint and the complainant's identity will be provided to the respondent at the appropriate point in the research misconduct investigation.

Complaints should be submitted to the Research and Enterprise Office at the following address:

Room 335, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, email to Research Manager ko12@soas.ac.uk

Misconduct in Research, Code of Practice for Dealing with Complaints of

Summary: n/a

Type: Guideline

Owner: Research and Business Engagement Support Services

[PDF] Download document

Contact email: research-governance@manchester.ac.uk