

Research Integrity Annual Statements

What is the purpose of the Annual Statement?

Concordat asks institutions to:

- Provide a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues (for example postgraduate and researcher training, or process reviews). [Commitments 1, 2, 3.](#)
- Provide assurances that the processes we have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation. [Commitment 4](#)
- Provide a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken. [Commitment 4](#)
- Continuous review & annual statement – [Commitment 5](#) (includes all of the above).

What is the purpose of the Annual Statement?

What is an Annual Statement?

- Short annual statement.
- Statement to an institution's governing body.
- Should be made publicly available.

Questions:

1. What do we mean by 'short'? (Statements v detailed review.)
2. Two purposes; governing body and public statement.
3. Different audiences; Governing body, funders, other institutions, researchers, general public.

UCL's Annual Statements

- Reporting year is 1 October – 30 September
- Publish following February

Interim Statement published July 2015 (1 page)

- Commitment to maintaining high standards of research integrity; refer to the commitments.

Annual Statement (2014-15) published February 2016 (6 pages)

Broad detail; setting the scene for current activities and future plans.

- Statement on Research Integrity, Research integrity website,
- Reviewing ethics review procedures,
- Training and awareness raising
- Research misconduct; review procedures and high level summary of formal investigations.

UCL's Annual Statements

Annual Statement (2015-16) published February 2017 (7 pages)

More detailed and rationale

- Culture of research integrity; Every researcher, Every discipline, Every day.
- Awareness raising and training; activities across UCL, faculty-wide examples.
- Support for researchers;
 - Guidance and literature on research integrity; leaflets, video series.
 - Nagoya Protocol, EU/US Privacy Shield, Research Data Management, faculty-based activities.
- Provide updates: ethics review, response to Nuffield Report.
- Research misconduct; review procedures and high level summary of formal investigations.

UCL Survey for university wide approach – annual survey?

2016-2017 Annual Statement

Content Open

- Update from previous year
- Research misconduct
- Five commitments; reviewing processes, supporting a culture
- Broad or focussed?
- Other relevant projects/activities?

UCL approach

- Build on previous years
- Create continuous narrative; see progress, understand rationale
- Be clear how it fits into the bigger picture (institutionally, research lifecycle, research integrity)
- Keep on track

Could we agree content?

Agreed content?

- How we are meeting the Commitments
- Snap shot of that year
- Continue from the previous year; updates

Standardisation?

- Variances in institutional structures, processes and culture
- Focus on specific areas OR broad view
- Structure/standard questions could dictate content

Annual Statements – Aim

Doing the work & being seen to be doing it

- Openly acknowledge work undertaken
- Share best practice
- Being accountable

Meeting Commitment 1 / UCL Principles of Integrity:

- Honesty
- Rigour
- Transparency and open communication
- Care and respect

Supporting culture of research integrity