



# Code of Research Good Practice

## Staff and Students

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## 1 Purpose

This policy document is of relevance to all members of **staff** and **students** who wish to undertake all forms of research. It also applies to those who sponsor research, such as academic managers, departmental heads and Deans. The University of South Wales (USW) has an obligation to ensure that the research we conduct is carried out in the most conscientious and responsible manner possible. This document aims to:

- set out clear principles for the conduct of good quality research
- outline the responsibilities of all those involved
- help set standards that enhance research quality, integrity and compliance

**The USW expects all staff and students engaged with research to adhere and promote these principles irrespective of sources of funding or areas of research.**

### Relevant to:

Academic and research staff, undergraduate students, postgraduate students, those with honorary or sub contracts and anyone else conducting research under the university's auspices. This will also include those who 'sign off', 'approve' or sponsor research projects on behalf of the University, a faculty, or central department. Within this document we will refer to these stakeholders as the "researchers".

### Additional documents

This policy provides an overview of the expectations passed to all individuals who are involved in carrying out research under the auspices of USW. Those individuals are encouraged to consider this guidance in conjunction with the additional policies and procedures relevant to each area of this policy and to consult with those departments that possess the expertise to give advice appropriately.

### 1.1 Research Governance

Research Governance, or Research Good Practice concerns itself with the improvement of standards and the reduction of unacceptable research practices to protect those most closely associated with the research, including researchers, the University (and its reputation), and participants. Research Good Practice is intended to uphold the standards and research principles expected of the University. To achieve this, the University is required to manage:

- The potential risks,
- The research design and scientific rigour (science),
- Then responsible dissemination of research findings,
- The safe storage, archiving and availability of research documentation (information),
- Health and safety checks,
- Compliance with legal requirements,
- Financial probity,
- The monitoring and management of research fraud and misconduct.

This Code of Conduct aims to establish the expectations and standards that should be met in research and define the mechanisms and procedures to help achieve those standards. Its purpose is to enhance the integrity, ethical and scientific quality of research and to reduce the occurrence of adverse or undesirable incidents.

## 1.2 The Concordat to Support Research Integrity (revised 2019)

As a recipient of public funding the University is required to comply with the [Concordat to Support Research Integrity \(UUK\)](#).

All researchers at the University of South Wales must adhere to the requirements of the Concordat and support is available from Research and Innovation Services to anyone who wishes to explore further or seek help in meeting the requirements of the concordat.

All those engaged with research have a duty to consider how the work they undertake, host, or support affects society and the wider research community. Implementation of the commitments set out in this concordat helps demonstrate to the public, government, business and international partners that they can continue to have confidence in the research we produce. It provides the standards expected of all stakeholders, identifying five commitments that all those engaged with research must be able to make.

By acting in accordance with this concordat, members of the research community can demonstrate that they:

1. uphold the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
2. ensure that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards
3. support a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice, and support for the development of researchers
4. use transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to handle allegations of research misconduct when they arise
5. work together to strengthen the integrity of research

The concordat:

- **applies to all fields of research.** The highest standards of integrity are needed in all fields of research; the commitments outlined in the concordat are relevant to all disciplines in which research is undertaken.
- **designates responsibilities and accountabilities.** Ensuring research integrity requires all stakeholders to play their part. The concordat describes the responsibilities and accountabilities of each of the key participants – researchers, their employers, and funders of research – and acknowledges the important role of other organisations that support research and researchers.
- **complements existing frameworks.** The concordat does not supersede or replace statutory and regulatory standards that already exist to govern research practice, any discipline-specific guidance, or conditions of grants from funding bodies. It is designed to be complementary and to set existing guidance in a broader national framework.
- **recognises the autonomy of employers.** Employers of researchers must have the freedom to strengthen policies and procedures relating to research as appropriate to their circumstances. The concordat provides a framework to help employers ensure that they can fully discharge their responsibilities.

Training in relation to Research Integrity is available via the Research and Innovation Development Programme:

<https://www.southwales.ac.uk/research/environment/culture/researcher-development/research-training/>

## 2 Research Principles

The University also subscribes to the RCUK Policy and Guidelines on the Governance of Good Research Conduct, the UK Research Integrity Office Code of Conduct for Research (UKRIO).

The essence of these concordats and frameworks is to promote and uphold the broad research principles. These principles encourage all involved in research to consider the wider consequences of their work and to engage critically with the practical, ethical and intellectual challenges that are inherent in the conduct of high quality research.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| EXCELLENCE          | The University of South Wales and its researchers are expected to strive for excellence when conducting research and aim to produce and disseminate work of the highest quality.   |
| HONESTY             | The University of South Wales will work to create and maintain a culture of research that fosters and supports honesty in research. Researchers should be honest in relation to their own research and that of others. They should do their utmost to ensure the accuracy of data and results, acknowledge the contributions of others, and neither engage in misconduct nor conceal it.   |
| INTEGRITY           | The University of South Wales and its researchers must comply with all legal and ethical requirements relevant to their field of study. They should declare any potential or actual conflicts of interest relating to research and where necessary take steps to resolve them.   |
| COOPERATION         | The University of South Wales and its researchers will support the open exchange of ideas, research methods, data and results and their discussion, scrutiny and debate, subject to any considerations of confidentiality.   |
| ACCOUNTABILITY      | The University of South Wales and its researchers should recognise that through their work they are ultimately accountable to the general public and should act accordingly. They should ensure that any research undertaken complies with any agreements, terms and conditions relating to the project, and allows for proper governance and transparency. Researchers should follow the requirements and guidance of any professional bodies in their field of research in addition to those set out by the University (overlap should be reported to the appropriate university department). Researchers who are members of a regulated profession must follow the requirements and guidance of the body regulating their profession. |
| TRAINING AND SKILLS | The University of South Wales will do its utmost to provide training and opportunities for development for their researchers, and the necessary resources to enable them to conduct research to the required standards. Researchers should ensure that they have the necessary skills, training and resources to carry out research, in the proposed research team or through collaboration with specialists in relevant fields, and report and resolve any unmet needs identified.  |
| SAFETY              | The University of South Wales and its researchers should ensure the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of all involved in research and avoid unreasonable risk or harm to research subjects, patients, participants, researchers and others. They should report at the earliest   |

opportunity and address any concerns relating to the dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of those involved in research. Research should be initiated and continued only if the anticipated benefits justify the risks involved.

## 3 The University of South Wales Standards for Research

### 3.1 Accountability and responsibility

#### 3.1.1 Researchers

**Honesty** - Researchers are expected to be honest in respect of their own actions and intentions when conducting their own research, observing the research of others and mentoring. This expectation applies to all aspects of the research process including:

1. Applying for funding
2. Designing research
3. Generating and analysing data
4. Ensuring the accuracy of data
5. Publishing results
6. Storing research data
7. Acknowledging the contribution of others accurately
8. The employment of due diligence during the referee and editing process
9. Financial probity at all time
10. Ensuring the safety of research participants at all times whether as 'subjects' or when collecting data

**Regulations** - Researchers must be aware of, comprehend and comply with:

- The regulations put forward by the University
- The legal and policy requirements related to the regulation of their field of study. A researcher with a regulated profession must follow the guidelines set out by that of their profession. In some cases it may also be necessary to consider the conditions stipulated by the source of funding, especially in consideration of ethics, information, finance, and health and safety.
- The University's health and safety policies, finance and ethical procedures.

Researchers are expected to ensure:

- Their work is conducted in accordance with the approved research protocol i.e. research study design
- That work meets all internal and external regulation, regulatory standards, and obtains all necessary approvals in a timeframe that is appropriate.
- That finances are used only for those purposes agreed by the funding body
- That all reports and project milestones are achieved and disseminated on schedule
- That the work adheres to the conditions related to authorship and publication. Sponsors and funders of research, should be notified promptly of any deviation, planned or unplanned.

In some cases, conditions put forward by the funding body may conflict with the policies and procedures that make up the University of South Wales research good practice policy. In such cases the researcher is encouraged to seek advice from the **Research Governance Manager** (based in the Research and Innovation Services team) before entering any formal agreement.

In all cases, researchers are expected to adopt a rigorous approach to their work as part of the professional integrity all researchers should adhere to. To that end, the process of research and its underlying systems should be considered carefully and properly, and research results should be comprehensively verified prior to publication.

### **3.1.2 Principal Investigator / Chief Investigator (Health)**

The Principal Investigator (PI) / Chief Investigator (CI) is responsible for the intellectual leadership of a research project and is ultimately accountable for the overall management of the research and other associated activities. They are responsible for monitoring the project.

### **3.1.3 Research Students**

The Graduate Research Office (GRO) is a central administrative structure of support for research students and manages all research student processes from application through to award. It is the responsibility of all research students to familiarise themselves and comply with the University Code of Practice for Research Students and develop their relationship with their research supervisor. For more information please visit <http://gro.southwales.ac.uk/forms/>

### **3.2 Research Governance Checklist**

The University has produced a Research Governance Checklist to help Researchers identify and navigate the many research governance considerations of initiating a research study. This is intended as a starting point and is not intended to cover in depth the requirements or policies of the University.

### **3.3 Training**

It is the responsibility of the University to ensure that there are appropriate provisions in place to train and develop research staff in order to attain the necessary skills to perform their current role, and this should include new staff.

Research staff also have a duty to request training where additional or specialised skills are required. When appropriate the University will disseminate new guidance and training opportunities via central departments and information points.

In most cases training in research related skills, including external opportunities, will generally be provided (or at least identified) at faculty or research group level. Particular attention should be given to new or early career researchers as well as new staff. Principal Investigators are responsible for ensuring that all researchers are suitably qualified to carry out their role within any research project.

The University offers comprehensive research training through its Research and Innovation Development programme which is open to staff and students.

<https://www.southwales.ac.uk/research/environment/culture/researcher-development/>

### **3.4 Research Supervision, Leadership and Mentoring**

It is expected that researchers of all experience level receive appropriate supervision from their supervisors or principal investigators, and that progress is reviewed regularly. This applies to research student and supervisory teams also.

Deviations in the expected progress of either the research team or the anticipated project progress must be reported to the University as soon as possible via an appropriate route. Deviations could include but are not limited to changes to intentional spend, additional project costs, any issues that may affect indemnity or insurance, changes to the assessed risk, revision of methodology, the progress of or issues related to data collection, and any issues related to participants. Where work is externally funded or sponsored, deviations may also need to be relayed to the funding body as a condition of funding agreement.

Research students will receive appropriate training, including the opportunity to develop skills pertinent to their future academic careers. Part of good student mentorship must negate the exploitation of research students where the academic supervisor may benefit, and where such behaviour may be detrimental to any student development.

### **3.5 Dissemination and Transparency**

Research methods and the results obtained should be open to scrutiny and debate. This should not compromise any intellectual property or data protection requirements. Researchers are expected to be open to the idea of sharing their data and once published, enable the data and data collection materials to be available for other researchers to utilise. This may include the logging of datasets with reputable data archive services. Similarly, researchers have a duty to disseminate their data to those who may benefit from it, and to publish in places that will maximise its impact.

Researchers should also be mindful to protect their own research interests as well as any intellectual property rights that may have arisen that belong to either themselves or the University. Please refer to the Intellectual Policy (IP) Manager for further information.

Researchers should be mindful that in some situations intellectual property or research data might belong to a research funder or other external party, and not themselves or the University. Such as where external parties have contributed money to the funding allocation, sponsorship, or provided access to resources (non-financial). In such scenarios researchers are expected to ascertain the expectations and obligations as set out in any associated funding agreements or policies.

Where required, particularly where there are external collaborators, research contracts must be implemented or scrutinised by the appropriate experts within the university to ensure that any restrictions are fully understood. Similarly, researchers should understand their obligations and limitations contained within such arrangements. However, funders and sponsors of research should not be able to veto publication of any findings that do not support their position or views. Researchers should be mindful of this before signing any agreements to this effect.

### **3.6 Research Quality, Monitoring and Audit**

Depending on the value of the funding grant, some projects may be subject to additional layers of institutional monitoring. Researchers are required to engage and comply with all institutional requirements for project monitoring and reporting, including the seeking of and receiving approval to submit bids for research funding before they are submitted.

### **3.7 Finance**

All researchers must engage with all financial regulations produced by law, the university, and the funding body. It is the researchers' responsibility to ensure that they are in compliance with such regulations.

All research grant applications must be approved by the External Funding Application System (EFAS) prior to their submission, be signed by all required signatories and accompanied by the correct documentation (typically a finalised proposal and full economic costing, plus any external requirements such as a research data management plan).

Researchers are encouraged to discuss potential funding opportunities with those that are responsible for their time and workloads, this may differ between staff members but might include their line managers / leads of research centres and groups / REF leads (as appropriate), as well as the funding officers within the Research and Innovation Office. This

ensures the project can be both supported appropriately, and economically appraised properly.

All researchers and Principal / Chief Investigators must also comply with the University Financial Regulations and procedures in relation to all research projects including applying for research funding.

### **3.8 Health and Safety**

All researchers must be in compliance with all Health and Safety regulations produced by law, the University and or other relevant bodies. Failure to engage with such requirements may be considered as breach of the research misconduct policy. The safety and wellbeing of staff, students, participants and anyone else connected to the research should be a priority at all times. Researchers have a responsibility to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of research participants. Incidents or risks that threaten the health and safety of researchers or participants must be reported to the appropriate person or body (e.g. Dean, Deputy Dean, Head of School, ethics committees, and line managers) immediately. Mechanisms for reporting issues and incidents must be agreed by the project team prior to any project commencing.

The University Health and Safety team have produced codes of practice to help manage Health and Safety issues.

#### **3.8.1 Lone Working**

The University of South Wales recognises its responsibility to ensure that reasonable preventative measures are in place to safeguard the health and safety of all employees, students and visitors. The University expects all line managers and researchers to comply with their Lone Working, Lone Worker Procedures for Research Staff and Students, and health and safety policies for Site Visits, Fieldwork and Working Overseas procedure and to conduct a risk assessment before carrying out any research activity.

### **3.9 Insurance and Indemnity**

*Insurance.* Before undertaking any research activities whether it is funded, unfunded or internally funded, all staff must ensure that the University has the appropriate insurance in place to ensure that the organisation and individuals are protected from any risks associated with the research project. Research activity involvement can imply the following:

- The research activity involves University staff, students and/or its facilities
- The University is managing the research project
- The University has designed the research project
- The University is receiving funding for the research project

*Indemnity.* Insurance and indemnity are two separate things and should not be confused with one another. An indemnity involves one party (the Indemnifying party) compensating or providing protection against injury, loss, incurred penalties or from a potential liability caused by another party (Indemnified party).

Research that involves any of the following is not automatically included in the University insurance indemnity policy:

- Investigating or participating in methods of contraception
- Assisting with or altering the process of conception
- The use of drugs or administering of chemicals to humans or animals

- The use of surgery? (other than biopsy)
- Genetic engineering
- Participants under 5 years of age? (other than activities above)
- Participants known to be pregnant? (other than activities above)
- Pharmaceutical product/appliance designed or manufactured by host institution
- Work outside of United Kingdom

### **3.10 Public Engagement**

The term public engagement is used to describe the many ways in which the activity and benefits of higher education and research can be shared with the public for mutual benefit.

If you are a researcher, public engagement can be of benefit in terms of developing your own and others' skills, raising your profile and enhancing your research.

The National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) has chosen to define public engagement broadly, to encompass the many and varied ways university staff and students engage with others outside the institution. Benefits might include learning, developing new skills, gaining new insights or ideas, developing better research, raising aspiration, or being inspired.

Types of public engagement include outreach, patient-involvement, collaborative research, citizen science, participatory arts, lifelong learning, community engagement, and engagement with partners.

Whilst the purposes behind these approaches, and the processes, are different, what they all have in common is describing an aspiration to better connect the work of universities and research institutes with society.

Amongst the arguments in favour of public engagement, it is suggested that public engagement enhances and ensures:

- The accountability of Universities and transparency of their activities,
- The value and purpose of research,
- The trust in research from the public,
- The relevance of research agendas,
- The responsiveness of Universities in relation to how the public want their money spent and the services that are in demand.

You can find out more: <https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/>

### **3.11 Research data management**

Central to the principle of good research practice is the honest, accurate and meticulous recording and storage of research data. Researchers are expected to keep honest and accurate records of all results obtained during their research including primary data, interpretations, final outcomes, the procedures followed, and the approvals obtained.

Data must always be stored appropriately and securely both during and after data collection. The whereabouts of data during and after a project must always be known until it has been discarded.

Data from completed funded projects must be available for sharing – frequently a condition of funding and of publication. Sharing can be facilitated by using data repositories.

Data must always be stored in compliance with policies of the University, and where applicable in compliance with the policy of an external funder.

Data format – if researchers are required or want to share their data by adding to a data repository the data should use a generic or standard format that is useable by others and in a format that does not require proprietary software to interpret.

Metadata - data must be accompanied by Metadata which will enable the data to be interpreted and reused by others.

External researchers may request copies of data from closed research projects and this must be possible for funded research. Data is commonly stored in a data repository once a project is complete, subject to any agreed embargoes.

Personal or identifiable data must not be *shared* with researchers who are not part of the research team and must always be stored in a manner that restricts unauthorised access to it, and prevents unlawful disclosure from the information being held. The original research team only may retain personal data where there is unequivocal consent in place and a sound rationale. Access to personal or sensitive data must always be restricted. If passing personal data between research team members always use password protection or encryption.

The life cycle of data should also comply with the appropriate data retention and dissemination policies. For funded work these are sometimes stipulated in advance by the funding body.

All researchers must be familiar with their responsibilities, and the requirements set out within the University Research Data Management Policy and the associated guidance documents. For the avoidance of doubt, the appropriate University experts must be consulted.

### **3.11.1 Data Protection Act 1998 / General Data Protection Regulation 2018**

This is relevant to all research staff in possession of, or collecting information from which a living person can be identified, also known as 'personal data'. All researchers must themselves be familiar with the conditions set out within the GDPR, and the implications on their research work.

**Primarily, the GDPR sets out principles and requirements for the obtainment, use, and storage of personal data, and ensures that researchers are collecting such information on proper grounds. It is important to acknowledge that research data relating to a person should only be collected where it can be justified. It is therefore not permitted for researchers to conduct 'fishing expeditions' where excessive measures of personal data are collected without justification or without being stipulated in the protocol approved by the appropriate ethics committee.**

<https://thehub.southwales.ac.uk/Interact/Pages/Content/Document.aspx?id=8718>

### **3.12 Prevent Strategy**

The Prevent Strategy concerns the searching, storage, and circulation of security sensitive research material. If circulated carelessly, such material is sometimes open to misinterpretation by the authorities, and can put authors/researchers in danger of arrest and prosecution under, for example, counter-terrorism legislation. Researchers who think their work meets the requirements of security sensitive information must familiarise themselves with the Prevent Strategy Policy and procedures.

### 3.13 Ethics arrangements - Research with human participants

As a very brief guide all research using any of below will require research ethics approval.

- Human participants
- Human data
- Is culturally or socially controversial or potentially infringes the rights of others
- Research with animals
- Has potential for negative impacts on the environment or society
- Contains significant risk for the researcher

Researchers should seek research ethics review through the pertinent approval pathway before commencing any data collection. Researchers must also ensure that all applicable bodies, ethical, regulatory or otherwise, have approved such research projects.

Appropriate care should be taken when research projects involving any vulnerable groups with reduced capacity to consent such as the very old, children or those with mental illness, learning disabilities, and covert studies or other forms of research which do not involve full disclosure to participants. Researchers should consult their regulatory body, or provider of funding for definition of “children”. Where this does not exist, please consult the USW Safeguarding policy. Therefore, all research that aims to recruit children, young people and vulnerable adults must conform to the safeguarding procedures of the University.

The dignity, rights, safety and wellbeing of participants must be the primary consideration in any research study. Research should commence and continue only if the anticipated benefits justify the risks involved.

Researchers should be familiar with the University policies and guidance related to Research Ethics Approval.

### 3.14 Sponsorship of research studies (Health)

All research in health and social care that involves NHS patients, their tissue or information, staff, equipment or other resources of the NHS must have a **sponsor**. There are similar requirements for research involving social care practitioners, clients and resources, where the subject of the study falls under the remit of the Secretary of State for Health.

All researchers, in particular Principal / Chief Investigators who are conducting health related research, particularly with the NHS must be familiar with the responsibilities set out within the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research (2018):

<https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/policies-standards-legislation/uk-policy-framework-health-social-care-research/>

#### What is a sponsor?

A sponsor is an organisation or group of organisations that takes on the responsibility for confirming there are proper arrangements to initiate, manage and monitor and finance a study. In this context this is **not** who is funding the work.

#### What is the sponsorship process at USW?

Generally speaking, where a project has obtained ethical approval from a faculty Research Ethics Committee the University of South Wales will sponsor that study. For evidence of study sponsorship, please contact the Research Governance Manager to discuss further.

NHS based work will require sign off from a representative of the research sponsor, where the sponsor is USW, please contact the Research Governance Manager.

### **3.15 Publications and Authorship**

Researchers have a duty to ensure that all dissemination of their research is accurate, and presented in a manner that is not misleading. Researchers should aim to disseminate their work widely to maximise its impact, in an appropriate form, and contain suitable detail to enable the wider field repeat the study should they attempt to reproduce the results. In each instance researchers are expected to comply with the publication guidance considered appropriate for their field of study, it is important to note that guidelines and best practice vary between disciplines. In health research, most credible journals subscribe to the Committee of Publishing Ethics (COPE) guidelines <http://publicationethics.org/>

Throughout the publication process conditions stipulated by sources of funding must be adhered to, including restrictions on intellectual property and confidential information. At every opportunity researchers should attempt to publish their work in accepted peer reviewed journals. Restrictions to publication (anonymity, confidentiality) may also be influenced by the manner in which the process of informed consent that has been undertaken. Similarly, depending on how the consent process has been managed, it may restrict how a data set can be used and by whom.

It is considered best practice for research authors to not publish more than once from the same data set unless there are clear and unequivocal references to the earlier paper(s) (<http://publicationethics.org/>). Any author who submits similar work to more than one publisher must make every effort to ensure each publisher is aware of the 'other'.

Credible journals should have clear authorship guidelines that stipulate the conditions under which responsible research publications must be produced. The areas covered by such guidance relate to research soundness and reliability, honesty, balance of findings, originality, transparency, appropriate authorship and acknowledgment, accountability and responsibility, adherence to peer review and publication conventions, and responsible reporting of research involving human participants. The complete guidance can be found online at the following link:

[http://publicationethics.org/files/International%20standards\\_authors\\_for%20website\\_11\\_Nov\\_2011\\_0.pdf](http://publicationethics.org/files/International%20standards_authors_for%20website_11_Nov_2011_0.pdf)

All authors must comply with the USW Guidelines on Publishing of Research.

### **3.16 Research Design / Peer Review**

Researchers should be aware that peer review is an important part of good practice in the publication, design of research studies, the dissemination of research and research findings, the assessment of applications for research grants, and in the ethics review of research projects.

While carrying out peer review, researchers may become aware of possible misconduct, such as plagiarism, fabrication or falsification, or have ethical concerns about the design or conduct of the research. In such cases they should inform, in confidence, an appropriate representative of the organisation (internal / external) that requested the review, such as the editor of the relevant journal or chair of the relevant grants or ethics committee.

The University does not enforce peer review but it is widely acknowledged that this forms good practice and is therefore encouraged.

For student work, it is encouraged that Research Supervisors adopt the role of Peer Reviewer to shape and enhance the research design elected by their research students.

### **3.17 Professional Integrity – Responsibility**

The primary responsibility for preserving the integrity of all undertaken research lies with the individual researcher.

#### **3.17.1 Conflicts of Interest**

A conflict of interest is a conflict between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. The initial responsibility for managing a conflict of interest rests with the researcher who is experiencing the conflict. It is important that any conflicts of interest, whether potential or valid, are identified, declared, resolved, and in some cases reported to satisfy internal and external requirements. These may include legal, financial, moral, ethical, personal or academic issues and should be disclosed in a timely manner that does not undermine the time required to consider it appropriately. The University expects all staff and students engaged in research to acknowledge and report conflicts of interest in accordance with the appropriate university procedure.

### **3.18 Research Misconduct**

Researchers must not knowingly commit any act of **research misconduct**, confirmed cases will be treated seriously and should be considered in accordance with related policies and procedures.

Research misconduct includes the following, whether deliberate, reckless or negligent:

- failure to obtain appropriate permission to conduct research
- deception in relation to research proposals
- unethical behaviour in the conduct of research, for example in relation to research subjects
- unauthorised use of information which was acquired confidentially
- deviation from good research practice, where this results in unreasonable risk of harm to humans, other animals or the environment
- fabrication, falsification or corruption of research data
- distortion of research outcomes, by distortion or omission of data that do not fit expected results
- dishonest misinterpretation of results
- publication of data known or believed to be false or misleading
- plagiarism, or dishonest use of unacknowledged sources
- misquotation or misrepresentation of other authors
- inappropriate attribution of authorship
- fraud or other misuse of research funds or research equipment
- attempting, planning or conspiring to be involved in research misconduct
- inciting others to be involved in research misconduct
- collusion in or concealment of research misconduct by others

For more information please refer to the USW Research Misconduct Policy.

#### **Acknowledgements:**

UK-Research Integrity Office – Research Code of Conduct Revised Policies  
Concordat to Support Research Integrity - UUK  
RCUK – RCUK Policy and Code of Conduct on the Governance of Good Research Practice  
Welsh Assembly – Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care (2006)

