Queen Mary University of London

2024/25 Annual report on research integrity

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 2024/25.
Executive Summary:	Key developments in research integrity in 2024/25 include: • A new Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Policy team was established within the Joint Research Management Office (JRMO) in November 2024. • The team have conducted a self-assessment to produce a 'state of the nation' report on Research Integrity at Queen Mary. • The Research Integrity Committee held three formal meetings during the academic year 2024/25. • The University bought a package of online Epigeum research integrity and ethics training modules. These have been used to create introductory training courses, which are in the process of being tested. 5 research misconduct allegations were made in 2024/25.
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 2025
Senior Management/External Sponsor	Sharon Ellis, Chief Operations Officer

Annual Statement on Research Integrity at Queen Mary in 2024/25

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 2024/25**

A new Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Policy team was established within the Joint Research Management Office (JRMO) in November 2024. The remit of this new team, which integrates integrity and ethics with sustainability, is to promote and facilitate responsible research practice at Queen Mary. The team is led by Dr Magda Morawska, Head of Responsible Research and Innovation Policy, with James Patterson continuing as Research Integrity Lead and Dr Nooreen Shaikh as Research Ethics Manager. Early initiatives include a dedicated RRI website and a tool that guides researchers in the principles of the AREA Framework.

The team have conducted a self-assessment to produce a 'state of the nation' report on Research Integrity at Queen Mary. This drew upon two sets of external criteria: the 16 indicators of research integrity published by the national Committee on Research Integrity (CORI); and the requirements of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) People, Culture and Environment (PCE) pilot exercise. The assessment identified several areas of strength. Research Integrity is visibly embedded in governance structures, as exemplified by the permanent Research Integrity Committee, and integrated into the broader Queen Mary Strategy 2030. The procedures for investigating research misconduct allegations are regularly reviewed. The University also has comprehensive codes of good research practice and Research Integrity is accounted for in HR systems and frameworks. Open Research is supported by the University Library Services team and underpinned by mandatory open access policies.

As a university, Queen Mary has continued to engage with the wider Research Integrity community. RRI team members have attended external training sessions, such as those provided by UKRIO, and conferences such as the Fostering Accountability for the Integrity of Research Studies (FAIRS), which was held in Oxford in April 2025.

The Research Integrity Committee has held three formal meetings during the academic year 2024/25. These involve the Committee being briefed on national policy developments relating to research integrity and being updated about local research misconduct complaints. Further to its deliberations, a draft interim statement about artificial intelligence (AI) and Research integrity has been published online. Given the increasing prominence of AI as an issue in research, this is intended to provide broad

guidance to Queen Mary researchers. It is intended that this will be expanded further to become more comprehensive.

Professor Jonathan Grigg was reappointed as Deputy Dean for Research Integrity in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMD) earlier this year. He will continue to lead on initiatives to enhance good research practice in the Faculty. Their local research integrity committee have discussed relevant issues such as reproducibility.

In addition, the University bought a package of online Epigeum research integrity and ethics training modules. These have been used to create introductory training courses, which are currently in the process of being tested. The existing training provision has resulted in 90% of postgraduate researchers reporting, in 2025, that their understanding of Research Integrity has improved. CEDARs survey data indicates that 60% of respondents have undertaken Research Integrity training. This amounts to a significant increase among research staff. More generally, 80% of respondents agree that Queen Mary promotes the highest standards of research integrity.

- **Future plans**

In addition to identifying strengths, the self-assessment exercise illustrated areas for development. At the most fundamental level, addressing these will ensure a consistent and systematic approach across the whole institution. Moreover, they will help realise a long-term vision in which a culture of good research practice is embodied by researchers at all stages of their careers. Specific measures include the following:

1. Development of a strategic Research Integrity action plan for the whole institution.
2. The use of selected CORI indicators for regular self-assessment.
3. The development of a strategic cross-faculty approach to managing Research Integrity issues
4. Enhancement of existing training provision with feedback mechanisms to ensure continuous improvement.
5. Working with local areas and researchers to produce disciplinary-specific Research Integrity guidance.

- **Research misconduct allegations and investigations in 2024/25:**

QMRI-16:

The outcome of this formal investigation into an allegation of citation manipulation was that intentional research misconduct was not found. Nevertheless, the Panel identified issues for discussion by the Research Integrity Committee, including relevant training for staff.

QMRI-17:

This authorship listings dispute was referred to the University by the publisher. Consequently, the University obtained the opinion of two external experts and advised the publisher accordingly.

QMRI-18:

An allegation of failure to meet ethical standards arose from remarks made in public by a current staff several years before their academic career. Given that these did not pertain to their research, and they were not employed by an academic institution at the time, the University decided not to examine the matter further.

QMRI-19:

A former PhD student made a series of research misconduct allegations against their former supervisor, including plagiarism and breach of duty of care. However, these had been previously addressed by an investigation and subsequent review by the Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Office.

QMRI-20:

Research misconduct allegations were made against a Queen Mary researcher on the basis they had been named as an author on several retracted papers. However, further examination determined they had not actually been involved in producing these papers.