

Work Programme

2025/2026

A look at our projects,
priorities, and services for the
year ahead.

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A message from our CEO

**At UKRIO, our mission is simple:
to make sure research is carried
out with integrity.**

We support everyone involved in research – across all sectors and disciplines – to uphold the highest standards, ensuring research is rigorous, trustworthy, and impactful.

Championing integrity means adapting as the needs of the research community evolve. Since 2006, UKRIO has grown alongside the challenges researchers face and the changing environments in which they work.

This year marks a pivotal moment in our journey. Earlier this year, we were honoured to welcome Professor Dame Linda Partridge as our new Chair of Trustees. Under her guidance, we're developing a bold new strategy to take us through to 2030.

At the heart of this strategy is a commitment to strengthen and expand the support we provide to the research community – and work to achieve this is already well underway.

As a first step, this programme sets out the key initiatives we'll be focusing on in the year ahead, shaped by your feedback. Inside, you'll see how we're working to tackle some of the most pressing issues in research today – from the impact of artificial intelligence and breaches of integrity to strengthening research culture and improving access to research integrity training.

Above all, this programme is about action. It sets out how UKRIO can support you and your organisation right now, while also outlining our direction for the future.

I hope you find it valuable, and I look forward to working with you to make 2025/2026 a year of real progress for research integrity.

Yours sincerely,

Stephanie Neave
CEO, UKRIO

Shaped and powered by the research community

We are guided by a core belief: **research integrity is a shared responsibility and a collective endeavour.** Accordingly, we don't prescribe one-size-fits-all solutions. We convene, collaborate, co-create.

Our work is shaped by – and designed to serve – the research community in all its diversity.

Stakeholder engagement is central to our approach, helping us focus on the sector's most pressing needs and keep our information, advice, and guidance grounded in real-world practice and experience.

We are powered by your insight, commitment, and expertise.

Our work would not be possible without the active involvement of the research community. Alongside our core team, UKRIO draws strength from our network of 150+ subscriber organisations, the strategic input of our Board of Trustees, and the invaluable contributions of our Advisory Council and Expert Community.

Working in collaboration

In March 2025, UKRIO hosted two stakeholder workshops as part of a [UKRI-commissioned project](#) to promote good authorship practice. These sessions brought together over 80 research contributors from diverse backgrounds to co-develop a range of tools for the research community.

Our project team is now refining the outputs to take into account participant feedback and expert input from a cross-sector advisory group, with final versions set to launch in September 2025.



How we make a difference

- **Acting as an independent, trusted voice**

Drawing on a network of specialists and an expert Advisory Council, we offer impartial, informed perspectives on research integrity issues.

- **Providing high-quality training, advice, and guidance**

We equip researchers and organisations with practical tools to safeguard and advance research integrity in their work.

- **Leading and shaping national dialogue and initiatives**

We convene stakeholders to discuss integrity issues on the horizon and drive coordinated efforts to address them.

- **Sharing knowledge and insights**

We create spaces for stakeholders to exchange ideas, share experiences, and develop collaborative approaches to common challenges.

- **Serving as a champion and critical friend**

We advocate for the highest standards of research integrity and provide constructive support to help the sector uphold them.

- **Supporting research integrity efforts in the UK and beyond**

We support efforts to advance research integrity in the UK and internationally – for example, by providing expert input to cross-sector initiatives and participating in networks such as the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO).

Our **priorities** in 2025/2026

Our core workstreams have been **shaped in consultation with stakeholders**, ensuring our efforts focus on areas where support is most needed and valued.

1 **Artificial Intelligence**

AI has the potential to transform research – but it also raises urgent questions about its ethical, safe, and responsible use. These concerns are front of mind for the research community: 69% of respondents to our recent stakeholder survey ranked AI among their top three concerns for research integrity.

UKRIO is working to address these challenges head-on, including through our landmark guidance, [Embracing AI with Integrity: a practical guide for researchers](#), published in June 2025.

As AI advances, so will our efforts to ensure researchers and institutions can use it with transparency, rigour, and integrity.

From guidance to action

We're turning our recent guidance, *Embracing AI with Integrity*, into practical training designed to help researchers apply our resources and develop best practices for using AI responsibly.

Key activities

- Develop practical resources, including a train-the-trainer toolkit and real-world case studies, to support responsible AI use in research.
- Support cross-sector initiatives, including advising an NIHR Research Support Service (RSS) project led by the University of Leicester, which is exploring the use of generative AI in qualitative data analysis and its implications for ethical conduct, trust, recruitment, and research inclusion.
- Host a roundtable with research organisations, publishers, and funders to discuss responsible AI use in research and the role each stakeholder plays in upholding it.
- Help the research community stay informed about the latest AI developments through a regularly updated resource page that consolidates key reports, guidance, and examples of good practice in one central location.

2 Research Culture

There is increasing recognition that addressing issues within research culture is essential for advancing research integrity – a finding strongly reinforced by *Enablers and Inhibitors to Research Integrity*, a report commissioned by the UK Committee on Research Integrity (UKCORI) and co-developed by UKRIO, the UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN), and the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex.

This report found that aspects of research culture, such as pressures to publish and quantity-focused assessment metrics, act as major systemic inhibitors of research integrity. In contrast, mentorship, positive role models, and training were evidenced to be key enablers.

Building on these insights, we will continue to provide practical tools to help all research contributors foster a positive, integrity-focused culture in 2025/2026.

Key activities

- Embed good authorship practice into research culture through tools developed through *Supporting collaborative thinking and progress on discussing authorship disputes*.
- Strengthen institutional support by releasing revised guidance for establishing research integrity champions.
- Deliver targeted training for subscribers focused on researcher wellbeing and promoting integrity-driven research environments.
- Host an expert webinar on the role research supervisors play to foster an inclusive and positive research culture, including practical strategies they can employ.
- Support a project led by Sense about Science and Taylor & Francis to develop an integrity toolkit for early career researchers.

Identifying strategies to foster a positive research culture

Last year, we convened a roundtable with stakeholders to explore key considerations in advancing and embedding healthy research culture, including adaptability and change, awareness, and recognition and rewards.

In 2025/26, we will hone in on specific roles within the research environment – such as research supervisors and integrity champions – and the vital part they play in fostering a positive culture.

3 Research Ethics

Conducting high-quality research requires more than technical expertise – it demands strong ethical judgement and clear frameworks to guide decision-making.

Our stakeholders have identified this as a critical area of need. Training in research ethics – especially for Research Ethics Committees (RECs) and researchers – is among the most frequent requests we receive.

That's why this year, we're making it a priority to develop practical, accessible tools and training materials to support ethical decision-making at every stage of the research process.

We'll also be addressing ethical challenges that arise in specific contexts – such as interdisciplinary and international collaborations or research involving animal materials – ensuring researchers are equipped to act with integrity, whatever the setting.

Key activities

- Launch an online research ethics training course, co-developed with the University of Suffolk, to provide researchers with a strong foundation to navigate ethical challenges.
- Release revised core tools produced in partnership with ARMA, including a Research Ethics Framework, REC review panel checklist, audit tool, and risk assessment matrix.
- Convene a roundtable discussion on ethical considerations in international and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Host expert webinars exploring key ethical concerns, such as the use of animal materials in research.

Research ethics support and review

Five years after its 2020 release, [Research Ethics Support and Review in Research Organisations](#), our guidance published jointly with ARMA, remains one of our most widely used publications.

This year, we will review, update, and expand the guidance to improve accessibility, address emerging challenges like AI, and make it relevant to a broader range of research organisations, including those in the third and public sectors.

4 Preventing and addressing breaches in research integrity

From honest mistakes to deliberate misconduct, breaches in research integrity remain a major concern for research contributors. As highlighted in our 2024 report, *Barriers to Reporting and Investigating Research Misconduct*, lack of confidence, clarity, and supportive culture can prevent breaches from being reported, investigated, or addressed.

This year, our work will focus on advancing this report's recommendations, supporting organisations to adopt effective, consistent, and transparent approaches to preventing and investigating breaches.

Key proposals from our 2024 report

- Standardised requirements and procedures
- Research misconduct investigation training for all sectors undertaking research
- A flagging system that promotes transparency and normalises early raising of concerns
- National infrastructure to collect and report on research misconduct cases annually

Key activities

- Pilot and launch a train-the-trainer toolkit to support those investigating potential research misconduct in carrying out their roles effectively.
- Develop Detailed and Universal Misconduct Procedures – step-by-step manuals and templates for research organisations to use or adapt as they see fit.
- Contribute to cross-sector and subscriber initiatives, including:
 - A project led by Wellcome Trust and UKRIO to develop learning modules on data sharing in misconduct cases
 - UKCORI's work to examine poor research practice and research misconduct
 - A project led by the University of Nottingham to produce guidance on handling non-genuine participants in online research
- Increase accessibility of misconduct guidance by publishing an updated, organised database that consolidates existing and refreshed information, advice, and guidance.

How we can support you

We offer a range of services designed to help research contributors in all roles and contexts uphold the highest standards of integrity.



Confidential Advisory Service

Since 2006, UKRIO has offered confidential, independent advice to all individuals and organisations on research integrity matters ranging from data fabrication and falsification to research ethics, authorship, publication practices, and governance.

This service is uniquely provided by UKRIO. It not only provides vital support in navigating complex research integrity challenges, but it also enables UKRIO to develop focused intelligence of issues and trends on the ground to inform our wider work.

[Access our Advisory Service](#)



Live Training and Education

UKRIO delivers live training and consultancy, both in person and virtually, tailored to different contexts and audiences. Our sessions cover a broad range of topics, including:

- Introduction to research integrity and research culture
- Research ethics for early-career researchers
- Training for Research Ethics Committees (RECs)
- Publication ethics and authorship in research
- Implementing the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*
- Organisational strategies to enhance research culture
- Research integrity and research culture for senior leadership teams
- Addressing breaches of research integrity, including investigating allegations of research misconduct
- Training for research integrity champions, advisers, and similar roles

[Learn more about our Training](#)



Online Training Courses

Integrity training is crucial to helping institutions ensure their staff conduct research that is ethical, high-quality, and effective. It is also increasingly a standard requirement for securing research funding. However, stakeholder feedback indicates that access to affordable, high-quality training continues to be a barrier.

To address this, UKRIO is developing and launching online courses for subscribers. These courses offer flexible, practical learning that enhances understanding of research integrity and provides tools that can be applied directly in everyday research. Current and upcoming courses include:

- **Introduction to Research Integrity** (launched May 2025) – designed to provide a strong foundation in research integrity principles, along with practical guidance on how to apply them in everyday research.
- **Introduction to Research Ethics** (pilot launching December 2025, co-developed with the University of Suffolk) – equips researchers and research ethics committees (RECs) with skills and confidence to navigate ethical challenges that can arise at different stages of research.

[Learn more about Introduction to Research Integrity](#)

Training that meets real-world needs

To ensure our [Introduction to Research Integrity](#) online training met user needs, we piloted the course content with nearly 9,000 participants from 100+ research organisations. With input from a cross-sector working group, we carried out an extensive review and refinement process before formally launching the course in May 2025. Key features of the revised course include:

- New and refreshed design for a more user-friendly experience
- Expanded content on research ethics, data collection and management, open research, authorship, declaring competing interests, collaborative working, and AI
- New multimedia and interactive elements, including videos, case studies, scenarios, and assessments
- Updated content to reflect recent revisions to the *UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity*



Information and Guidance

UKRIO hosts a free hub of information and guidance to support everyone involved in research, from senior leaders to early-career researchers. These resources are organised across seven themes:

- Good practice and governance
- Research misconduct
- Research ethics – human
- Research ethics – animals
- Publication ethics including authorship
- Research culture
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion

Our resources are available in a range of formats, including detailed guidance, practical tools like checklists and model procedures, informative case studies, engaging videos, and blogs. They provide practical support to help research contributors uphold integrity, navigate challenges, and embed best practice across all stages of research.

[Access our Resource Hub](#)



Thought Leadership and Community-building

UKRIO shapes the national conversation on research integrity by convening partners across the research ecosystem to develop solutions to integrity challenges. This approach allows research contributors to connect, share expertise, and help shape practical responses to emerging issues. We support engagement at multiple levels:

- **Public opportunities:** Expert Webinars and Connect with UKRIO sessions.
- **Subscriber opportunities:** Good practice forums, roundtables, and our annual Subscriber Symposium.
- **Collaborative projects:** Cross-sector initiatives that bring together stakeholders from across the research community to tackle pressing integrity challenges.

[Register for upcoming events](#)

Becoming a subscriber



A key way we support organisations in upholding research integrity is through our **subscriber network.**

UKRIO's work is made possible by the ongoing support of our 150+ subscribers. In return for their vital contributions, subscribers receive direct, tailored and sustained support that extends beyond our public services.

By becoming a subscriber, your organisation not only demonstrates its commitment to research integrity, but also gains access to expert advice, practical tools, and evidence-based guidance to strengthen policies, systems, and culture.

You'll also become a part of a collaborative community of organisations working together to safeguard and advance research integrity.

Subscriber benefits

Practical advice

A dedicated UKRIO contact to help implement good practice and foster a positive research culture

Trusted confidential support

Independent advice and guidance, including on the investigation and handling of potential integrity breaches

Training and events

Access to Training Webinars and Good Practice Forums, discounts on bespoke training, and invitations to our annual conference

Policy review

Expert feedback on organisational policies and procedures relating to research integrity

Online training

Free enrolments on our online training courses, including up to 1,000 places on *Introduction to Research Integrity*

Exclusive resources

Access to guidance, tools, and case studies not available in our public catalogue

Cross-sector leadership

Membership of an ever-growing network of organisations working to advance research integrity

Our subscriber community

UKRIO's 150+ subscribers reflect the full diversity of the UK research landscape. **We support organisations of all types and sizes** – from established institutions seeking specialist knowledge exchange to organisations just beginning their research integrity journey.

Examples from across our subscriber community

Higher education institutions



Independent research institutes



Public Sector Research Establishments



Charities and social enterprises



Learned societies and funders



Our events and training

This year's calendar includes **over 18 live events and training opportunities**. These range from expert-led webinars on key topics like authorship, researcher wellbeing, and whistleblowing to practical training sessions, peer-led Good Practice Forums, and cross-sector Roundtables.

Event types

Connect with UKRIO – Meetings with our team offering attendees the opportunity to explore UKRIO's work, understand how it can support their practice, and learn ways to get involved

Expert Webinars – Presentations led by expert voices from across the research community on key research integrity topics

Roundtables – Facilitated discussions bringing together cross-sector perspectives to tackle urgent challenges and publish community-driven recommendations

Training Webinars – Live sessions designed to support professional growth by equipping subscribers with practical skills and insights, while fostering a culture of integrity

Subscriber Symposium – Our flagship event, bringing together subscribers and guest speakers to discuss key challenges and sector developments

New

Good Practice Forums

In response to popular demand, we're launching a new event format this year: Good Practice Forums. These peer-led sessions provide our subscribers with a trusted space to discuss challenges, share experiences and approaches, and foster collaborative problem-solving.

Education and Training Manager

To better meet the training needs of the research community, UKRIO is expanding its team with a new Education and Training Manager, who will lead the growth of our training programme and deliver high-quality, accessible education.

Events Programme

Event type	Topic	Date and time	Access
Connect with UKRIO	Presenting our 2025/2026 work programme	10 Sept, 10:00-10:45 BST Register here	Public
Expert Webinar	Launching new tools to support good authorship practice	24 Sept, 10:00-11:00 BST Register here	Public
Expert Webinar	Exploring guidance on non-genuine participants in online research	15 Oct, 10:00-11:00 BST Register here	Public
Training Webinar	Mindset awareness and research culture	21 Oct, 14:00-15:00 BST Register here	Subscribers only
Good Practice Forum	Good practice for Research Ethics Committees (RECs)	6 Nov, 10:00-11:30 GMT Register here	Subscribers only
Special event	Launch of the <i>Introduction to Research Ethics</i> online training course	10 Dec, 14:00-14:45 GMT Register here	Subscribers only
Expert Webinar	Exploring the <i>Ethical Framework for Obtaining Material from Sentient Animals</i>	22 Jan, 10:00-11:00 GMT Register here	Public

Please note: Event details are subject to change. Registered participants will be notified of any significant updates.

Event type	Topic	Date and time	Access
Connect with UKRIO	Launch of UKRIO's 2025-2030 Strategy	11 Feb, 10:00-10:45 GMT Register here	Public
Good Practice Forum	Good practice for using AI in research	24 Feb, 14:00-15:30 GMT Register here	Subscribers only
Training Webinar	Addressing and investigating allegations of research misconduct	11 March, 10:00-11:00 GMT Register here	Subscribers only
Expert Webinar	The role of supervisors in fostering a positive research culture	24 March, 10:00-11:00 GMT Register here	Public
Training Webinar	Establishing a Research Ethics Committee (REC)	15 April, 14:00-15:00 GMT Register here	Subscribers only
Roundtable	Ethical issues in international and interdisciplinary collaborations	28 April, 14:00-16:00 GMT <i>Details coming soon</i>	Subscribers and other invites
Subscriber Symposium	TBC	13 May, 10:00-13:00 GMT <i>Details coming soon</i>	Subscribers and guest speakers

Please note: Event details are subject to change. Registered participants will be notified of any significant updates.

Our events and training

Event type	Topic	Date and time	Access
Expert Webinar	Exploring <i>Whistleblowing and Breaches of Good Research Practice</i>	3 June, 14:00-15:00 GMT Register here	Public
Training Webinar	Exploring UKRIO's 'train-the-trainer' toolkit on responsible AI use in research	10 June, 10:00-11:00 GMT Register here	Subscribers only
Roundtable	The roles of research organisations, publishers, and funders in upholding responsible AI use	23 June, 10:00-12:00 GMT <i>Details coming soon</i>	Subscribers and other invites
Connect with UKRIO	Providing feedback and suggestions to help shape UKRIO's work	8 July, 14:00-15:00 GMT Register here	Public

Please note: Event details are subject to change. Registered participants will be notified of any significant updates.

Engaging with our work

Whether you're an individual committed to good research practice or an organisation seeking to strengthen its research culture, **there are many ways you can start engaging with our work.**

Get involved

- Become a [subscriber](#)
- Contact us about [projects and collaborations](#)
- Explore our [resources hub](#)
- Utilise our [training services](#)
- Use our [advisory service](#)
- Register for [upcoming events](#)
- Join our [Expert Community](#)

Stay connected

- Sign up for our [monthly newsletter](#)
- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)
- Visit our [news page](#) for updates and opportunities

Contact UKRIO

- Visit our website at www.ukrio.org
- Email us at info@ukrio.org

Work Programme 2025/2026

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