

7. TRAINING IN RESEARCH INTEGRITY, ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE

The University is committed to ensuring that all researchers (staff and students), and also associated staff (e.g. technicians, staff who have a role in reviewing research data, or who work as part of a research team, or have a related support or administrative function) receive appropriate training opportunities in relation to research ethics and governance as part of its over-riding commitment towards staff development and to achieving the highest standards of research governance.

The University delivers a generic training programme on research ethics and governance for all research staff and students. The online training module covers the key generic issues and principles which underpin research ethics and governance and is applicable to all disciplines. Completion of this training is mandatory for all postgraduate research students and for research staff who need to apply for ethical approval of their research. SMMSN staff who have already completed the GCP or GRP ethics training will be exempt from this requirement, as will any staff who have completed similar ethics training at a previous institution within the last five years (and can provide supporting evidence of this). Repeat training is required every five years.

The University also delivers an online training programme on research integrity. Completion of this training is mandatory for all postgraduate research students and research staff, including professional services, technical or support staff involved in supporting the University's research activities, and will be monitored by the Postgraduate Research School (for PGRs) and by the Schools/Directorates (for staff). All existing staff undertaking research or involved in research support should undertake the research integrity training within two years of its launch. Repeat training is required every five years.

Completion of the mandatory training in Research Integrity and in Research Ethics & Governance is a condition of ethical approval for staff and research students.

All PGR students must undertake the training in research ethics and governance and in research integrity within the first six months of commencing their degree programme. Supervisors will be responsible for ensuring that this training has been completed by their PGR students.

Both programmes can be accessed by members of staff and postgraduate research students via MyAberdeen. Any other students (due to the nature of their research project) or staff working in research-related roles who require access to these modules should contact the [Research Policy and Strategy team](#) for assistance.

Research ethics and governance training is also available locally across the institution, notably where there is a requirement for compliance with external regulatory bodies or legislation (such as the [Animals \(Scientific Procedures\) Act 1986](#) as amended in 2012). These sessions will often be delivered by external partners, such as the NHS, and are often mandatory (according to discipline and research area). Training in research ethics and governance at local levels will also adhere to the requirements of funding bodies, including the Funding Councils. Where research involves the NHS, researchers will be required to have undertaken training in Good Research Practice or Good Clinical Practice (depending on study requirements). For information on these training courses please visit the [training pages](#) on the Grampian Research Office website. Information on local training requirements should be sought from the appropriate School Offices, or via line management.

In addition, all staff engaged in research activities must complete the University's mandatory information security training and data protection training, and thereafter, refresher courses as required.