Annual Research Integrity Report to Council 2014-2015

The mission of the University of Cambridge is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence. The University recognises that the pursuit of excellent research and the fulfilment of our responsibilities to participants in research, research users and the wider community require the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethics. As such the University supports and is committed to upholding the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

This statement has been made to the University’s Council to demonstrate that measures are being taken to sustain and further enhance the integrity of the research undertaken at the University. It is in fulfilment of recommendations made by the Concordat for annual reporting on research integrity to the University’s governing body and covers the academic year 2014-15. As recommended by the Concordat this statement will be made publically available online.

This annual report has been designed to be a stand-alone document that does not require readers to consult previous years’ reports. The report therefore repeats text from previous reports where this relates to structural aspects of the University’s research integrity procedures and processes, as well as developments made in previous years that have continued to be important during 2014-15.

Governance of Research Integrity at the University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge recognises that supporting and strengthening the understanding and application of research integrity issues requires clear senior leadership. To ensure that research integrity is governed at a high level within the University, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research (PVC-R) was appointed as the senior academic lead on research integrity matters within the University in October 2013. The PVC-R is responsible for providing academic leadership on research integrity and acts as the first point of contact for anyone with comments, concerns or questions regarding research integrity at Cambridge, fulfilling a recommendation under Commitment 3 of the Concordat.

The PVC-R is supported by the University’s Research Strategy Office (RSO), from whom she receives reports on research integrity matters. A full-time Research Governance and Integrity Officer (RGIO) manages the RSO’s responsibilities in this area. The RGIO supports the PVC-R, Head of the Research Office and University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) to oversee the University’s research ethics and governance systems, foster a culture of research integrity across the institution and support the implementation of the University’s Misconduct in Research policy. The RGIO is tasked with ensuring that actions are taken to embed the commitments of the Concordat into the University’s research environment and ensuring that systems, practices and processes across the University are periodically reviewed so that they remain fit for purpose and reflect best practice in research integrity. The RGIO also provides researchers and staff with a clear point of contact for advice, support and guidance on research integrity, research ethics, legal requirements, and professional obligations and standards. The RGIO works with other administrative teams, including the Legal Services Office and Research Operations Office, to ensure that new ethical, legal and regulatory requirements are communicated and implemented effectively.
This Report was received by the Council of the University of Cambridge, 23 November 2015

This is a permanent position and is central to the University’s ongoing commitment to strengthen research integrity at Cambridge.

Since the appointment of the PVC-R to the role of senior academic lead on research integrity matters she has also been advised, particularly in relation to Commitment 2 of the Concordat, by the UREC. On 24 September 2014, the UREC’s remit was altered to give the Committee responsibility to ‘advise the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) on the development and implementation of policies and procedures relating to research integrity’, formalising its role as a source of advice across all of the Concordat’s Commitments. To ensure that the UREC has sufficient expertise to provide this support, the Committee’s membership requirements were also altered to allow the recruitment of two new members to ensure the maintenance of a ‘breadth of expertise in research integrity matters’. To facilitate a joined up approach to research governance, the PVC-R and the UREC receive reports on research integrity matters from the RSO.

The UREC has responsibility for the co-ordination of the continual development and dissemination of the University’s research ethics policies (excluding animal research) and has oversight of local and School-level Research Ethics Committees (RECs). Ethical review is primarily provided by local and School-level RECs. The UREC provides review to projects that are beyond the expertise of School-level RECs and hears appeals against local and School level RECs. The University’s RECs report annually to the UREC so that potential concerns can be identified and addressed. The UREC undertakes continuous review and monitoring of the University’s ethics system to ensure that it meets best practice standards and provides a streamlined and effective service for researchers. The UREC is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the University’s ethics policies, which is carried out primarily through their monitoring of local ethics committees and surveys of and consultations with departments. The UREC provides the University’s RECs with advice and guidance; this includes an annual formal advice document and guidance documents based on specific issues. The UREC reports annually to the General Board and Research Policy Committee (RPC).

The PVC-R is Chair of the RPC. The RPC receives the minutes of the UREC and major issues or new policies relating to research integrity are referred to the RPC for consideration and approval. The RPC also refers research integrity matters to the General Board where necessary. In April 2015, the RPC agreed a number of recommendations designed to raise awareness of research integrity issues. These have been taken forward by the RGIO and are discussed below. The RGIO has addressed the RPC on research integrity issues three times during 2014-15.

The University also has management procedures to ensure that consideration of the 3Rs (the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research) that are embedded into all aspects of strategic and operational management, together with a well-developed and established governance and ethical review system for animal welfare. The Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Committee (AWERC), which includes lay-membership, an external Chair, Named Veterinary Surgeons, Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers and research scientists actively/directly oversees the management of governance. The AWERC develops policies relating to animal welfare, which are implemented in all research facilities.
With any work involving animals of protected species, the policy of the University of Cambridge is to aim for the highest standards of humane care and treatment of those animals. Research and teaching activities at the University involving animals considered to be sentient are governed by a range of legislation, including the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and, in the case of teaching to veterinary students, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. Compliance of research involving these species is monitored by University staff, including the Named Veterinary Surgeons, and by the Home Office through its inspectors. All members of the University carrying out procedures regulated under the Act must by law have prior training, relevant experience, and authority from the Home Office. All projects affecting such animals are subject to prior formal ethical review within the University via the AWERC and its constituent Committees. For more information on the University’s policies relating to research involving animals see: http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/research-at-cambridge/animal-research/our-policies

Heads of Department and Faculty are responsible for research integrity and ethics matters in their institution, including the implementation of the University’s research ethics and integrity policies and procedures at a local level and taking initial responsibility for actions under the Misconduct in Research policy. The RPC agreed in April 2015 that Heads of Department and Faculty should be reminded of this responsibility. This was carried out by the RGIO in June 2015 and will continue to be done on an annual basis.

Policies and procedures for supporting research integrity

Under Commitments 2 and 3 of the Concordat, the University is required to have clear policies and procedures to support research integrity.

The University’s commitment to upholding the principles of the Concordat is set out in its Statement on Research Integrity, which is publically available on the University’s Research Integrity website. The Statement explains the ways in which the University will support researchers to maintain the highest standards of integrity in research and publically highlights the role of the PVC-R as first point of contact for anyone with comments, concerns or questions regarding research integrity at Cambridge.

The Statement on Research Integrity has been designed to complement existing University policies and guidelines for supporting the highest standards in research. The University’s Guidelines on Good Research Practice sets out principles of good conduct that all those engaged in research at the University are expected to follow. They cover a range of issues including openness, supervision, training, intellectual property, the use of data and equipment, the publication of research results, and ethical practice. The Guidelines provide a more comprehensive introduction to good research practice at Cambridge than the Statement on Research Integrity and highlight links to further guidance on key issues.

The University’s approach to the governance of the ethics of research and the ethical review process are set out in the Policy on the Ethics of Research involving Human Participants and Personal Data. This policy provides guidance on the University’s expectations of ethical practice in research, setting out guiding principles by which all research activities undertaken by University employees, or on University premises, must abide. It also offers clear guidance for those seeking and those undertaking ethical review of a project and the governance arrangements for the University’s ethical review process. Heads of Department
and Chairmen of Faculty Boards are responsible for implementing the policy at a local level and individual researchers and supervisors of research students are expected to familiarise themselves with their responsibilities.

The University also recognises that its position globally as a centre of research excellence comes with the associated responsibility of ensuring that all research with animals is undertaken with a priority in achieving the highest welfare standards. This underpins the University Animal Welfare Policy.

As required by the Concordat, the University’s policies are subject to periodic review to ensure that they remain ‘fit for purpose’. During 2014-15 the Guidelines on Good Research Practice underwent a review led by the Research Strategy Office and the UREC, with the advice of relevant stakeholders from across the University. The review agreed a series of revisions designed to:

- Update the guidelines to take account of the Concordat and new funder requirements;
- Better integrate the guidelines with other University policies and guidance;
- Provide enhanced guidance on research data and open access requirements;
- Emphasise the role of senior researchers in cultivating good practice;
- Provide more detailed guidelines on research ethics;
- Add new guidance on non-proliferation and good practice in collaborative research;
- Update links to external policies and guidance.

The revised guidelines were approved by the RPC on 27 November 2014.

The regular review of the University’s Policy on the Ethics of Research Involving Human Participants and Personal Data began in 2014-15 and will continue at the Michaelmas Term meeting of the UREC. It is expected that a revised policy will be brought to the General Board for approval during Michaelmas 2015. The regulatory/operational framework governing animal research underwent a review, concluding in August 2014, details of which are available online. The Statement on Research Integrity is due for review in 2017.

The policies listed above, together with other policies relevant to research integrity, are freely available online. Up to date links to these policies will be published as part of each Annual Research Integrity Report:

- Statement on Research Integrity: [http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-integrity/research-integrity-statement](http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-integrity/research-integrity-statement)
- Guidelines on Good Research Practice: [http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-integrity/good-research-practice](http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-integrity/good-research-practice)
- Policy on the Ethics of Research involving Human Participants and Personal Data: [http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-ethics](http://www.research-integrity.admin.cam.ac.uk/research-ethics)
- University Financial Regulations: [http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/finance/regulations/](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/finance/regulations/)
Cultivating best practice

The University is committed to continually improving the way in which it works to sustain and enhance the integrity of research undertaken at the University. To achieve this, the University has taken the following actions during 2014-15.

From December 2014 until April 2015, the University undertook an internal audit of its processes for assuring compliance with the Concordat. This resulted in a series of recommendations that have or are being implemented by the RGIO. The RGIO is also exploring whether research integrity issues can be better integrated into other aspects of the University’s internal audit processes.

A formal timetable for the approval and publication of this annual Research Integrity Report was been approved by the RPC in April 2015.

The RGIO has begun a programme of structured engagement with departments and faculties to raise the profile of the research integrity agenda and the standards and behaviours expected of researchers. This process involves active engagement with one department/faculty per School, per term (with the exception of the School of Clinical Medicine, which as requested engagement on a cross-departmental basis), and is designed to identify new ways in which the central University can support departments and faculties in raising awareness of research integrity issues at a local level. The process will also be used to identify good practice, which will be reported to the UREC and the PVC-R, and disseminated as part of the UREC’s regular advice.

As part of this engagement process the RGIO has produced a guidance document for departments and faculties that includes recommendations for actions that could be taken locally to address the commitments of the Concordat. This was issued to all departments and faculties outside the School of Clinical Medicine on 30 September 2015. The RGIO will use this document to support his discussions with departments and faculties, and also with the School of Clinical Medicine.

The Research Office, in collaboration with the Legal Services Office, has also begun a project to revise the University’s processes for supporting researchers to meet their obligations under Export Control law. During 2014-15 this has involved active participation in the development of a new guidance document for Universities (see ‘external engagement’
below) and a revision to the University export control website. During 2015-16 the Research Office plans to implement a new process to manage applications for export control licences.

Supporting and strengthening the understanding and application of research integrity issues

The Concordat requires institutions to take actions to maintain awareness among researchers of, and help them to comply with, institutional policies and processes relating to research integrity and ethical approval and the wider funder, professional and legal standards expected of them.

Advice and guidance

Expert support and guidance on research integrity is offered throughout the University. Centrally the RGIO and the Clinical School’s Research Governance Officer support researchers to understand and meet to expected standards of research ethics and integrity, as well as legal, professional, regulatory and funder obligations. Additional support and guidance on specific issues can be found throughout the central administrative offices, including the Research Office, University Biomedical Support Services, Health and Safety, Human Resources, the Information Compliance Office, Office of Scholarly Communications, and the Legal Office. Department and Faculty research ethics committees provide an additional source of support for researchers. Guidance can also be sought from School-level research ethics committees and the UREC.

The dissemination of research ethics and integrity policies and procedures has been identified as a key focus for strengthening the understanding and application of research integrity issues at Cambridge. Central to the University’s awareness raising efforts is the maintenance of the University research integrity website, which was launched in October 2014. The website provides guidance on research ethics and research integrity, including the University’s ethical review process for research. The site also provides links to the University Misconduct in Research policy and information on research ethics and research integrity training.

The site is managed and developed by the RGIO and is regularly updated with new policies and guidance, as well as links to external sources of support. The main addition to the website during 2014-15 has been the University’s Guidelines on Authorship. These were developed by the Research Strategy Office and approved by the UREC in February 2015 and RPC in June 2015. A Code of Practice on Authorship has also been developed by the School of Clinical Medicine, this was agreed in October 2014, and is available on the School website. The University’s guidelines are designed to be compatible with the School’s Code of Practice. The University’s first annual research integrity report for 2013-14 was made available on the research integrity website in December 2014.

The University’s Statement on Research Integrity has also been developed as a means of building awareness of research integrity. The Statement has been designed to act as a brief introduction to research integrity for new staff at Cambridge. It sets out the standards by which the University expects all its researchers, research students and visiting researchers to abide and provides links to other University policies that relate to research integrity. The Statement has been made into a leaflet, which is available online so that it can be integrated
into departmental and faculty training and induction. The leaflet is provided by the RGIO at central inductions for new postdoctoral staff and as part of centrally run training.

The research integrity website is also designed to act as a hub for anyone seeking information and guidance on research integrity issues at Cambridge; as such it provides links to guidance offered by Schools, departments, local research ethics committees and relevant administrative offices. Of particular importance is the University's guidance on animal welfare issues, which is provided on the University's Animal Research webpages and by the University Biomedical Support Services (UBSS). Notable examples of online guidance provided elsewhere in the University include the research governance information provided on the Clinical School website and the detailed guidance for research involving human participants in technology research developed by the Schools of Technology and Physical Sciences.

During 2014-15 the University also launched a new Data Management website, which provides detailed guidance on research data management practices and funder requirements to help researchers meet high standards of best practice.

In April 2015 the RPC agreed that Faculties and Departments should provide a link to the central research integrity website from their local pages. The School of Clinical Medicine has established links to the integrity website, as well as guidance on the Concordat and its own research governance pages, on the front page of its website. During 2015-16 the RGIO will survey local websites to identify any that still require a link to the research integrity website.

**Training, mentoring and events**

Training has also been identified as a priority for the University's work to support research integrity. Centrally the RGIO provided a new face-to-face research integrity training course during 2014-15. The course is open to all research staff and research students and aims to familiarise attendees with the University's policies and procedures for research integrity, ethics and misconduct. The course also uses case studies and discussion to explore key research integrity issues. As the course was well attended during 2014-15, the number of sessions offered will be increased for 2015-16. The RGIO also offers bespoke training for departments, faculties and Schools where this is requested. The first such course was offered to PhD students in the Schools of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences during 2014-15. The RGIO has arranged to provide bespoke courses for the School of Clinical Medicine and the Departments of Chemistry and History of Art during 2015-16, further courses will be developed on request.

Centrally the University also provides online or face-to-face training in areas such as good research practice, working with human subjects, data protection and health and safety. The University Biomedical Support Services provides training for all those involved with animal research via an extensive course syllabus: [http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/ubss/training/index.html](http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/ubss/training/index.html). Courses include aspects of ethics (both general and specific to AWERC and ASPA) animal research governance, experimental design and statistical analysis. The RGIO also provides training to administrators on the University’s ethical approval system so that they can better support researchers within their departments. This training was revised for 2014-15 so that it also included training on the
Concordat and supporting researchers with issues relating to research integrity or research misconduct.

During 2014-15 the RGIO developed an online research integrity training course that is currently being tested and is intended for launch during 2015-16. The course is designed for new staff, students and visitors and aims to provide a short, but comprehensive, briefing on the University’s research integrity policies and processes, as well as the expectations the University has for good practice in research. Externally provided online training is promoted through the research integrity website and the Clinical School’s Research Governance website.

In April 2015 the RPC agreed that the Concordat and all relevant University statements and policies, including the Misconduct in Research policy, should be integrated into faculty or department inductions for new academic staff, postdocs and PhD students. As part of his structured engagement exercise with departments and faculties, the RGIO will seek to support institutions to ensure that they have met this requirement. In addition to this, many of the University’s departments and Schools offer subject-specific training in research integrity issues. The approach taken to this varies locally: it includes training that has been integrated into Departmental research skills courses; stand-alone lectures or workshops; School-level support, such as research ethics training offered by the Social Sciences’ Research Methods Centre; and courses arranged with external providers, such as training sessions offered at the School of Clinical Medicine by the Health Research Authority and MRC.

During 2015-16 the RGIO will be preparing advice relating to research ethics and integrity training at a local level, based on the findings of a departmental survey undertaken during 2014-15. Work will also be carried out by the RGIO to examine how research integrity issues could be better highlighted in introductory training for new Heads of Departments and Faculties, which was recommended by the RPC in April 2015.

Mentoring plays a key role in building awareness and understanding of policies and procedures at Cambridge. The University formally requires that all its institutions make arrangements for the mentoring of newly appointed staff and runs schemes for peer and developmental mentoring. Mentoring is a vital tool for passing on good practice. The RGIO is currently working with colleagues in Human Resources to identify means through which integrity issues can be better integrated into training and guidance offered to mentors.

During 2014-15 the RGIO, with the advice of the UREC, developed a new guidance document, the Research Integrity and Good Research Practice Checklist, aimed at helping supervisors to provide research students with an introduction to issues of research integrity and encourage broader dialogue about good research practice. The Checklist is based on the University’s Good Research Practice Guidelines and provides links to all relevant University policies and further guidance. The Checklist is available as a webpage and downloadable document; it was advertised to all departments and faculties on 30 September 2015.

The University is also committed to raising the profile of research integrity matters through hosting relevant talks and events. On 17 June 2015 the UREC convened its first research ethics and integrity workshop. This is an annual event designed to raise awareness of research ethics issues and the ethical approval process. It consists of a series of talks
relating to a specific theme (the 2015 theme was ‘Research Data and Research Online’) followed by an extended question and answer session with members of the UREC. The event is aimed at training and supporting members of local research ethics committees (who are given early access to registration) and to raise awareness of ethical review and research ethics and integrity issues across the University (any University member can register to attend once full registration is open). The event was recorded and the RGIO intends to publish extracts from talks and questions and answers on the research integrity Website.

The University is committed to the continuing and ongoing improvement of its processes for supporting and strengthening the understanding of research integrity at Cambridge and future efforts will be reported on in subsequent annual reports.

Addressing research misconduct

As required under Commitment 4 of the Concordat, the University has a Misconduct in Research policy and procedure that sets out a transparent, robust, confidential and fair process for dealing with allegations of research misconduct. The policy provides a clear definition of research misconduct and the responsibility of members to report incidents of misconduct, whether these have been witnessed or are suspected.

The investigation procedure sets out a thorough two-stage process through which allegations are investigated by individuals with appropriate authority, qualifications and experience and no conflict of interest in the case. Allegations are initially considered through a preliminary investigation. This process is overseen by the relevant Head of Institution and the investigation is undertaken by a small committee that does not include the Head of Institution. The purpose of the preliminary investigation is to evaluate the facts of the allegation in order to ascertain whether there is sufficient evidence amounting to a prima facie case of misconduct.

If a prima facie case of misconduct is identified at the preliminary investigation stage, the matter will proceed to a formal investigation. A formal investigation regarding a University Officer is undertaken according to University Statute, while formal investigations concerning any other individual are carried out by an investigation Committee. The Committee is charged with determining whether an act of research misconduct has been committed, the person(s) responsible and an assessment of the gravity of the misconduct.

The procedure is clearly linked to disciplinary procedures contained within the University’s Statutes and Ordinances to ensure that appropriate action can be taken when concerns are upheld. The procedure also ensures that allegations are investigated in an appropriately confidential manner.

The University is committed to ensuring that it meets all obligations to provide information on investigations of research misconduct to funders of research and professional and/or statutory bodies as required by conditions of grant and other legal, professional and statutory obligations, and will support researchers to do the same.

The Misconduct in Research policy, including details of the relevant contacts and procedures, is available on the University HR website. It is also highlighted on the University research integrity website, as part of research integrity training, within the Good Research Practice Guidelines and accompanying checklist, and in the research integrity leaflet.
Individuals seeking advice on the University’s misconduct procedure are able to contact the PVC-R, the Academic Secretary, the RGIO, their Head of Institution and/or the relevant HR Advisor for the institution concerned.

The policy is appropriate to the needs of the University. To ensure that this continues to be the case, the policy was reviewed and revised by the Research Strategy Office, Legal Services Office and Human Resources Division during 2014-15. The revisions to the policy have taken into account current best practice guidance and are designed to make the policy clearer and easier to use, as well as to integrate it more effectively with other University policies. The draft policy is due for consideration by the UREC at its first meeting of 2015-16 and will be considered by the RPC, Human Resources Committee and General Board before approval. It is expected that the policy will receive final approval in 2016.

Whistleblowers receive specific protections under the University’s ‘Whistleblowing’ policy. Under the ‘Whistleblowing’ policy disclosures may be made to the Academic Secretary (in the case of Institutions under the supervision of the General Board) or the Registrary (in the case of all other University Institutions).

The Concordat requires that the University provide a high-level report on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken during each academic year and to include it in this public statement. The University has undertaken no formal investigations into allegations of research misconduct during the 2014-15 academic year.

In the interests of transparency, the University has decided to also provide a high-level report on any preliminary investigations of research misconduct undertaken within the 2014-15 academic year. This is provided through the table below.

Table 1: Investigations carried out under the University of Cambridge Misconduct in Research policy, 2014-15.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Type of allegation</th>
<th>Preliminary Investigation Status</th>
<th>Prima facie case of research misconduct identified?</th>
<th>Formal Investigation Status</th>
<th>Formal Investigation result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Falsification/Data manipulation</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Falsification/Data Manipulation</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Disputed Authorship</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Fabrication</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Plagiarism</td>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**External engagement**

The Concordat recognises that a key part of successfully supporting a culture of research integrity in universities is for institutions to learn from each other and disseminate good practice. The sector has responded to this impetus and Cambridge has actively engaged with the resulting collaboration and sharing of good practice.
During 2014-15 the RGIO, Head of Research Office and Clinical School Governance Officer have been active participants in conferences and workshops organised by bodies such as the UK Research Integrity Office, Health Research Authority, Nuffield Council on Bioethics, the League of European Research Universities and the Russell Group.

During 2014-15 the RGIO assisted the University’s Legal Services Office in producing, with Kings College London, the “Higher Education Guide And Toolkit On Export Controls and the ATAS Student Vetting Scheme”. Colleagues from a number of Universities also contributed. The Guide includes a practical toolkit to enable Universities to manage this area of risk more effectively and share good practice. It locates good export practices as part of wider commitments to research integrity. The Guide was published by the Association of University Legal Practitioners and Project Alpha of King’s College London in April 2015, was re-published on the 1540 Committee’s effective practices website and been used by the UK Export Control Organisation to brief the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) on Academic Outreach.

The RGIO is also a member of the Russell Group’s Research Integrity Working Group, which has been established to ensure that good practice is shared and to support shared efforts to foster a research environment that nurtures research integrity. The RGIO was one of the organisers of, and presenters, at the 2014-15 Russell Group Research Integrity Workshop, which focused on cross-institutional Research Misconduct Investigations. During 2014-15 RGIO also joined the League of European Research University’s Research Integrity Expert Group. This will allow the University to contribute more fully to European-wide efforts to support research integrity.