

Annex 3: Examples of funder requirements in addition to compliance with the Concordat

There is an increasing focus internationally on the need to promote research integrity. The *Singapore Statement on Research Integrity* (2010) and the Montreal Statement which followed it in 2013 highlighted the responsibilities of those involved in research, and, along with developments such as the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity* (2011), began to raise the profile of this issue on the global stage. This has been followed, in the UK, by the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*, which sets out a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. In this context, a range of funders have set out their own expectations in relation to research integrity.

The following is not an exhaustive list, and such policies may change from time to time. Researchers are required to fully familiarise themselves with such funder requirements and ensure that all research complies with the requirements of its funder.

i) RCUK requirements

In addition to the requirements set out in the **Concordat**, for research funded by research councils, the University will comply, and will expect its staff and students to comply, with the expectations of the **RCUK Policy and Guidelines on Good Research Conduct**, which are summarised as:

‘All are expected to observe the highest standards of integrity, honesty and professionalism and to embed good practice in every aspect of their work. This includes the interpretation and presentation of research results and contributions to the peer review process and the training of new researchers, staff and students as well as the conduct of the research itself. That is, individual actions must comply with the principles of honesty, openness, transparency and research rigour’.

The Policy can be found at:

<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Publications/researchers/grc/>

ii) Individual Research Council requirements

In addition to the Concordat and the RCUK requirements, individual Research Councils also require compliance with a number of policies and guidelines which relate to their specific areas of research. These include:

- ESRC Framework for Research Ethics (2012)
http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/framework-for-research-ethics-09-12_tcm8-4586.pdf
- ESRC Research Data Policy (2010)
http://www.esrc.ac.uk/images/Research_Data_Policy_2010_tcm8-4595.pdf

- MRC Good Research Practice: Principles and Guidelines (2012)
<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Utilities/Documentrecord/index.htm?d=MRC002415>
- MRC Ethics and governance guidelines
<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Newspublications/Publications/Ethicsandguidance/index.htm>
- BBSRC Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research
<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/awardholders/granholders.aspx>
- BBSRC Data Sharing Policy
<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/awardholders/granholders.aspx>
- NERC ethics policy <http://www.nerc.ac.uk/about/policy/policies/>
- EPSRC Framework of Responsible Innovation
<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/framework/Pages/framework.aspx>

iii) Department of Health Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/139565/dh_4122427.pdf

- The Research Governance Framework describes its purpose as follows:

‘This document sets out a framework for the governance of research in health and social care. The framework applies to all research that relates to the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Health. That is, research concerned with the protection and promotion of public health, research undertaken in or by the Department of Health, its non-Departmental Public Bodies and the NHS, and research undertaken by or within social care agencies. It includes clinical and nonclinical research; research undertaken by NHS or social care staff using the resources of health and social care organisations; and any research undertaken by industry, charities, research councils and universities within the health and social care systems that might have an impact on the quality of those services.’
- The Research Governance Framework sets out clear responsibilities for organisations in relation to the role of Research Sponsor and the role of employer. It also sets out the responsibilities of researchers. The University will comply with the requirements of a Sponsor, when acting in that capacity, and an employer, and requires its staff and students to familiarise themselves with, and comply with, the researcher responsibilities.
- The Research Governance Framework is the subject of a separate UWE Bristol guidance note (forthcoming, 2015).

iv) Other funders

- Wellcome Trust set out policy and position statements for grant holders across a range of subjects.

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Policy-and-position-statements/index.htm>

- European Commission

Information about ethics review can be obtained at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm

The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity can be found at:

<http://www.allea.org/Pages/ALL/24/581.bGFuZz1FTkc.html>