**York St John**

**Research Ethics and Integrity Annual Statement 2019-2020**

**Background**

Prior to 2019 YSJU had nine academic schools and three Cross-School Research Ethics Committees (CSREC). Following a university restructure, we now have five academic schools and one School Research Ethics Committee (SREC) per school. These are chaired by School Research Ethics Leads and membership includes representation for cognate areas within each school. This change has increased the level of support available at local level and our capacity to provide robust and timely assessment of research proposals.

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

Our new SRECs are supported by a reconstituted University Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-committee (UREISC). The role of the UREISC is to review 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.

**Misconduct**

There were no investigations of research misconduct during 2019-20.

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.

**Ongoing Review and Oversight**

In 2020 we purchased Haplo Ethics Manager to increase efficiency, standardise approaches across the University, and record and store documentation electronically, securely, and centrally. This system is due to introduced to all academic schools in academic year 2020- 2021.

YSJU continues to implement the Concordat on Research Integrity by offering research ethics training via our Staff Research Continual Professional Development Programme and Postgraduate Researcher Training Programme.

As of 2020-2021, training in research ethics and integrity, GDPR, and Copyright and IP, are compulsory for all YSJU PGR students.

We have established named contacts for ethics and integrity queries (Head of the Research Office) as well as a named contact for whistle-blowing (University Secretary). We have established policies for research misconduct that can be found [here](https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/media/content-assets/research/documents/5-DISC-(Published)-YSJ---Research-Misconduct-Policy-and-Procedures.docx) and whistle-blowing that can be found [here](https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/whistleblowing/).