



Annual Report on Research Integrity – August 2021

NCH at Northeastern values and recognizes its obligations to uphold integrity in research. NCH at Northeastern supports and upholds the UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

The Concordat recommends that institutions produce an annual statement on research integrity, approved by their Governing Body, and posted publicly on their website.

ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Research and professional integrity are embedded within our governance, policy, and procedures, not least via Academic Board's oversight of academic matters. Procedures on misconduct are set out within our Staff Handbook.

The research ethics group has oversight and approval on projects concerning human or living subjects, and/or projects with ethical implications.

A new research ethics policy has been issued and designated officers have been named on our website.

A Public Interest Disclosure ("whistleblowing") policy is in place and publicized on our website.

Policies and procedures for the academic career trajectory, including annual review, have been reviewed and renewed in 2020/21, with a particular emphasis on support and encouragement for ethical academic values. Additional training has been provided for those conducting annual reviews.

As part of continuing work on research career development and support, there is now a mandatory online course in place for those involved in projects concerning human or living subjects, and/or projects with ethical implications; the Dean of Faculties, or delegate, will monitor and ensure that all relevant parties complete the mandatory online course. Steps are in place further to ensure and guarantee that those involved in any research are fully aware of the Concordat and of the UKRIO Code of Practice for Research.

Within the transnational Northeastern University Network to which we belong, additional support for researchers is now provided from the Office of Research Administration and Finance.

Academic Board is scheduled to review existing policies procedures on research misconduct and related matters in September 2021 in line with our commitment periodically to review research practice and culture to ensure that practice remains fit for purpose.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS

There were no formal investigations of research conduct in 2020/21.
