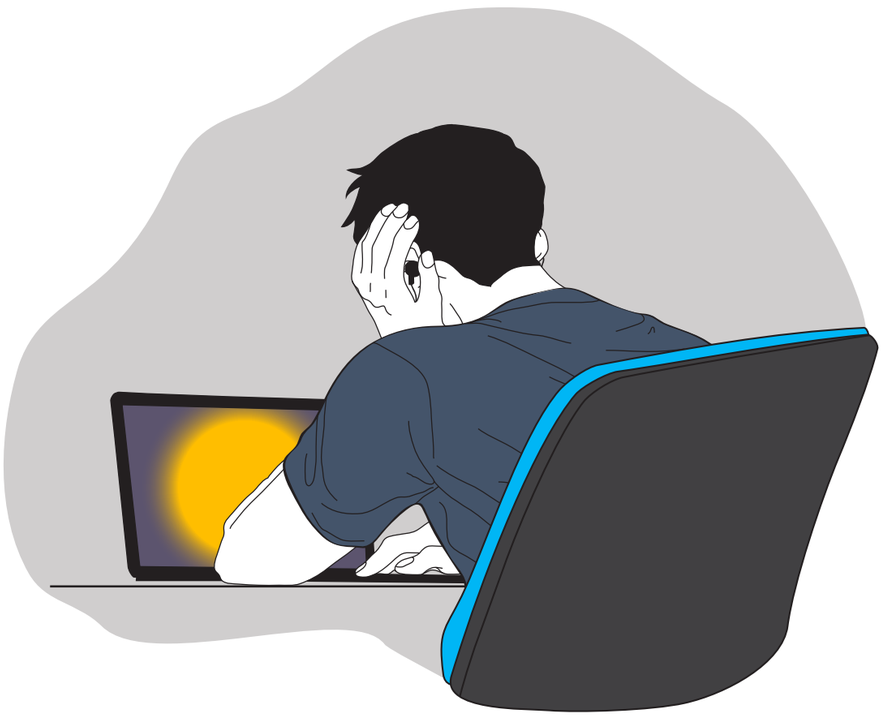
Responsibilities of a

Postgraduate Research Student

As a postgraduate research student, you are responsible for the design, conduct, collection and reporting of research data, material, information or production. Your approach towards research practice and teammates will influence the health of the culture within your local environment.

1 Research and Career Success

- Develop yourself professionally and personally through education, training, and a continuous process of self-reflection and improvement.
- Avoid unhealthy competition and establish good collaborations.
- Set achievable goals followed by close monitoring of your progress against milestones and realistic deadlines.
- Broaden your mind to a wide range of possibilities or career paths.
- Develop and keep a record of your transferable skills (e.g., narrative CV).



2 Research Integrity, Quality and Ethics

- Record negative/null results and methodologies or theories that fail to generate desired outcome as these contribute to knowledge. For example, publish via platforms that promote open research practices, e.g., https://www.octopus.ac or https://www.cos.io/initiatives/registered-reports.
- Regularly assess whether your research design and methodology are appropriate, beneficial and compliant with legal or ethical agreements especially for emerging fields (e.g., AI in research).
- Keep an accurate record of your research activities and review these with your supervisor.
- Critically review all research data, material, information or creative content. Adopt open research strategies to foster trust and transparency about changes in the research plan.
- Seek advice from your supervisor or research governance team if in doubt.
- Regularly complete research integrity training courses to remain up-to-date with knowledge, best practice and what is expected of you as a researcher.

3 Working with Others

- Be caring and respectful towards your supervisor and avoid unrealistic expectations.
- Commit to building a good relationship with others and communicate effectively.
- Critically reflect on your own behaviour and continuously develop your interpersonal skills.
- Be open to constructive criticism and appreciative of guidance or advice from your supervisor, group members and other researchers.
- Request education and training from your supervisor on how to perform quality peer review and other training in skills necessary to complete your research with integrity (e.g., publication ethics; presentation skills; open research strategies etc).

4 Welfare and Wellbeing

- Avoid reacting emotionally when problems arise. Take a practical approach to resolving issues. Identify the root cause and learn preventative measures.
- You may often spend the majority of your research career alone and loneliness can negatively affect your mental well-being. Actively participate in social events and broaden your perspective.
- When you feel overwhelmed and struggle to cope, reach out for help and support - don't suffer in silence.
- Resist hard work at the expense of wellbeing and maintain a healthy work-life balance.

Resources on our website

- Questionable Research Practices: https://doi.org/10.37672/UKRIO.2023.02.QRPs
- Reporting Research Misconduct: https://doi.org/10.37672/UKRIO.2023.03.reportingresearchmisconduct
- Artificial Intelligence in Research: https://ukrio.org/ukrio-resources/ai-in-research/
- Mental Health and Wellbeing: https://ukrio.org/ukrio-resources/mental-health-and-well-being/

UKRIO

Research Design and Conduct

Follow guidance from your organisation or UKRIO's Code of Practice for Research.

Do not commence research until all agreements are in place for the project. Depending on the discipline and project these could include:

- collaboration agreements
- legal agreements
- favourable ethical opinion

Questionable Research Practices

These are breaches in good research practice that are very common and often unconsciously accepted by research communities. Be aware of and avoid questionable research practices as they can act as stepping stones to research misconduct.

Learn more about questionable research practices and how to report concerns about research misconduct from the resources on our website.

Using generative AI in research

There are advantages and disadvantages to using AI in research.

Whatever your discipline, apply good research practices when using generative AI. Improper use can result in breaches in research integrity or even research misconduct.

Check out our website for resources on AI in Research.