



Annual report on research integrity 2025/26

Outcome requested:	The Audit and Risk Committee is asked to consider the update and issues raised on research integrity. The paper also provides an update on the number and status of research misconduct cases over 2025/26.
Executive Summary:	Key developments in the governance and leadership of Research Integrity during the last academic year: • As part of the broader governance review, the strategic Research Integrity Committee is now directly accountable to Senate (via the Senate Research Board). Two new members of the Committee have been appointed to represent early career researchers (ECRs) and doctoral students. • A faculty Research Integrity leadership framework has been introduced which requires the appointment of a senior academic to promote research integrity at a local level and to liaise between their faculties and the Research Integrity Committee. • Following a self-assessment exercise in 2024/25, the University has pursued a Research Integrity action plan. This has resulted in the expansion of training and guidance as well as the faculty Research Integrity leadership framework. • A new e-learning course – Research Integrity Essentials – is now available for staff, doctoral students, and taught undergraduates and postgraduates. • The Joint Management Research Office (JRMO) has published Guidance on the responsible use of AI in research. • Queen Mary has recently become an institutional member of the UK Reproducibility Network. • The Responsible Research and Innovation team have actively participated in sectoral Research Integrity Forums, attending the World Conference on Research Integrity 2026. 2 research misconduct allegations were made in 2025/26.
QMUL Strategy: strategic aim reference and sub-strategies [e.g., SA1.1]	Research and Innovation Enabling Plan Research Quality and Income KPIs
Internal/External regulatory/statutory reference points:	Concordat on Research Integrity Various funders grant conditions The National Security Investment Act (2021)
Strategic Risks:	10 Maintain/increase research quality

	13 Improve reputation
Equality Impact Assessment:	There are no specific equality and diversity issues that arise.
Subject to prior and onward consideration by:	Prior consideration by: Queen Mary Senior Executive Team
Confidential paper under FOIA/DPA	No, a version of the document will be uploaded to the external QM website in meeting our commitments under the Concordat
Timing:	Annual report to the Committee
Author:	James Patterson, Research Integrity and Assurance Officer
Date:	09 September 2026
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Sharon Ellis, Chief Operations Officer

Annual Statement on Research Integrity at Queen Mary 2025/26

Named Person for Research Integrity at Queen Mary	Professor Andrew Livingston, Vice Principal for Research and Innovation
First contact for queries about Research Integrity matters at Queen Mary	James Patterson, Research Integrity and Assurance Lead
	Email: research-integrity@qmul.ac.uk
URL for the Queen Mary Research Integrity webpages	https://www.jrmo.org.uk/performing-research/research-integrity/

Developments in Research Integrity in 2025/26

There have been significant developments in the governance and leadership of Research Integrity at Queen Mary during the last academic year. Further to a broader institutional governance review, the strategic Research Integrity Committee is now directly accountable to the Senate. Two new members of the Committee have been appointed to represent early career researchers (ECRs) and doctoral students. There is also a faculty Research Integrity leadership framework requiring the appointment of a senior academic to promote research integrity at a local level and to liaise between their faculties and the Research Integrity Committee. This is consistent with a vision of Research Integrity that is promulgated and practiced at every career stage and level of seniority rather than imposed by the institution.

Following a self-assessment exercise in 2024/25, derived from national Research Integrity indicators, the University has pursued a Research Integrity action plan. This has resulted in the expansion of training and guidance as well as the faculty Research Integrity leadership framework.

A new online course – ‘Research Integrity Essentials – E-learning’ is now available on the institutional Continuing Professional Development (CPD) platform for staff and doctoral students, and on the QMPlus website for taught undergraduates and postgraduates. Feedback indicates that the course effectively increases knowledge and understanding of Research Integrity. A similar online Research Ethics course is also available across the same platforms. In March, the Responsible Research and Innovation team delivered a series of interactive workshops, including dedicated sessions on Research Integrity and Research Ethics.

[Guidance on the responsible use of AI in research](#) has been published on the Joint Research Management Office (JRMO) webpages. This includes a substantial section dedicated to Research Integrity, addressing matters such as accuracy, transparency, accountability, and data-security.

Queen Mary has recently become an institutional member of the [UK Reproducibility Network](#). This entails a commitment to active promotion of research transparency. To this end, Professor Claudia Cooper, the Deputy Vice-President for Research and Innovation and Research Culture, has been appointed as the dedicated institutional lead and a local Community of Practice has been established

The Responsible Research and Innovation team have actively participated in sectoral Research Integrity Forums, attending the World Conference on Research Integrity 2026. In addition, the team have been involved with the Russell Group Research Integrity Forum, contributing to a review of the Statement of Cooperation between member institutions and to a research project examining the support available to parties involved in research misconduct investigations.

Future plans:

The institutional Research Misconduct Policy is to be reviewed and amended following an update to *the Concordat to Support Research Integrity*. This follows work undertaken by the Responsible Research and Innovation team to examine the implications of this update.

During the next year, the Responsible Research and Innovation team will be expanding its online training provision on the CPD following the creation of the introductory research integrity and ethics courses. This will include 'refresher' courses and dedicated content for more experienced career researchers.

Research misconduct allegations in 2025/26:

QMRI-21:

An allegation was made of a pattern of behaviour consistent with intentional data-manipulation. The expert opinion obtained to evaluate the substance of this led to a conclusion of insufficient evidence to warrant further examination.

QMRI-22:

A complaint was made about the methodological rigour of a paper published by a current staff member during their previous tenure at another institution. It was established that the research for the paper had been undertaken there rather than at Queen Mary. Given this and that the matter pertained to methodological rigour rather than to alleged research misconduct, no further action was taken.