City St George's, University of London

Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2024-2025

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Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	City St Georges, University of London
1B. Type of organisation: **higher education institution/ industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)**	Higher Education Institution
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	*tbc*
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/research/support/integrity-and-ethics/integrity
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Professor Jonathan Friedland jon.friedland@citystgeorges.ac.uk

1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Tooting: Marc Moyce, Research Ethics and Integrity Officer mmoyce@citystgeorges.ac.uk Clerkenwell/Moorgate: Annah Woodgate, Research Governance, Ethics, and Integrity Manager annah.woodgate@city.ac.uk

Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture.

A. Overview

City St George's, University of London is committed to upholding the highest standards in research. The University endeavours to ensure that appropriate policies, procedures, and guidance are in place to protect the quality of research undertaken at City St George's, and to provide a supportive culture for researchers. As part of City St George's ongoing commitment to the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity,* in line with the fifth commitment of the *Concordat,* employers of researchers are to produce and publish "…an annual statement, approved by their own governing body, reporting progress on meeting the Concordat principles and commitments." This statement is intended not only to meet this commitment, but to provide an opportunity for the University to reflect on progress made in the last academic year.

On the 1st August 2024 City, University of London and St George's, University of London merged to form City St George's University of London. This statement reflects on the first year of the merged institution, a year of considerable change for the University and very much a year of transition. As the new combined University reviews polices, processes and training, some have been centralised and now apply institution-wide while others apply to researchers associated with the respective legacy institution, particularly in instances where dual processes continue to run.

To best capture all relevant details in the most clear and transparent way, this statement will refer to the 'Tooting' and 'Clerkenwell/Moorgate' campuses when noting relevant information that relates to services that have not yet been centralised and remain reflective of the legacy institution from which they originated.

B. Description of current systems and culture

As City St George's continues to integrate two legacy institutions, 2024-25 reflects a period of substantial change. To best provide a clear and thorough overview of both the current systems and culture while highlighting relevant changes, this statement has deviated slightly from the structure of the UKCORI template . To avoid unnecessary repetition, commentary

on “Changes and Developments during the period under review" will be incorporated into section B rather than in a standalone section for this year’s statement.

i. Culture, development, and leadership

Research at City St George’s is led by the Vice-President (Research and Innovation). The current holder of the post, Professor Jon Friedland was appointed in 2024 to lead the new combined University, starting in post in January 2025. The Vice-President (Research and Innovation) chairs a newly constituted Research & Innovation Committee that replaces the previous research and enterprise committees at City and St George’s.

The new committee has an updated terms of reference and an expanded membership and is responsible for making recommendations to Senate and to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) relating to all aspects of Research and Innovation at City St George’s. It oversees and has responsibility for matters of research quality, compliance and governance reporting to Senate. Research & Innovation activities more broadly report to the Senior Leadership Team and via to the Provost to the President. The committee reviews reports from the Senate Research Ethics Committee and the university Research Integrity Statement. Research integrity will remain a standing item on the agenda for the committee as part of an update provided by the Chair of the Senate Research Ethics Committee.

In the 2024-2025 academic year, many aspects of legacy St George’s begun integrating into a newly formed ‘School of Health and Medical Sciences’ within City St George’s that comprises of the former School of Health & Sciences (Clerkenwell) and the St George’s School of Health & Medical Sciences (Tooting).

As part of the integration, a new senior management team within the school was appointed including a new Executive Dean of School that begun their post in January 2025. Additionally, six new Associate Dean roles were created in February - March 2025. Roles relevant to research integrity matters include:

- Associate Dean, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. They will lead on achieving the School’s objectives and goals in respect of equity and diversity, and workplace culture and practices and lead on the school’s EDI strategy.
- Associate Dean (Research) - will champion and encourage research excellence throughout the School
- Academic Director – Research Culture. They will lead on activities to build a strong research culture, including the coordination and academic oversight of all aspects of researcher development.
- Academic Director for Clinical Research. Responsible for coordinating and promoting clinical research and clinical academic training across the School of Health & Medical Sciences and in partnership with key strategic NHS partners.

To further support developments within the School, the Integrated School Group (ISG) was established to oversee the ongoing integration and provide oversight of research, enterprise, and innovation alignment.

Additional leadership relevant to research integrity will follow in the 2025-2026 year through the appointment of an Associate Vice President for Research Culture and Environment for

the University. This is a new role that that will lead on the people, culture and environment aspects of the City St George's research strategy. Appointment for this role is expected to occur in the first term of the new academic year.

Within professional services, restructuring of the two legacy Research and Enterprise directorates begun in 2025 and will continue into the 2025-2026 year. This will be outlined in further detail in section C but for 2024-2025, the Research Governance, Ethics, and Integrity Manager supports research ethics, research integrity, and research governance for researchers based in Clerkenwell and Moorgate. At Tooting, the Research Ethics & Integrity Officer supports and promotes research ethics and research integrity, including providing the secretariat support for the St George's Research Ethics Committee.

ii. Policies and systems

A full list of policies and guidance related to research integrity can be found in the appendices of this statement. Relevant policies that were reviewed in the 2024-2025 academic year are as follows:

Research with animals
Legacy City's 'Research with Animals Policy' was retired in 2024 in anticipation of a new policy for the merged University being introduced in the 2024-2025 year. A new policy was developed by the Animal Research Ethical Review Body ('AWERB') with additional support from the Chair of the Senate Research Ethics Committee. This was approved by Council in July 2025 and will continue to be monitored as the needs of researchers in the combined University further emerge.

Academic Integrity and Misconduct
A combined Academic Integrity and Misconduct policy was implemented for City St George's in July 2025. This policy reflects a unified approach to academic integrity and misconduct for the combined institution but also further reflected the need for clarity on processes for postgraduate researchers for when the academic integrity and misconduct policy and processes would apply, and when research integrity and research misconduct processes would instead be applicable.

Standard operating procedures and template documents
For researchers based at the Tooting campus, a suite of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and template documents have been developed for research sponsored by and/or conducted within legacy St George's, University of London and St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Policies and guidance that were updated in 2024-2025 are as follows:

- Clinical Trial Transparency Policy (updated June 2025)
- Guidance on Databases for Research Projects (updated June 2025)
- Research Tissue Bank (Biobank) Policy (updated July 2025)

iii. Training, support, and engagement

For the 2024-25 academic year, training to researchers in research ethics and research integrity continued to be delivered to researchers based on their respective campuses.

Additional training for researchers was delivered as part of the university-wide Researcher Development Programme, which is outlined in more detail within section C.

Training for researchers at Tooting:
To support students and staff, 5 presentations/workshops were delivered throughout the university. Full details are outlined below:

How to apply for ethical approval at SGUL	28/01/2025	(1 hour) Introduction to research ethics and navigating the research ethics application process at Tooting	30 in person
Introduction to Research Integrity	31/01/2025	(1 hour) Research integrity	20 online
Research ethics workshop	04/02/2025	(1 hour) Introduction to research ethics and navigating the research ethics application process at Tooting	15 in person
Research integrity training	19/02/2025	(2 hours) Research integrity workshop	10 in person
Graduate school skills programme: Introduction to Research Integrity and Ethics for Research Degrees Presentation	08/04/2025	(2 hours) Research ethics and integrity	5 in person

Researchers based in Clerkenwell:
Research ethics training is currently offered at both a local level by Schools and departments, and centrally by the Research Governance, Ethics, and Integrity Manager. Centrally run sessions have been noted below:

Doctoral College Induction session	23/10/2024	Introduction to Research Ethics and Research Integrity
Doctoral Researchers Development Programme	30/10/2024	Research Ethics
Doctoral Researchers Development Programme	20/11/2024	Research Integrity
Doctoral Researchers Development Programme	05/03/2025	Research Ethics
ECR Research Network	12/03/2025	Research Integrity
Doctoral Researchers Development Programme	09/04/2025	Research Integrity

Regarding support and engagement, City St George's launched the Health Innovation Nexus in 2024. Based at the Tooting Campus, the unit aims to support engagement with industry partners and the development of impactful health innovation. While primarily an innovation initiative, the Health Innovation Nexus includes a number of flexible working spaces and meeting rooms, that has become a shared space for collaboration for researchers based in Tooting.

C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

City St George's continues to develop by incorporating best practices and procedures from its legacy institutions. At present, there are a number of areas that have dual operating processes and policies and will continue to have into the 2025-26 session. As noted in section B, a review and restructure of professional services across the University has commenced in addition to the integration of legacy St George's Medical School into what is now the School of Health and Medical Sciences.

Mapping and reviewing the two legacy research support service functions began and this resulted in a decision to spilt the services in to two directorates: Research and Innovation (Operations) which would focus on providing end-to-end for projects funded by external research grants and contracts, and Research and Innovation (Strategy and Development) which would focus on researcher development, research ethics and governance, doctoral studies and research assessment.

The consultations for staff affected by the restructure will continue into 2025-26 and with the final office designs and roles taking effect in early 2026. It is anticipated that the restructure will expand research ethics and integrity support across the University and create further centralised support for these functions.

Future developments for the 2025-26 therefore are primarily concerned with supporting the development of policy, processes, and guidance that will enhance the experience of researchers at City St George's. Key priorities are noted below:

- To review and redesign of research ethics application process. A redesigned process should help ensure that best practice from both legacy institutions is reflected and aligned with relevant updates to City St George's policies that should be integrated into the existing process.
- To ensure the research ethics committees specifically within the School of Health and Medicine reflect the new academic structure within the School following the 2024 merger.
- To implement an online research integrity training programme for researchers across the University. This has been championed to help ensure that research integrity standards and expectations are clear and consistently understood across all Schools at City St George's.

Reflections on progress - Researcher development programme:

The 2023-2024 report noted the implementation of the researcher development programme that would commence in the autumn term of 2024. In its first year, the programme has focused on delivering training focused on winning grant funding, ethics and integrity, research security and research leadership. It featured both in-house and external expertise. Notable sessions are outlined below, including a full day session on Responsible Research and Innovation.

- An Introduction to Research Data Management
- Safeguarding your research in global collaborations (an in-depth overview of the National Security and Investment (NSI) Act 2021)

- The Importance of Meaningful Patient & Public Involvement (PPI) in Health & Social Care Research,
- Professional Ethics I and II
- Enhancing research through inclusive and engaging methods
- Foundations in Responsible Research and Innovation

For 2025-2026, a coordinated researcher development programme will begin this academic year, along with support to relevant networks for early career researchers and research centre directors, as well as development through appropriate mentorship.

Reflections on progress - UKRIO gap analysis exercise:

In the 2022-2023 academic year, a gap analysis exercise using UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)'s "Self-Assessment Tool for The Concordat to Support Research Integrity" was completed at legacy City, with an accompanying report that outlined a number of proposed actions in response to the findings. This exercise will likely be reviewed and updated in 2025-2026 to reflect both the 2025 version of the *Concordat to support research integrity* and the provisions of what is now City St George's.

Section 3 – Addressing research misconduct

A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

City St George's, University of London is committed to ensuring a transparent, timely, robust, and fair process is in place to deal with allegations of research misconduct when they arise. Staff and students should feel comfortable raising legitimate concerns in relation to research conduct and have these addressed through a procedure that is proportional, impartial, confidential, and guided by best practice. Following guidance from UKRIO, City St George's operated dual research misconduct processes and polices in the 2024-25 session, with each campus holding responsibility for research misconduct policies and procedures. In 2024-2025, these policies and procedures are still reflective of the original legacy institutions.

Researchers based in Tooting:
The 'Procedure for investigating allegations of research misconduct' is available on the legacy St George's website. This procedure is based upon the 'Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research' authored by UKRIO and is informed by the principles of the UUK 'Concordat to Support Research Integrity' and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

Allegations notified:
- No formal investigations were undertaken in 2024-25.

Learning from misconduct investigations:
- Not applicable for the 2024-25 year

Researchers based in Clerkenwell and Moorgate:

The current “Procedure for investigating allegations of misconduct in research” was introduced in 2021 to manage allegations of research misconduct centrally. It is designed to be aligned with other policies and procedures in this area such as:

- Disciplinary, Capability And Dismissal Procedures For Staff
- Student Disciplinary Procedure For Postgraduate Research Student
- Whistle Blowing Procedure

The full procedure, guidance on the responsibilities of the named person at City St George’s and contact for formal complaints are hosted on City St George’s research integrity webpages.

Allegations notified:

- No formal investigations were undertaken in 2024-25, under section 7 of the procedure for investigating allegations of misconduct in research.

Learning from misconduct investigations:

- Not applicable for 2024-25.

Section 4 - Appendices

A - Appendix One

Following the merge of legacy City, University of London and legacy St George's, University of London, the 2024-25 academic year reflects a year

Resources and policies for City St George's researchers:

- Open Access Publications Policy
- Use of Animals in Research
- Copyright
- Academic Integrity and Misconduct Policy and Guidance

B – Appendix two

Resources and policies for researchers based in Tooting:

- Clinical research governance SOPs/Templates
- Clinical Trial Transparency
  - Cloud Computing
- Code of Conduct on Personal Relationships [internal document]
  - Conflicts of Interest and Financial Dealings
  - Data Quality Policy
- Dignity at Study
- Dignity at Work
  - Disciplinary Procedure [internal document]
  - Freedom of Information Policy
  - Grievance Procedure [internal document]
- Human Tissue Act
  - Information Governance Framework
  - Information Sharing Protocol
  - Records Management Policy
  - Removable Media Policy [internal document]
- Research Data Management Policy
- Research Misconduct Procedure
  - Whistleblowing policy

C - Appendix three

Clerkenwell/Moorgate:

- Framework for Good Practice in Research
- Procedure for Dealing with Allegations of Research Misconduct
- Research Ethics
- Appealing a decision made by a Research Ethics Committee
- Research Data Management
- Senate Research Ethics Committee
- Intellectual property policy
- Whistleblowing policy and procedure
- Data protection and information compliance [internal]

- Conflict of interest
- Ethics code