

# Work Programme

## 2025/2026

# DRAFT

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

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# A message from our CEO



**Research shapes the world we live in.** At UKRIO, our mission is simple: to make sure it is carried out with integrity.

We support everyone involved in research – across all sectors and disciplines – to uphold the highest standards, so that research is rigorous, trustworthy, and makes a positive difference.

But research is never static, and neither are we. 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. We were delighted to welcome Professor Dame Linda Partridge, one of the UK's eminent research leaders, as our new Chair of Trustees. Under her guidance, we're developing a new strategy to take us through to 2030 – strengthening and expanding the support we provide the research community.

As a first step, this programme sets out the key initiatives we'll be focusing on in the year ahead – shaped by your feedback from our recent stakeholder survey. 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 highlights how UKRIO can support you and your organisation right now, while also setting out where we're heading next.

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

Your sincerely,

**Stephanie Neave**  
CEO, UKRIO

# How we make a difference

We advance our mission by:



Acting as an **independent, trusted voice** on research integrity matters



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



Leading and shaping **national research integrity dialogue and initiatives**



Serving as a **champion and critical friend** for researchers and institutions



Fostering a **shared culture of integrity**

# For the community, with the community

At UKRIO, everything we do is guided by one principle: **research integrity is a shared responsibility and a collective endeavour**. Our work accordingly is both shaped by the research community, and built to serve it.



## Stakeholder input drives our work.

We don't dictate solutions – we listen, collaborate, and co-create. By engaging stakeholders, we develop strategies that address real challenges in the research landscape.



## Support tailored to the research community.

Our close engagement with researchers and research organisations enables us to design resources, tools, and support that meet a wide range of needs – from universities and funders to publishers, policymakers, and science communicators.

# Convening stakeholders

Challenges in research integrity cannot be solved in isolation. **UKRIO acts as a convener**, bringing together voices from across sectors and disciplines to co-create solutions and strengthen the research system.

## Spaces for sharing knowledge

As part of our events programme, we provide forums where stakeholders can exchange perspectives and experiences about the challenges they face in their work, including through our Good Practice Forums and Roundtables.

## Cross-sector collaborations

We lead projects that bring together diverse expertise to co-develop practical solutions to research integrity challenges, designed for broad adoption. A key example is our ongoing authorship project commissioned by UKRI (see below).

## International advocacy

We engage with networks like the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) to align standards and strengthen integrity initiatives across diverse contexts.

## A Look at our Authorship Workshops

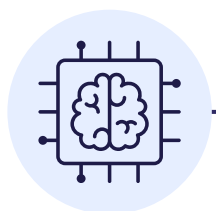
As part of a UKRI-commissioned project, UKRIO hosted two collaborative workshops in March 2025, bringing together over 80 research contributors from diverse backgrounds – including researchers, research governance professionals, publishers, and funders – to co-develop tools for promoting good authorship practice.



# Our **priorities** in 2025/2026

In our stakeholder survey, we asked the community to rank the issues they wanted us to address in this year's programme. Based on this feedback, we have selected **four priority workstreams for 2025/2026**.

*Source: 2025 Stakeholder Survey  
Respondents ranked seven issues  
in order of priority  
n=179*



## 1) **Artificial Intelligence**

AI is transforming research, offering unprecedented opportunities while raising important questions about safe, rigorous, and ethical use. Over the past year, UKRIO has addressed these challenges through targeted projects and initiatives, and we will build on these achievements to help organisations and researchers navigate AI responsibly and effectively.

# 69%

of survey respondents ranked 'Artificial intelligence and its research integrity considerations' in their top three concerns.

### **Key activities:**

- Develop practical resources to support responsible use, including a train-the-trainer toolkit and case studies for research governance staff.
- Engage with cross-sector initiatives to shape ethical and inclusive practices, like the University of Leicester's *AI, Ethics and Inclusion* project.
- Host a roundtable discussion exploring publishers' and funders' relationships with AI and its role in peer review.
- Share up-to-date insights and guidance on best practice, including a revised AI resource page.

## 2) Research Culture



Research culture as a key concern for integrity initiatives—as identified in past reports UKRIO has contributed to. Building on last year's work, we will continue to provide research contributors in all roles and contexts with the tools to foster a positive and integrity-driven research culture.

**54%**

of survey respondents ranked '*Enhancing research culture*' in their top three concerns.

### Key activities:

- Embed good authorship practice into research culture through tools developed as part of our ongoing UKRI-commissioned project.
- Strengthen institutional support by releasing revised guidance for establishing Research Integrity Champions.
- Deliver targeted training for subscribers, focusing on researcher wellbeing and promoting integrity-driven research environments.

## 3) Research Ethics



High-quality research relies on strong skills for navigating ethical dilemmas, and stakeholders have highlighted the need for more accessible tools and training. This year, we will address this need and help researchers uphold ethical standards at every stage of research.

**52%**

of survey respondents ranked '*Research ethics in practice*' in their top three concerns.

### Key activities:

- Provide subscribers access to an online research ethics training course, co-developed with the University of Suffolk, equipping them to navigate ethical challenges confidently at every stage of research.
- Strengthen ethical governance by releasing updates to core tools co-published with ARMA, including a Research Ethics Framework, REC review panel checklist, and risk assessment matrix.





4)

## Preventing and addressing breaches in research integrity

Breaches in research integrity – from honest mistakes to deliberate misconduct – remain a major concern for research contributors. As highlighted in our [2024 report](#), significant barriers still prevent breaches from being consistently reported, addressed, and prevented. This year, our work will focus on advancing the report's recommendations, supporting research organisations to adopt fairer, more consistent, and transparent approaches to preventing and investigating breaches.

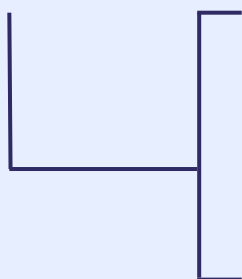
**38%**

of survey respondents ranked 'Addressing breaches of research integrity' in their top three concerns.

### Key activities:

- Train research organisations to investigate misconduct effectively through new live sessions and supporting materials.
- Provide practical tools to address breaches of integrity across diverse research settings via Detailed and Universal Misconduct Procedures.
- Increase accessibility of misconduct guidance by publishing an updated, organised catalogue of internal and external resources.
- Publish targeted guidance on non-ethical research participation (with the University of Nottingham) to help prevent breaches of integrity.
- Contribute to sector-wide resources by supporting the development of an early career researcher research integrity toolkit (with Sense about Science and Taylor & Francis).

# 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

UKRIO's longstanding Advisory Service is one of our most recognised offerings. Each year, we respond to enquiries from across the UK and internationally on a wide range of issues, including data fabrication and falsification, research ethics, authorship, publication practices, and governance.

This vital service provides confidential, expert advice while giving UKRIO unique insight into integrity challenges at individual, organisational, and national levels. We draw on our network of specialists—including the Advisory Council and Expert Community—to ensure diverse expertise informs every response.

Access our  
Advisory Service

## Live Training and Education

UKRIO delivers tailored live training and consultancy, both in person and virtually, designed to meet the needs of research contributors across roles and contexts. 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

Submit a Training  
Enquiry Form

## Information and Guidance

UKRIO provides a freely accessible hub of information and guidance to support everyone involved in research, from senior leaders to early-career researchers.

Resources are organised across seven key 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, from detailed guidance and practical tools such as checklists and model procedures, to 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 community-driven solutions to integrity challenges. This enables research contributors to connect, share expertise, and help shape practical responses to emerging issues.

We support engagement at multiple levels:

- **Public opportunities:** Expert webinars, roundtables, and quarterly Connect with UKRIO events.
- **Subscriber opportunities:** Good Practice Forums and our annual research integrity conference.
- **Collaborative projects:** Periodically, we launch cross-sector initiatives that bring together stakeholders from across the research community to tackle pressing integrity challenges.

Register for  
upcoming events

Learn about  
future projects  
and opportunities

Contact us to  
discuss  
partnerships

## Online Training Courses

In response to stakeholder feedback about limited access to research integrity training, UKRIO has prioritised the development and launch of online courses for subscribers over the past year. These flexible and engaging courses strengthen understanding of research integrity by combining interactive learning with practical tools for immediate use in day-to-day research.

Current and upcoming courses include:

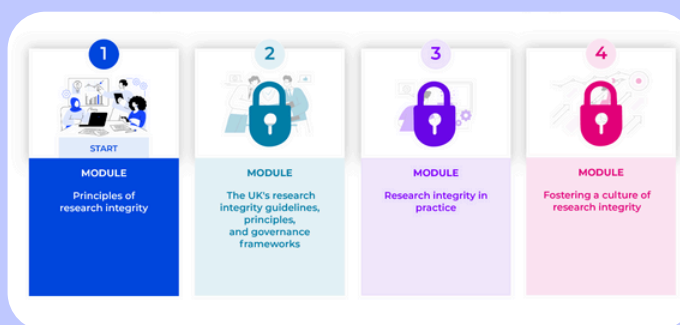
- **Introduction to Research Integrity** (launched May 2025) – builds a strong foundation in integrity principles and offers guidance on applying them in practice.
- **Introduction to Research Ethics** (pilot launching December 2025, co-developed with the University of Suffolk) – equips researchers and research ethics committees (RECs) with skills and confidence to navigate ethical challenges.

Learn more about  
*Introduction to  
Research Integrity*

### A look at *Introduction to Research Integrity*

*Introduction to Research Integrity* is a four-module course, refined through a pilot with nearly 9,000 participants from 100+ research organisations. Combining expert videos, case studies, and interactive activities, it offers a strong foundation in integrity principles and guidance for applying them in practice.

As part of their subscription, UKRIO subscribers can access **up to 1,000 free places** on this course.



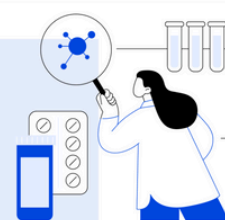
#### CASE STUDY

##### Theranos Scandal

A biotechnology entrepreneur, Elizabeth Holmes, claimed she would revolutionise blood testing through the creation of a device that only required a few drops of blood to perform tests. She made significant and unrealistic promises about the potential of the research and the results it would yield.

These claims generated considerable interest in her company, Theranos, attracting large investments and leading to Holmes gracing the covers of major publications like *Forbes* and *Fortune*.

However, investigations by the media and regulators uncovered that Holmes' device never worked and Theranos had misled patients, investors, and others. Holmes and a colleague were charged with fraud and found guilty. Holmes was sentenced to over eleven years in prison.



SEE KEY TAKEAWAY POINTS

# Becoming a subscriber



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

We are proud to be supported by a diverse network of **more than 150 organisations** spanning a wide range of sectors and disciplines. Our subscribers benefit from direct, tailored, and long-term support that extends beyond our public services.

By becoming a subscriber, your organisation not only demonstrates its commitment to upholding integrity but also gains the guidance needed to develop the policies, systems, and culture that sustain it.

Learn More About  
Subscribing

## Benefits of subscribing:

- **Practical advice** – a dedicated UKRIO contact to help implement good practice and foster a positive research culture
- **Trusted confidential support** – independent advice on complex or controversial issues, including the investigation and handling of alleged integrity breaches
- **Training and events** – access to Training Webinars and Good Practice Forums discussions, discounts on bespoke training, and invitations to our annual symposium
- **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** – join a 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 HEIs seeking specialist knowledge exchange, to organisations just beginning their research integrity journey.

## Our subscriber community, at a glance:

Higher  
education  
institutions



Independent  
research  
institutes



Scotland  
Institute



Public Sector  
Research  
Establishments



Charities and  
social  
enterprises



Learned  
societies and  
funders



# Our **events** in 2025/2026

This year, we are hosting **15+ events across a variety of formats**, directly responding to needs highlighted by stakeholders. These will focus on topics aligned with our priority workstreams – such as best practices for using AI tools, ethical considerations in interdisciplinary collaborations, and ways research supervisors can foster positive a research culture.



## Public events

- **Connect with UKRIO** – Open forums where we share updates on our work and invite your thoughts and feedback.
- **Expert Webinars** – Discussions led by expert voices from across the research community on emerging integrity topics.
- **Roundtables** – Smaller, cross-sector conversations pooling expertise and perspectives on complex or fast-moving issues.



## Subscriber events

- **Good Practice Forums** – A trusted space for representatives from subscriber orgs to exchange experiences and share advice with peers
- **Subscriber Trainings** – Live online training sessions available to all research contributors at subscriber organisations
- **Subscriber Symposium** – Our flagship event bringing together subscribers and guest speakers to address key challenges and share sector developments



## Events Programme

 : Subscriber-exclusive event

Event Type	Topic	Date and Time
<b>Connect with UKRIO</b>	Presenting our 2025/2026 work programme	10 Sept, 10:00 BST Register here
<b>Expert Webinar</b>	Launching our Authorship Integrity Toolkit	24 Sept, 10:00 BST Register here
<b>Expert Webinar</b>	Launching guidance on non-genuine research participants (with the University of Nottingham)	15 Oct, 10:00 BST Register here
<b>Subscriber Training</b>	Researcher wellbeing/growth mindset, in line with Vitae's Research Development Framework	21 Oct, 10:00 BST Register here
<b>Good Practice Forum</b>	Good practice for Research Ethics Committees	06 Nov, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Subscriber Training</b>	Launch of the <i>Introduction to Research Ethics</i> online training course	X Dec, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Connect with UKRIO</b>	Launch of UKRIO's 2025-2030 Strategy	16 Jan, 10:00 GMT Register here.
<b>Good Practice Forum</b>	Good Practice for using Artificial Intelligence	2 Feb, 10:00 GMT Register here



## Events Programme (cont.)

☐ : Subscriber-exclusive event

Event Type	Topic	Date and Time
<b>Subscriber training</b>	Research misconduct	X Feb, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Expert Webinar</b>	Whistleblowers versus reporting a breach	X March, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Roundtable</b>	Ethical issues in international and interdisciplinary research collaborations	X April, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Expert Webinar</b>	Supervisors and research culture	X April, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Good Practice Forum</b>	Good Practice for using Artificial Intelligence	2 Feb, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Subscriber Symposium</b>	TBD	X May, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Subscriber training</b>	AI train-the-trainer toolkit	X May, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Roundtable</b>	Publishers and funders relationships with AI	X June, 10:00 GMT Register here
<b>Connect with UKRIO</b>	Feedback on the year and info gathering on future priorities	X March, 10:00 GMT Register here

# Get **engaged** with our work

Whether you're an individual committed to good 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



For any queries about this Prospectus or our work, please contact us at [info@ukrio.org](mailto:info@ukrio.org)

# ***Work Programme 2025/2026***

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