



Annual Statement on Research Integrity

2022-2023

Research Integrity & Research Culture at SRUC

SRUC is committed to the highest standard of research practice and scientific publishing, and upholds all commitments made under the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity. In upholding this, SRUC expects all staff and students engaged in research activities to observe the highest standards of good research conduct, in accordance with internal, national, international and funder standards, guidelines, legislations, policies, and practices.

Summary of Actions and Activities Undertaken in 2022–2023

Research Integrity Working Group & the Good Research Practice Manual:

SRUC established the Research Integrity Working Group. The first output of this group was the Good Research Practice Manual, an institution-wide policy to define the expectations regarding research conduct across SRUC for individuals engaging in research. [The Good Research Practice Manual](#) was launched in the Summer of 2023.

Research Integrity Training Course:

SRUC also introduced a Research Integrity Training Course to further promote good research practice and integrity. It is expected that all research-relevant personnel participate in this training course, which has been designed to:

- Explore researchers' professional responsibilities through a rich variety of interactive activities to build an awareness of what constitutes a healthy research culture.
- Reinforce the practical, real-world applications of key principles with discipline-specific content, including video interviews, scenario-based activities, and polls.
- Extend learning via additional links, resources, and references, then test understanding via multiple-choice quizzes, which generate certificates that can be used as evidence of course completion.

The training course has also been expanded to include technical and teaching staff, as well as other professional staff.

SRUC's Research Ethics Committees:

SRUC requires the ethical pre-approval of research proposals. The Animal Experiments Committee (AEC) and the Social Science Ethics Committee (SSEC) continue to operate and oversee ethics relating to animal experiments and research involving human participants. In the 2022-2023 year:

- The AEC engaged in both pre-submission ethics check and post-award ethical reviews. During this year, the AEC circulated 47 pre-submission ethic reviews, 45 of which were approved, and conducted 27 full experiment reviews which were all met with full approvals.
- The SSEC also engaged in both pre-submission ethic checks and post-award ethical reviews. Between 01/04/2022 and 31/03/2023, the SSEC committee reviewed 27 pre-submission ethical reviews and conducted 71 post-award/full ethical reviews.

Summary of Planned Developments

SRUC will continue to promote the Good Research Practice Manual across the institution. SRUC is also committed to promoting and encouraging engagement with the Research Integrity Training Course until full completion rates are obtained.

Statement on Procedures and Processes Relating to Research Misconduct

Misconduct in research can have serious consequences for individual researchers, employers, funders, research participants, and the wider public, and can damage public trust in research, as well as harming the reputation of individual researchers and/or their research institute. Research misconduct is a spectrum rather than a hard and fast line. SRUC's Disciplinary Procedures further detail the behaviour that is not accepted by the institution, typically referred to as questionable research practice, and provides a guidance on investigation and disciplinary procedures to be followed in such instances.

All stakeholders involved in research, including all academic staff, technical support staff, administrative support staff and students, have responsibility for reporting any suspicions of research misconduct. Allegations of research misconduct should be made, as the person making the allegation deems appropriate, to the Provost and Deputy Principal, Professor Jamie Newbold (Jamie.Newbold@sruc.ac.uk). Details of the allegation and investigation

procedure are outlined in SRUC's Whistleblowing Policy, and include information on Protection, Confidentiality, Malicious Allegations, Anonymous Allegations, and Retraction of Allegations.

SRUC also has internal policies and guidelines pertaining to the internal Complaint's Handling Procedures, SRUC's Intellectual Property Policy, and the handling of Conflict-of-Interest situations.

Summary of Formal Investigations Relating to Research Misconduct During 2022-2023

During the 2022-2023, there were no formal investigations relating to research misconduct in the academic departments.

Contact Information

To report possible instances of research misconduct by a member or affiliate of SRUC, please email the Named Person responsible for receiving any allegations of misconduct in research, Provost and Deputy Principal, Professor Jamie Newbold, at Jamie.Newbold@sruc.ac.uk.

If the Named Person is deemed to be unsuitable or is absent, please contact the Nominated Alternate Named Person, Professor Eileen Wall (Head of Research), Eileen.Wall@sruc.ac.uk.

If for any reason either of these is deemed to be inappropriate, the allegation should be made to the [Chair of the SRUC Board](#).

The Executive Member with responsibility for Research Integrity is Professor Jamie Newbold (Provost and Deputy Principal), Jamie.Newbold@sruc.ac.uk.

The Institute's Information Governance Officer is Murray Elliot (Digital Services and Information Security Manger), Murray.Elliot@sruc.ac.uk



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