

Annual Statement on Research Integrity

Academic Year 18/19

Introduction and Context

As a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity, De Montfort University (DMU) has responsibility to ensure that all research conducted under the auspices of the university is of the highest quality and integrity. It is highly desirable to use the University's annual statement outlining:

- x A summary of actions and activities undertaken to support and strengthen the understanding and implementation of research integrity;
- x Confirmation that we have provision for dealing with allegations of misconduct and that all procedures follow a transparent, robust and fair process;
- x Details of any formal investigations of research misconduct and outcomes.

Through compliance with the Concordat, DMU are able to demonstrate a commitment to promoting good research practice, as set out in the

[and governance/research requiring ethical approval.asp](#)). It is imperative that ethical approval is applied for prior to the commencement of research and routed through the appropriate Faculty Research Ethics Committee (FREC), meetings of which are held quarterly. FRECs report to the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC). Studies that are deemed high risk may be escalated to the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC). Failure to obtain ethical approval is dealt with through the Misconduct in Research Policy.

A significant step in the self-assessment process has been the setting up of an Ethics Task Group.

Systems and Processes

- x This year saw the Faculty Research Ethics Committees (FRECs) work with the University Research Ethics Committee, trying to streamline processes with a view to procuring an online system to make the ethics application processes more efficient and auditable. FRECs reviewed ethics application forms in order to produce a standard university form. Revisions incorporated more detail that would reflect the requirements of the research project in greater depth, thus supporting a better informed decision-making process for the FRECs to better ensure that students are alerted to ethical issues that they may not have foreseen.

- x Programme handbooks are reviewed and revised to ensure that students are fully aware of the repercussions of not applying for ethical approval PRIOR to the commencement of ANY project/ dissertation that involves research

- x Research ethics training is to be rolled out with iterations every 2 months for staff, and a set of training materials and online resources for postgraduate research students, completion of which is mandatory for them. Training on responsible innovation is to be rolled out in the new academic year.