



Research Integrity Policy

CU-RIO-POL-1.0 – V6

Cranfield University is a research intensive, postgraduate university with a mission to create leaders in technology and management, unlocking the potential of people and organisations by partnering with business and government to deliver transformational research, postgraduate education and professional development. In achieving this mission, it is essential that we undertake all research with integrity.

The University's [Ethical principles](#) and [Research Ethics Policy](#) also apply.

Aims

Cranfield University has adopted Universities UK's ["The Concordat to Support Research Integrity"](#) and upholds its principles, which are:

- upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
- ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards
- supporting 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
- using transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise
- working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to review progress regularly and openly

Approach

It is imperative that all members of the University recognise the responsibilities that they share for developing and maintaining a culture in which sound research practices are adopted and inappropriate ones detected and dealt with. Every employee and student of Cranfield has a duty to inform the appropriate authorities if he/she knows or suspects that there has been a breach of good conduct. Please refer to the Process for [Implementing and Monitoring the Research Integrity Policy](#) contacts and processes.

The University will provide the necessary resources and information systems to support all members of the University to ensure the integrity of the University's research.

Cranfield University is responsible for:

- Maintaining a research environment that develops good research practice and embeds a culture of research integrity
- Supporting researchers to understand and act according to expected standards, values and behaviours

- Defending its researchers when they live up to the expectations of the Concordat in difficult circumstances
- Demonstrating that we have our own procedures in place to ensure that research is conducted in accordance with standards of best practice; systems to promote research integrity; and transparent, robust and fair processes to investigate alleged misconduct
- Having clear policies on ethical review and approval that are available to all researchers
- Making sure that all researchers are aware of, and understand policies and processes relating to ethical approval
- Supporting researchers to adopt best practices in relation to ethical, legal and professional requirements
- Having appropriate arrangements in place through which researchers can access advice and guidance on ethical, legal and professional obligations and standards
- Promoting training and development opportunities to staff and students, and encourage their uptake
- Identifying a named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity and ensure that this information is kept up to date and publicly available on the Cranfield website
- Identifying a named senior member of staff who will act as first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity, and ensure that contact details for this person are kept up to date and are publicly available on the Cranfield website (<https://www.cranfield.ac.uk/about/research-integrity>)
- Having clear, well-articulated and confidential mechanisms for reporting allegations of research misconduct
- Having robust, transparent and fair processes for dealing with allegations of misconduct that reflect best practice. Including, the use of independent external members of formal investigation panels, and clear routes for appeal
- Ensuring that all researchers and other members of staff are made aware of the relevant contacts and procedures for making allegations
- Acting with no detriment to whistle-blowers who have made allegations of misconduct in good faith, or in the public interest, including taking reasonable steps to safeguard their reputation. This should include avoiding the inappropriate use of legal instruments, such as non-disclosure agreements
- Taking reasonable steps to resolve any issues found during the investigation. This can include targeted remedial training, imposing sanctions, requesting a correction of the research record and reporting any action to regulatory and statutory bodies, research participants, funders or other professional bodies as circumstances, contractual obligations and statutory requirements dictate
- Taking reasonable steps to safeguard the reputation of individuals who are exonerated
- Providing information on investigations of research misconduct to funders of research and to professional and/or statutory bodies as required by their conditions of grant and other legal, professional and statutory obligations
- Considering changes to policies and processes following investigations of academic research misconduct
- Supporting their researchers in providing appropriate information when they are required to make reports to professional and/or statutory bodies
- Providing a named point of contact or recognise an appropriate third party to act as confidential liaison for whistle-blowers or any other person wishing to raise concerns about the integrity of research being conducted under their auspices
- Monitoring these measures for suitability and effectiveness and reviewing them where necessary.

The University will make this policy available to the general public, students and all persons working for, in or on behalf of the University.

The University will publish an annual statement on Research Integrity on its website.

Document control

Document title	Research Integrity Policy Statement
Document number	CU-RIO-POL-1.0
Originator name/document owner	Professor Leon Terry
Professional Service Unit/Department	Research and Innovation Office (RIO)
Implementation/effective date	15 July 2024
Approval by and date	Research Committee, 15 July 2024 – V6
Date of last review and version number	December 2023, Version 6
Date of next review	June 2025
Name	Professor Leon Terry
Title	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation

Document Review

Version	Amendment	By	Date
V2	Updated in line with new branding	RIO	23.11.16
V3	Context updated to reflect Cranfield's current mission. Link added to the Implementing and Monitoring Research Integrity Policy	RIO	19.12.17
V4	Updated to include the responsibilities of Cranfield as an employer in line with the revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity	RIO	03.02.20
V5	Document control updated with new PVC R&I details and new Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor	RIO	27.01.22
V6	Link to University's Ethical Principles added Addition of consideration of changes following investigations of academic misconduct Reviewed July 2023 – no changes Reviewed December 2023 – no changes Reviewed July 2024 – no changes	RIO	31.1.23

