

FOREWORD

By the Vice Principal for Research

Good research governance is embedded within the University of Aberdeen's ethos and culture. It features in every aspect of our work in support of research excellence. To this end, we uphold the five commitments set out in the Universities UK [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#). These are:

- Upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
- Ensuring that research is conducted according to the appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligation 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

This handbook sets out our policies and procedures which enable us to achieve these commitments. It is an essential point of reference for all members of our research community (including Professional Services, Support and Technical staff). It also provides that community with a single repository of information on emerging issues, such as safeguarding in research and innovation activities (to protect people involved in our research activity), the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (which requires us to consider a broad range of measures when assessing research quality), 'Trusted Research' (designed to protect our research and researchers when participating in collaborative research) and the National Security & Investment Act (2021) (which requires further scrutiny of research activity that could adversely affect the UK's national security).

The University promotes the ongoing development of an inclusive research culture that both supports and demands the highest standards of research integrity. When things go wrong, the University also supports our research community by ensuring that appropriate procedures are in place.

As we work towards achieving our ambitious objectives for research and research performance (as set out in the [Aberdeen 2040 Strategy](#)), and as we continue with our preparations for submission to the Research Excellence Framework (REF2029), this information sets out our framework to enable our researchers to achieve their potential whilst upholding the highest standards of integrity, rigour and ethics.

If you have any further questions or wish to discuss any of the issues covered within this handbook, please contact me.

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