(such as clinical research) involving the collection and use of data on human subjects within a clinical context.

SECTION 7

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 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, on a rolling basis, for all research staff and students and all are strongly encouraged to attend. The online training module includes training on 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 all research staff, and will be monitored by the Postgraduate Research School (for PGRs) and by the Schools/Directorates (for staff). All existing staff undertaking or involved in research should undertake the research ethics and governance training within two years of its launch. 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 all research staff, and will be monitored by the Postgraduate Research School (for PGRs) and by the Schools/Directorates (for staff). All existing staff undertaking or involved in research should undertake the research integrity training within two years of its launch. Repeat training is required every five years.

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.

Both programmes can be accessed by members of staff and postgraduate 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.

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, thereafter, refresher courses, as required.

SECTION 8

8. INTERNAL HEALTHCHECKS AND MONITORING

The University carries out regular research ethics and governance “Healthchecks” across the institution. The Healthcheck is an exercise designed to provide light-touch monitoring of the research governance arrangements in place at local levels. It is coordinated centrally by the Research Policy Committee and every School is involved. The Healthcheck is intended to identify existing good practice and to highlight any local weaknesses in the University’s current research ethics and governance arrangements.
The Research Policy Committee has responsibility for monitoring research governance arrangements in place within each School, including the level of activity carried out by the respective ethical review Boards. This usually takes the form of regular reporting to the Research Policy Committee by the Deans of Research.

The Research Policy Committee is also required to regularly monitor changes to the external research governance landscape. This includes amendments to the requirements and expectations of funding bodies and updates to changes to any legislative requirements. It also involves reacting to any sector wide standards which may be released, such as the UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity, and ensuring that the University is compliant, where applicable.