

**Board of Governors – 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

**Executive Summary**

The Annual Statement is required as part of continued compliance with The Concordat to Support Research Integrity. The Concordat was ratified in 2012 with the objective of ensuring that research produced or in collaboration with the UK research community is underpinned by a culture of honesty and integrity.



<b>Title</b>	Outline Annual Statement in accordance with UEL’s commitment to The Concordat to Support Research Integrity, 2012
<b>Author</b>	Catherine Fieulleateau, Research Integrity and Ethics Manager
<b>Date</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
<b>Status</b>	To be approved
<b>Strategic context</b>	The University of East London adheres to its responsibility to maintain the highest standards of research integrity. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) implemented funding agreements and conditions for institutions in receipt of research grants from the Council, to provide assurances of compliance with the Concordat through the institution’s annual return.
<b>Risk analysis</b>	The University risks damage to its reputation, subsequently affecting our ability to obtain external research funding, should it fail to abide by the principles of the Concordat and confirm in the HEFCE annual report that it is maintaining compliance.
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The University of East London conducts high quality, innovative research and is guided by the principles and standards specified in The Concordat to Support Research Integrity, 2012; the University’s Code of Practice for Research; Code of Practice for Research Ethics and the Procedures for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research, for both staff and students.</p> <p>In accordance with the Concordat, and to support consistently high standards of research integrity, the summary below will be made publicly available.</p>
<b>Recommendation/ Decision</b>	The Board of Governors are asked to approve the summary report
<b>Resource implications</b>	N/A
<b>Consultation</b>	N/A

<b>Further actions/ deadlines</b>	A thorough review of research governance across the institution will be undertaken 2016-17 to improve connectivity between the work of support services and Schools and Institutes. This will include a new Equality Impact Assessment of our research and enterprise provision, a new online system for managing the ethical applications process and greater connection between the researcher development framework and our suite of training and development for both research staff and research students. A working group will be set up to oversee this review, supported by the PVC Research & Knowledge Exchange.
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### **Outline Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2015-16**

The University of East London conducts high quality, innovative research and is guided by the principles and standards specified in The Concordat to Support Research Integrity, 2012

#### **1. Supporting and Strengthening Research Integrity**

- 1.1 The University has undertaken and continues to review its research integrity and ethics policies and has revised and simplified the application, monitoring, data security and approval processes to make it more consistent and transparent for researchers. All documentation is available on the website to help inform research staff and students on the key policies and procedures before commencing research, and a high standard of training is available in support of that.
- 1.2 A Self-certification form is now attached to each School Research Ethics Committee (SRECs) annual report to UREC demonstrating compliance with the Concordat. The Annual report and the Self-certification form provide a suitable audit trail should the University be subject to external monitoring.
- 1.3 The University's Quality Assurance and Enhancement Department (QAE) and Research and Development Support department (ReDs) have clear policies on compliance with the Concordat and all processes are documented and subject to regular audit by Research Councils UK (RCUK).

#### **2. The University's Research Ethics Committees**

- 2.1 The UREC Committee and associated sub-committees are all fully validated and approved and collate and monitor the annual reports of activity for all applications for ethical approval. An audit of the University's collaborative partners who conduct research with human participants or human data was also completed and continue to be monitored.
- 2.2 In accordance with UREC's responsibility as University sponsor for NHS applications for ethical approval, the NHS research studies conducted by the University's research staff and students have been recorded. An annual audit of the NHS projects has verified that our researchers have conducted their studies in accordance with the conditions specified by the relevant NHS research ethics committee granting ethical approval.

#### **3. Training and External Engagement**

- 3.1 The University continues to foster a culture of honesty in research to assist all researchers and partners in understanding their responsibilities and obligations, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary skills to conduct high quality research.
- 3.2 The Research Ethics Development programme and online Epigeum Research Integrity Modules are now available to all research active staff and postgraduate research students from all disciplines. All UREC Committee and Sub-Committee members, including those external or new to the institution, are required to complete the online Research Integrity Modules before commencement of Committee duties.

#### **4. Processes in place for Research Misconduct**

- 4.1 For Academic year 2014-15 the University revised procedures to investigate allegations of misconduct in research by staff and a separate set of procedures for

those involving students. These have been fully approved and made available on our website.

### **5. Investigations of Research Misconduct**

- 5.1 For Academic year 2015-16 there were no formal cases of misconduct in research under the University's Procedures for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research.

### **6. Equality impact assessment**

- 6.1 The University has a statutory duty to pay due regard to the equality impact of developing, applying and monitoring its policies and procedures. Central to our compliance with the Concordat, the policy and procedures now meet the University's general equality duty under the Equality Act 2010. We are, however, looking to tailor and improve the assessment in order to more fully integrate the concordat into our new Strategic Planning process 2016-17. On-going analysis will also be undertaken to improve representation across all areas, including research, as part of our on-going commitments to the Athena Swan Charter and also the Race Equality Charter Mark.

### **7. Risk Assessment**

- 7.1 The University has been awarded its 9<sup>th</sup> successive gold medal from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accident (RoSPA). The award recognised the high standards of Health and Safety at the University, and our commitment to maintaining effective risk assessment at an early stage in our research practices.