

Annual Report on Research Integrity 2022/23

Introduction

Glyndwr University is committed to upholding the principles of the [Concordat to Support research Integrity](#). The University continues to use the concordat as a framework to embed a culture and environment of best practice and responsible research. The principles and commitments include.

- uphold the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
- ensure that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal, and professional frameworks, obligations, and standards
- support a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice, and support for the development of researchers
- use transparent, timely, robust, and fair processes to handle allegations of research misconduct when they arise
- work together to strengthen the integrity of research

In compliance with the final commitment of the 2019 Concordat, the University's Board of Governors publish an annual report of research integrity, which has been considered and agreed by the University Research Committee and by the Academic Board before being published publicly on the University's external webpages.

Key Contacts and Named Person

The University's Research Committee oversee the integrity of the University's research on behalf of the Academic Board. The Research Committee meet four times a year and a standing agenda item is 'Review of Research Misconduct Policy and Cases' and 'Review of Promoting Research Integrity'.

The University's Named Person for Research Integrity is the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Professor Richard Day. The University recognises that concerns relating to research integrity can be complex and highly sensitive which can impact the emotional and mental wellbeing of those involved. Any person wishing to raise, in confidence, concerns about the conduct or integrity of research conducted under the auspices of the University can do so by contacting the Named Person for research integrity, Professor Richard Day or the named contact point, Head of Research Services, Frances Thomason.

Concerns can also be raised initially at a local level via the Deans of each academic Faculty.

Policies and Procedures

The University's *Code of Practice* and *Regulations on Research Practice* are in place to ensure that staff members, and undergraduate and postgraduate students, engaged in research are aware of their ethical responsibilities and equipped with a set of principles that they are expected to adhere to in accordance with best practice and responsible research conduct. The *Regulations on Research Practice* outlines the University's definitions of research misconduct and the procedures to be followed when there is an allegation of misconduct in research.

The University is committed to providing clear transparent policies, procedures and guidance following standards of best practice. Following a review of the research ethics process and the University's implementation of a new online system to support the submission and review of all research ethics application, the following new policies and procedures were approved in June 2022 by the Research Committee;

- University Research Ethics Policy
- University Research Ethics Appeals Procedure
- Research Ethics Procedure for Research Conducted outside the UK
- Research Ethics Procedure for Work Carried out with Animals
- Research Ethics Procedure for Work Carried out with Human Remains
- Research Ethics Procedure for Potential Adverse Environmental

The University's Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Procedure provides a mechanism under which genuine concerns made in good faith can be raised internally without fear of repercussions to the individual.

Following the review of the research ethics policies and procedure in place at the University in 2021/22, a review of the policies and procedures in place for research integrity and research misconduct will be taking place during 2022-23.

Research Integrity Activities and Development

The University is committed to ensuring and maintaining a research environment that develops good research practise and embeds a culture of research integrity. It is recognised that multiple initiatives must be adopted to strengthen the understanding of research integrity across the University. The following includes initiatives that have taken place since our last statement published in 2021 and what activities are planned to be taken forward join 2022/23.

- The implementation of Wrexham Glyndwr Research Information System (WGRIS) which includes a Research Ethics and Research Grants submission and review process. The functionality of the cloud- based solution will mean that all research projects at all levels which require research ethics approval will need to submit and receive approval through the online system before any data collection or recruitment commences. The online system will measure, and review ethics applications based on the level of risk involved. The process will include checking other research governance and compliance concerns such as data management, information security and insurance. All applications considered minimal risk will be processed and reviewed by a Faculty Research Ethics Committee, applications involving more than minimal risk will be reviewed by the University's Research Ethics Committee. The first stage, Profile Development, is expected to go live later this year with the Ethics and Grants side of the system following in early 2023.
- New training sessions and workshops have been added to the University's Research Training & Development Schedule. These sessions are available for all academic staff and postgraduate research students. The following training events have been scheduled; Introduction to Research Ethics, Informed Consent Workshop, Introduction to Research Integrity, Managing Risk in Research Workshop, Research Data Management, Confidentiality & Privacy in Research Workshop.
- The University became a signatory of The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers. A working group of 'Concordat Champions' has been established which oversee

the institution’s action plans and commitments to the concordat. The working group are taking forward a gap analysis of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and conducting focus groups with researchers to discuss their needs and understanding of research integrity.

- After completion of the gap analysis, the University plan’s to revisit the current policies and procedures in plan for Research Misconduct in 2023.
- An Academic Integrity Module for taught students has been developed to be delivered in Welcome Week of students joining the University.

Research Misconduct

Responsibilities for monitoring research misconduct at the University lies within the Research Office reporting to the Research Committee, chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for research and the Academic Integrity Team in Strategic Planning and Student Administration. Allegations of research misconduct involving the University staff and students are dealt with according to the provisions of the University’s Disciplinary Procedure for Staff and/or the Disciplinary Procedure for Students and the Academic Integrity Procedure or Suitability for Practice Procedure, as appropriate. Related procedures have appropriate principles and mechanisms to ensure investigations are thorough and fair, carried out in a transparent and timely manner, and protected by appropriate confidentiality.

Investigations

No research misconduct cases were investigated during 2021/22 relating to staff of postgraduate research students. The following table sets out the high-level details of investigations and findings in relation to research misconduct allegations covering University taught students in academic year 2021/2022, based on the University’s definition of Research Misconduct. These cases were investigated under the Academic Integrity Procedure.

	Upheld	Upheld in part	Not Upheld
Taught Students			
Failure to obtain appropriate permission to conduct research;	3		
Fabrication;	6		1
Falsification			
Distortion and/or misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement;			
Plagiarism			
Inappropriate attribution of authorship			
Inciting others to be involved in research misconduct			
Collusion in or concealment of research misconduct by others			
Failures to follow accepted procedures or to exercise due care in carrying out responsibilities			