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| **University Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-committee** | |  |
| 21st September 2021 | | |
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| Paper title | **Research Ethics and Integrity Annual Statement 2020-21** | |
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**Background**

Our five academic schools continue to operate the School Research Ethics Committee (SREC). These are chaired by School Research Ethics Leads and membership includes representation for cognate areas within each school. The committees support researchers at local level and provide robust and timely assessment of research proposals. The university-level committee, University Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-committee (UREISC) reviews applications deemed by the SREC to include elevated risk or indemnity. The UREISC also serves in an advisory capacity for SRECs, undertakes reviews of research and integrity related policy, and has oversight of the implementation of the Concordat on Research Integrity. The Committee is chaired by the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange and its members are the School Research Ethics Leads, Head of Research Office, Health and Safety Officer, GDPR Officer and Head of Communications and Media Relations. The terms of reference for these committees are reviewed on an annual basis.

**Actions taken to support and strengthen research integrity**

In 2020 we have reviewed our Research Ethics Policy and we are also reviewing the website dedicated to research ethics. In September 2021 we arranged for a representative from UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) to offer training for all members and staff and students, as well as offering in-house CPD training. Additionally, we are implementing a research ethics online solution delivered by Haplo and due for release in March 2021. This system will streamline our processes and also has guidance in-built to assist researchers’ understanding of research ethics and GDPR requirements.

**Misconduct**

There were no investigations of research misconduct during 2020-21.

We have now adopted as standard practice that a Chair from an independent School Research Ethics Committee is the named contact on our consent and information sheets for research studies.

To create and embed an environment in which staff are comfortable to report misconduct, we offer training for everyone on ethics in which our policies and procedures on misconduct and whistle-blowing are embedded.

In addition, we now require all SRECs and the UREISC to have as a standing item at all committee meetings focused on misconduct and whistle-blowing.