GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The definitions given against the following terms are provided for the purpose of this document only and are not necessarily applied or adopted across the entire University; variations of these definitions might exist within Schools and Institutes and across different disciplines.

“Research”

The University defines research as “a process of systematic enquiry leading to new insights which contribute to a body of knowledge, effectively shared”. This definition adopts that given for the Research Excellence Framework, published in the Guidance on Submissions document in 2019. (An extended definition is also available in section 1.8 of the UKRIO Code of Practice for Research).

“Researchers”

Following the UK Research Integrity Office Code of Practice for Research (2021), “researchers” are defined as “any people who conduct research, including, but not limited to: as an employee; as an independent contractor or consultant; as a research student; as a visiting or emeritus member of staff; or as a member of staff on a joint clinical or honorary contract”.

“Research Integrity”

Research integrity refers to the active adherence, by researchers and research organisations, of the ethical principles and professional and legislative standards essential for the responsible practice of research.

“Research Ethics”

Research Ethics refers to the moral principles underpinning research at all stages, from developing a project grant application, data collection, to writing up and disseminating their findings.

“Research Governance”

Research Governance refers to the development of shared standards and mechanisms that permit the proper management and monitoring of research. Research governance is more than but includes research ethics. Governance includes other key areas such as good science, information, health and safety, research commissioning and priorities, utility, dissemination and use. Governance is an in-house process to ensure that research meets all statutory requirements, has all the necessary resources, finishes properly and publishes appropriately.

“Rigour”

Rigour in research refers to research which has been conducted according to recognised methods and protocols; which is valid, credible, and reliable and which would stand up to robust scrutiny.

“Personal Data”

Any information relating to an identified or identifiable living person who can be identified or who are identifiable, directly from the information in question; or who can be indirectly identified from that information in combination with other information.

“Research Data”

Any information that has been collected, observed, generated, or created to validate original research findings.
“Data Management”

The collection, organisation, analysis, preservation and sharing of research data.