

Guidance on research integrity

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| Re-approval date | June 2025 |
| Review date | June 2028 |
| Approve by | Academic Board |
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The purpose of this document is to summarise and bring together all the RVC policies relevant to performing research with integrity. For detailed guidance, please always refer to the specific procedures and policies referred to in this document. If you are unsure how to proceed, please contact for support the relevant administrator in the Research & Innovation Office (or other Department) as suggested.

A diagram of research integrity

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Integrity in research is essential to :

* safeguard high standards in research
* retain the public's trust in science
* enhance the RVC’s and UK’s international reputation
* ensure the safety & wellbeing of research participants

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| **What do I have to do?** |
| The RVC expects all staff and students undertaking research to take personal responsibility in adhering to these core principles, and to be aware of and comply with a range of policies including:  [Good Research Practice](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/Research/documents/Good%20Research%20Practice%20Policy%20-%20Dec%202024-1.pdf)  [Code of Practice for Researchers (Concordat)](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/developing-our-researchers/concordat-implementation-strategy)  [Policy on Animal Research](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/animals-in-research/policy)  [Research misconduct policy](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/Research/documents/Research%20Misconduct_FINAL%20-%20Approved%20by%20Academic%20Board.pdf) |
| **Find out more:**   * [RVC statement on Research Integrity](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/Research/documents/Research%20Integrity%20Annual%20Report%20Council%20-%202023_FINAL.pdf) * [Enablers and Inhibitors of Research Integrity](https://ukcori.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Enablers-and-Inhibitors-of-Research-Integrity-Report.pdfhttps:/ukcori.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Enablers-and-Inhibitors-of-Research-Integrity-Report.pdfhttps:/ukcori.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Enablers-and-Inhibitors-of-Research-Integrity-Report.pdf) * [RVC governance policy and legal](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/the-rvc/governance-policy-legal/policy-and-legal#panel-risk-management-policy) |

<https://ukrio.org/research-integrity/what-is-research-integrity/>

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| Core Principles |
| Research integrity covers all types of research and the whole lifecycle of a research project, from the initial idea and project design, through to the conduct of the research and its dissemination. Research integrity also includes ensuring that environments and systems for research safeguard and enhance good research practice, rather than hinder it – often described as ‘research culture’.  As a researcher, you should commit to:  upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research  ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards  supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity, good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers  using transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to handle allegations of research misconduct when they arise  working together to strengthen the integrity of research  abiding by all appropriate and relevant policies when conducting your research    It is the Principal Investigator (PI)’s responsibility to ensure compliance with all requirements for research. Further, the responsibilities of a PI/supervisor/line manager may sometimes extend beyond the work that happens in their own lab. For example, PIs can be responsible for:  (i) what happens to their staff when those staff visit other labs  (ii) ensuring RVC Ethical Review Boards approve work undertaken elsewhere during collaborative research  (iii) ensuring processes exist to maintain the overall integrity of consortium-based or collaborative research that they lead  (iii) as a co-author on collaborative research, ensure the scientific and ethical integrity of the published work, especially if they are corresponding and/or senior author.  Other parties involved in research undertaken jointly with RVC may be asked to assist with obtaining relevant permissions or documentation.  You must take the internal Research Integrity quiz within 4 months of having started and then every 4 years as a refresher. The quiz and presentation are available at: <https://learn.rvc.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=870>  The RVC aims to promote an open and collaborative research culture through engagement in a range of concordats including:   * Concordat to Support Research Integrity * Concordat on Openness on Animal Research * Knowledge Exchange Concordat * Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers |
| **Find out more**   * [Good Research Practice](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/Research/documents/Good%20Research%20Practice%20Policy%20-%20Dec%202024-1.pdf) * [UKRIO Code of Practice for Research](https://ukrio.org/wp-content/uploads/UKRIO-Code-of-Practice-for-Research.pdf) * [Whistleblowing policy](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/About/Governance,%20Policy%20and%20Legal/Policy%20and%20Legal/Public%20Interest%20Disclosure%202024.pdf) * [Dignity at work](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/Human%20Resources/RVC_Dignity%20at%20Work%20Policy%20(Jan2025).pdf) * [UKRI – research integrity](https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/research-integrity/) |

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| Designing your research |
| It is the PI’s responsibility to ensure that everyone in the group, including postgraduate and undergraduate project students working under their direction, receives the appropriate training and has the skills to carry out the studies they have been asked to perform (whether such training is provided within the RVC, or through collaboration with others outside of the RVC).  Appropriate training includes (but is not limited to) standard departmental induction processes, instruction in the use of a facility, laboratory, piece of equipment or carrying out unfamiliar experimental or data collection, analysis/interpretation and protocols, and ethical approvals.  All applications for research funding must be reviewed and approved with by the Research and Innovation Office (RIO) before they are submitted to external funders. RIO staff can support in research funding applications. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that a funder’s terms and conditions can be met if funding is awarded, and that appropriate pre-application costing and risk assessments are completed[[1]](#footnote-2).  Experimental research should involve advance planning and/or hypothesis-setting, whilst observational or descriptive research should start with the definition of data sets and inferential methods. In both cases the methodologies should be clearly communicated to the research team. The UKRIO checklist can aid in this process; research involving animals should use the [PREPARE checklist](https://norecopa.no/PREPARE).  Researchers may consider submitting a pre-registration or a registered report of their planned study. It is sensible to manage researchers’ expectations about authorship on any publications at the outset of a project, whilst ensuring that there is flexibility in case changes are later required. The CREDiT Taxonomy (<https://credit.niso.org/>) can aid in authorship discussions- see section 7.  All researchers must ensure that any samples or data are stored appropriately and are identifiable. Please speak to your PI for guidance. Should the PI, or a team member leave the RVC, researchers must ensure that the leavers’ process is followed. Guidance is available online, and local lab technicians are also able to advise on appropriate internal or external transfer of material ownership. (see also section 6 below).  If research staff or postgraduate students are concerned that they have been asked to help supervise research project students (undergraduate or postgraduate) but have not received adequate training to perform that supervision, then they must inform their PI/supervisor. They should not accept responsibility for helping students until this has been rectified, unless they have been asked to deliver the training.  It is also the PI’s responsibility to ensure that the financial or other resources required to complete the work are sufficient and available. Where this is not the case, the study should not be started. UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) The RVC is a member of the UK Reproducibility Network, whose aim is to align incentives and ways of working to promote the practice of rigorous, reproducible, and transparent research. RVC researchers are encouraged to make use of RVC’s membership of UKRN and our participation in its Open Research Programme to participate in training to develop knowledge and skills to enhance the integrity of their research (<https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/research-integrity/UKRN>) . |
| **Find out more**   * [RVC guidance - applying for grant funding using Worktribe](https://rvcac.sharepoint.com/sites/ra/worktribea/SitePages/Worktribe%20Support%20Home.aspx) * UKRIO [checklist for researchers](https://ukrio.org/wp-content/uploads/UKRIO-Recommended-Checklist-for-Researchers.pdf) **(**highlights process of good research practice from start to finish) * [HR guidance- leaving the RVC](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/about/our-people/human-resources/information-for-staff/leaving-the-college#panel-forms) |

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| Working with partners |
| If you are working with external partners, collaborators, or other providers, then appropriate risk assessments need be undertaken prior to the creation of a new relationship, and before entering into formal or informal agreements. The project lead or PI is responsible for ensuring details of any external collaborators are brought to the attention of the relevant team in RIO, such that due diligence and compliance activities can be satisfactorily completed. Others involved in the research may be asked to assist with obtaining the relevant permissions.  The project lead should also be aware of, and ensure their staff/students comply with, the legal and ethical requirements related to collaborating institutions or countries. Sharing data with partners- file sharing As of summer 2025, IT are reviewing potential new process for file data sharing. One Drive is the current recommended system for sharing secure data. Trusted Research Trusted Research aims to support the integrity of the system of international research collaboration, which is vital to the continued success of the UK's research and innovation sector. It is particularly relevant to researchers in STEM subjects, dual-use technologies, emerging technologies and commercially sensitive research areas.  It is the PI’s responsibility to ensure that all work with partners (whether from the UK or international), including informal discussion as well as formal collaborations and sharing of material and data, is covered by appropriate agreements. The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) has written helpful guidance, advising researchers on what to consider when collaborating with partners. We recommend this guidance as a useful tool for academics and researchers at the RVC. Research Visitors You should comply with all relevant expectations when working with partners and meet UK legislations regarding security and export.  PI’s have a responsibility for any visitors spending time at their research group or lab, whether an informal visit of a single day, or a more formal visiting research relationship (staff or student).  When hosting visitors to RVC (for research, teaching, or other activities), the host should consider what steps need to be taken to ensure risks are considered and managed. For example, what data will the visitor have access to, and what facilities, materials, or equipment might be used?  If you are hosting a Visiting Researcher (e.g.an overseas research scholar, or a professor on sabbatical), you should ensure that an appropriate agreement is in place, where necessary. This agreement will cover data management, intellectual property, and expectations regarding health and safety/insurances etc; this applies to visitors both from the UK and those from other countries.  Processes regarding visitors are currently under review, but please notify the RIO team in the first instance if you are planning on hosting a visiting researcher for a period of time ([ke@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:ke@rvc.ac.uk)).  This procedure is not intended to apply to informal meetings, discussions, or the presentation of seminars, for example, which are covered under the RVC’s general [Visitor policy](https://intranet.rvc.ac.uk/professional-services/estates/health-and-safety/information-a-to-z.cfm#Visitor-Information). However, if your Visitor will have access to RVC systems, or you are discussing with external partners unpublished research that could have value as intellectual property, you may need to prepare a confidentiality agreement. (See Section 6 and 7) The RIO contracts team can work with you to ensure that appropriate agreements are in place ([researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk) ) . Conflicts of interest It is your responsibility to ensure that any potential competing conflicts of interest are declared to your Head of Department. You may also need to declare this in funding applications or publications, or when taking roles on committees, as this can impact on the integrity of any research being undertaken. Conflicts of interest may include financial incentives, roles outside the RVC, and relationships to collaborators or funders. |
| **Find out more**   * [UKRI Trusted Research and Innovation](https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/trusted-research-and-innovation/) * [NSPA- Trusted Research in academia](https://www.npsa.gov.uk/trusted-research-academia) * [National Security and Investment Act](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-security-and-investment-act-guidance-for-the-higher-education-and-research-intensive-sectors/national-security-and-investment-act-guidance-for-the-higher-education-and-research-intensive-sectors) * [Conflict of interest policy](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/About/Governance,%20Policy%20and%20Legal/Policy%20and%20Legal/RVC%20Policy%20on%20Conflicts%20of%20interest.pdf) |

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| Ethics and Informed consent |
| The dignity, rights, safety and well-being of participants must be the primary consideration in any research study that involves humans or animals and should only be initiated and continued if the anticipated benefits justify their use.  Research involving vulnerable groups of individuals, or that which does not involve full disclosure to participants, requires particular care and attention.   * Before starting any research that involves the use of humans or animals, you must ensure that they have obtained approval for the planned study(ies) from the relevant Ethical Committee(s) and if the work is to be carried out under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, that there is a Home Office approved project licence in place. * Research involving human and animal subjects/patients normally requires informed consent from the participant or owner/keeper of an animal. This usually involves completion and/or signing of a written consent form that will have been approved as part of the ethical review process. Consent forms must be kept until after the work has been completed. * There should be sufficient, accurate, information on a consent form to ensure that participants or animal owners/keepers are fully aware of the purpose of the proposed research and what it involves. Particular care must be taken in designing a consent form (and, where relevant, discussing a study) if vulnerable groups of individuals are involved or if a study necessitates withholding certain information about its purpose, or even deliberately deceiving a participant/animal owner or keeper.   You must also:   * Inform participants or animal owners/keepers that data collected during the research may be disseminated and the form that this is likely to take. This includes (but is not limited to) internal reports and presentations, oral or poster presentations at external meetings/workshops/conferences and peer-reviewed and other publications in the literature or online. Note that unless this has been agreed otherwise in advance, data should be presented in a way that is not attributable to an individual, company or business. * Be aware of, and adhere to, any restrictions on/limitations to data dissemination that are imposed by relevant legislation, by a contractual agreement with a funder or non-academic partner, or by any relevant ethical or professional, statutory and regulatory body.   RVC expects its researchers to abide by the *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity* (‘Nagoya’) which is an international agreement which aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way (see section 7.2) . |
| **Find out more**   * [RVC Ethics](https://intranet.rvc.ac.uk/research-and-innovation-office/ethics-and-welfare/ethical-principles.cfm) * [Clinical Investigation Centre](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/facilities-and-resources/clinical-investigation-centre) * [Nagoya Protocol](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/abs) (University of Cambridge [researcher checklist](https://www.research-operations.admin.cam.ac.uk/nagoya-protocol)) |

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| Management of Intellectual property |
| Intellectual property (IP) is intangible property that is the result of creativity and innovation and which can be owned in a similar way to physical property. Examples of intellectual property rights (IPRs) include copyright, patents, and trademarks.  Not all research leads to patents, but all research creates results/data/outputs that can be intellectual property or know-how, which belongs to the RVC unless there is a contract in place that says otherwise.  Before any of this information is shared, e.g. at conference or in a publication, it is the responsibility of the PI to check whether any there is any potential for future commercial exploitation, or contract restrictions, that would prevent communication.  You should not send your data, research samples, or other research-related materials to any potential partner without ensuring an appropriate agreement or contract is in place.  When sharing unpublished data, samples or materials with partners or collaborators, there may be restrictions imposed by the funder that must be carefully considered (and potentially acted upon) by the PI before the data can be shared. You must ascertain if there are reasons data should *not* be shared, or whether there should be restrictions on how that recipient can use the data or information they receive. For example:   * Could the data/material form part of potentially valuable intellectual property (an idea, patent, service) in the future? * Do your funders or collaborators restrict how you can share the data/material? * Does the data contain commercially-sensitive information, including clinical trial data? * Does the data contain personal information protected by GDPR regulations?   If you are unsure, contact the RIO contracts team [researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk)  For intellectual property support, contact the KE and Commercialisation team [ke@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:ke@rvc.ac.uk) |
| **Find out more**   * Intellectual Property Policy (due 2025) * Contact [ke@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:ke@rvc.ac.uk) for informal discussion |

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| Sharing Materials, Data and research data management |
| Open research is best described as “an umbrella term used to refer to the concepts of openness, transparency, rigor, reproducibility, replicability, and accumulation of knowledge”[[2]](#footnote-3). The UKRN have provided guidance on open research across disciplines – [here.](https://osf.io/preprints/osf/3r8hb_v1) Sharing Materials When sharing materials with partners or collaborators, whether this is your material, or material received from a partner, there may be restrictions imposed by the funder that must be carefully considered (and potentially acted upon) by the PI before material is shared.  You must ascertain if there are reasons material should *not* be shared, or whether there should be restrictions on how that recipient can use the data or information they receive. For example:   * Is the material related to an output of a commercially funded project? * Could the material form part of potentially valuable intellectual property (an idea, patent, service) in the future? * Do your funders or collaborators restrict how you can share the material? * Does the material contain commercially sensitive information?   If you are unsure, you should not send or receive any material to any external party without checking if an agreement is needed.  Speak to the contracts team in RIO for advice on materials/data transfer agreements. [researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk) or the Commercialisation team regarding Intellectual Property queries ([ke@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:ke@rvc.ac.uk)) Nagoya protocol The Nagoya Protocol governs access to non-human genetic resources and traditional knowledge. You must ensure that any genetic resources or traditional knowledge have been accessed according to the Nagoya Protocol. Appropriate records must be kept proving that due diligence checks were completed, and this must be kept for 20 years after the end of utilisation.   * Nagoya may be relevant when planning your research, applying for funding, working on overseas fieldwork or collecting samples whilst overseas, undertaking conservation related research * You must consider whether any permits may be needed, or export license or similar. You must also ensure that appropriate materials transfer agreements or other related documentation is in place before commencing work * This also applies if you are obtaining materials from a collaborator, and/or sending these onto other partners/collaborators, you must ensure that they followed due process in originally obtaining samples or collections.   It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that members of their group, including research project students (undergraduate and postgraduate) working under their direction, have obtained informed consent for any study where it is required and that study results are disseminated with due regard to relevant aspects of confidentiality and anonymity. Research Data Management All RVC researchers must:   * Collect and record data accurately, efficiently, and according to the agreed design of the research project * Comply with all requirements (legal/ethical/RVC/funding body) for the collection, use, and storage of data, especially personal data, which are governed by the General Data Protection Regulation * Ensure that all data are stored in a secure and accessible form that conforms to the RVC’s policy on good research practice.   PIs and Research group leaders must do their utmost to ensure that members of their group, including PhD and Masters students, and undergraduate research project students working under their direction, are aware of, and adhering to, RVC policy on research data collection, storage, and management.  Funders will also have policies related to how you manage, store, and/or share data related to research they have funded which you must comply with. For example, “Open access publication” means making your research outputs freely available online.  You can contact the research support team for further information and guidance: [researchdata@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:researchdata@rvc.ac.uk) Agreements for sharing data When sharing unpublished data with partners or collaborators, there may be restrictions imposed by the funder that must be carefully considered (and potentially acted upon) by the PI before the data can be shared. You must ascertain if there are reasons data should *not* be shared, or whether there should be restrictions on how the recipient can use the data or information they receive. For example:   * Could the data form part of potentially valuable intellectual property (an idea, patent, service) in the future? * Do your funders or collaborators restrict how you can share the data? * Does the data contain commercially-sensitive information, including clinical trial data? * Does the data contain personal information protected by GDPR regulations?   If you are unsure, you should not send any data to any external party without checking if an agreement is needed. Speak to the contracts team in RIO for advice on materials/data transfer agreements. [researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:researchcontracts@rvc.ac.uk) |
| **Find out more**   * [Nagoya Protocol](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/abs) (University of Cambridge [researcher checklist](https://www.research-operations.admin.cam.ac.uk/nagoya-protocol)) * [Data protection policy](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/About/Governance,%20Policy%20and%20Legal/Policy%20and%20Legal/Data%20protection%20policy%202024.pdf) * [Data processing at RVC – guide for vets](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/About/Governance,%20Policy%20and%20Legal/Policy%20and%20Legal/information-and-data-processing-at-rvc--a-guide-for-vets.pdf) * [Data Management for research-guidance](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/research-data-management) (under review 2025) * [Introduction to Research Data Management](https://intranet.rvc.ac.uk/research-and-innovation-office/documents/Research%20data%20management%20Introduction%20-%2011%2003%202025.pptx) * [COPE guidance](https://publicationethics.org/) |

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| Publications |
| Publications When drafting a manuscript for publication, the following authorship guidelines should be kept in mind:   * There is no universally accepted definition of authorship for scientific papers. A wide variety of contributions can merit co-authorship, yet each contribution should be sufficiently significant (i.e. non-trivial). However, what constitutes a significant contribution varies among disciplines and can depend on the context of the work undertaken. In general, every author should be responsible for at least one task in the reported research, and every task in the report should be the responsibility of at least one author. * The PI should clearly communicate expectations regarding authorship to the team at the outset of the research, and any changes in contributions that occur as research is performed should also be communicated openly. * We recommend that you refer to and make use of the CREDiT Taxonomy (<https://credit.niso.org/>). The names and work of any contributors who do not meet these criteria for authorship should be described in an acknowledgements section, with the agreement of those contributors. * Anyone listed as an author must be prepared to take responsibility for the content of the publication, including ensuring its accuracy (in as far as it is reasonably possible for them to do so), and be able to describe their contribution. They must read and approve the final version of the manuscript. * There should be appropriate acknowledgement of funding sources related to the work. Organisations (or individuals) that are funding the study and/or are funding staff/students carrying out the research should also be acknowledged, and any competing interests they might have must be stated. * Unless the relevant funder has alternative specific guidance, UKRI guidance should be followed when acknowledging funding. Acknowledgement of funding should be a sentence with the funding agency written out in full, followed by the grant number (if you have one) in square brackets. Multiple grant numbers should be separated by a comma and space. Where the research was supported by more than one agency, the different agencies should be separated by a semicolon, with “and” before the final funder. For example:   + ‘This work was supported by the Medical Research Council [grant number xxxx]’.   + ‘This work was supported by the Wellcome Trust [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Medical Research Council [grant number zzzz]; and the Natural Environment Research Council [grant number XXXX]’. * To avoid any inadvertent plagiarism it is recommended that manuscripts are assessed using appropriate software tools prior to submission to detect similarities to published work. * Researchers are also encouraged to consider the value of publishing negative, or null research findings where appropriate.   The Committee on Publication Ethics ([COPE](https://publicationethics.org/)) provide useful guidance and resource promoting ethical practices and supporting high standards in scholarly publications.  You should also:   * Acknowledge all sources of information/materials provided and used in the described work;   + This is particularly pertinent when the work involves human and/or animal subjects/patients. The [ARRIVE](https://arriveguidelines.org/) guidelines provide a useful checklist of the minimum information to include when reporting research using animals. Reporting guidelines for other types of research studies can be found on the [EQUATOR Network](https://www.equator-network.org/) website. * Ask permission from any individual/group if their work is to be used in the publication (and they are not a co-author); * Declare any potential or actual conflicts of interest (in publications or when reporting your findings at conferences/meetings); * Adhere to any institutional and/or funder requirements in relation to open access [see Open Access and Open Research section 7.3]; * Be aware that publishing the same findings in more than one journal/book/online article without proper disclosure/acknowledgement of the previous publication(s) containing the same data or results is completely unacceptable.   Research students and research staff should discuss any publication/presentation (including preprints) with their supervisor/PI prior to submission or dissemination. Supervisors/PIs are responsible for upholding the scientific integrity of published work undertaken in their lab, whilst also supporting the academic freedom of expression of individual researchers. Peer review If invited to review another’s work, either formally by a journal or as part of informal grant preparations, you must:   * Declare all conflicts of interest before undertaking the review (if you feel that your conflict of interest is such that your review may be biased, you should decline to undertake the review, or the request to review may be withdrawn depending on your declared conflict of interest). * Review the content thoroughly and objectively, employing the highest standards of rigour and integrity. * Maintain confidentiality (unless conducting Open Peer Review). * Not disseminate or make available any material you are reviewing without the express (written) permission of the journal/funding body/individual who has requested the review. * Not make use of (or allow others to do so) study designs, methods, or findings described in the material you have been asked to review without the express permission of the author(s).   If, while carrying out an external review, you become aware of possible misconduct you must inform (in confidence) an appropriate representative of the organisation that requested the review. This includes (but is not limited to) a journal editor, the chair of a grants panel, or the chair of an ethics committee.  If potential misconduct has been identified whilst carrying out a review of a manuscript or document written by a member of RVC staff or an RVC student, or documentation that has been submitted to an RVC ethics committee by an individual(s) external to the RVC, you should follow the procedure outlined in the [RVC’s Policy and Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Research Misconduct](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/Media/Default/Research/documents/Research%20Misconduct_FINAL%20-%20Approved%20by%20Academic%20Board.pdf). Open Access and Open Research Making research outputs freely available, where and when appropriate, can improve visibility, impact and transparency of your research. RVC researchers must comply with all institutional and/or funder requirements in relation to open access publication of research outputs. As such, all RVC authors are required to:   * Deposit the final accepted manuscript version of their journal articles and conference proceedings to Worktribe, upon acceptance, from where they will be made publicly available via the institutional repository. * Familiarise themselves with and comply with the open access requirements of any funders to whom they are applying for funding and/or from whom they are receiving funding. * Ensure value for money when institutional and/or taxpayer funds, such as the UKRI Open Access Block Grant, are used to support costs associated with open access publication. * Avoid ‘Predatory Publishers’, as publishing in a predatory journal can have consequences for the reputation and integrity of your work and the RVC. You can speak to the research support librarian if unsure ([PublicationsRepos@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:PublicationsRepos@rvc.ac.uk)) * As well as publishing reports at the end of research, researchers may also wish to consider other types of publications that can improve the integrity and reproducibility of research, specifically, pre-registration of experiments/trials, lab protocols, computer code, and datasets. However, before doing so, researchers must first carefully consider the intellectual property and confidentiality consequences of sharing (as outlined in sections 5 and 6 above). |
| **Find out more**   * [Publication and open access](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/open-access) * [Publisher Open Access Agreements](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/open-access/Transformative-Agreements) * [Research Misconduct](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/research-integrity) * [COPE guidance](https://publicationethics.org/) |

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| Use of AI in research |
| The use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning provides opportunities for scientific research. However Generative AI tools can also be used to support research and writing activities, and their use needs careful consideration.  The Research Funders Policy Group have provided guidance regarding the use of AI in preparation of funding applications, and its use in assessment processes, and individual funders will also have policies on its use. Guidance and policy regarding AI in research is likely to develop and change rapidly.  You must ensure that the use of AI is undertaken with appropriate consideration, and acknowledgement, and abides by specific funders expectations. For example, researchers are responsible for ensuring that their AI use does not constitute plagiarism, and for scrutinising the factual accuracy of any AI generated material incorporated into their research. |
| **Find out more**   * Joint statement on the use of AI * [UKRI guidance on use of AI in applications](https://www.ukri.org/publications/generative-artificial-intelligence-in-application-and-assessment-policy/use-of-generative-artificial-intelligence-in-application-preparation-and-assessment/) |

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| Research Misconduct |
| The RVC expects the highest standards of research integrity from the researchers we support, irrespective of the sources of their funding, their area of research, where the research is to be conducted, their experience as researchers, and whether they are lone scholars or members of a research team. |
| **Find out more**   * [Scientific misconduct -RVC process](https://www.rvc.ac.uk/research/about/research-integrity) * [UK RIO code of practice for research](https://ukrio.org/ukrio-resources/publications/code-of-practice-for-research/) |

END

1. There are limited exceptions where Worktribe is not used. All applications, even those without research office “sign-off” on a word document must still follow due process. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://osf.io/preprints/osf/3r8hb_v1> Cruwell et al 2019 https://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2019-80290-002.html [↑](#footnote-ref-3)