



# RUSI's Research Integrity Policy

The Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) is committed to conducting research with the highest integrity and to the highest ethical standards. Our commitment is guided by the Institute's values and respect for rigour, transparency, honesty, accountability, and respect for and responsibility of care towards those involved in research.

Research integrity refers to respecting and upholding the highest ethical, legal and professional standards in research, including creating the right research environment and processes to support research. RUSI fully supports and is committed to [the Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#), which is the UK's national policy statement on research integrity and its governance.

## Commitments

We are committed to the five Concordat commitments on maintaining the highest standards of ethical research and research integrity, namely:

- **Commitment 1:** *upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research*, particularly ensuring that research is conducted in line with our commitment to: honesty, rigour, transparency and open communication, care and respect, and accountability.
- **Commitment 2:** *ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards*, while ensuring that all parties involved in research have up-to-date knowledge of relevant frameworks, standards and obligations that apply to their work.
- **Commitment 3:** *supporting 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*. In this regard, we are committed to providing researchers and other stakeholders with the right research environment that fosters good research practice and a culture of research integrity across the Institute through: clear policies and procedures, training on research ethics and integrity, mentoring to support the development of researchers' skills, robust management systems, awareness raising, systems that monitor and identify potential concerns at an early stage, support mechanisms for researchers, and clear processes that allow any staff member to raise concerns about research integrity.

- **Commitment 4:** *using transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct when they arise.* Research misconduct can take many forms and includes fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations, misrepresentation of data, and other research information, improperly or failing to deal with allegations of misconduct.
- **Commitment 5:** *working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.* This includes our commitment to the ongoing development of a culture that is conducive and nurtures research integrity as well as mechanisms that ensure misconduct and wrongdoings are properly investigated and dealt with in a timely, transparent and open manner and that actions are forthcoming.

All staff members and researchers (including associate and visiting fellows) are expected to abide by the Institute's [Code of Conduct](#) as well as [RUSI's Ethics Policy for Research Projects](#). The Code and the Institute's Ethics Policy ensure that processes and procedures are in place to conduct research according to the highest ethical standards and ensure that any research misconduct is investigated appropriately.

## Governing Body

The Research Integrity Policy is governed and falls within the remit of RUSI's Research Ethics and Integrity Committee (REIC), which is composed of five Standing Committee Members as well as representative members from all the research teams across the Institute. The REIC is responsible for upholding the highest standards of research ethics, integrity and rigour within the Institute according to fair, clear and transparent standards and procedures. Misconduct is handled using robust, timely, transparent, and fair processes that ensure that behaviours or actions that fall short of the Institute's standards of ethics, research and scholarship are dealt with appropriately. Given the seriousness of research misconduct, any allegations of misconduct are escalated to RUSI's Deputy Director in consultation with the REIC Chair and Standing Committee Members to ensure that it is investigated swiftly and openly.

Misconduct is to be reported confidentially to the Chair of the REIC and the RUSI Deputy Director on [researchethics@rusi.org](mailto:researchethics@rusi.org).

## Annual Statements

RUSI is committed to annually assessing its existing policies, standards, procedures and processes in relation to research integrity and ethics. The Institute will publish annual statements:

1. confirming our commitment to research ethics and integrity;
2. reporting updates in research ethics and integrity policies and procedures;
3. reporting allegations of misconduct; and
4. reporting any progress with regards to trainings and awareness and knowledge raising in relation to research integrity and ethics within the Institute.