Interim Report

2014-15

UCL is committed to maintaining high standards of integrity in all aspects relating to its research activities and expects all those involved in such activities to comply with the Principles of Integrity. This includes conducting research according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards. The Research Governance Committee is responsible for compliance with the concordat and maintains an oversight of activities relating to research integrity.

The UCL Code of Conduct for Research sets out the general principles of conduct for research carried out at or in the name of UCL. It clearly sets out the standards expected in relation to research design and methodology, publication, personal and professional integrity of researchers and the responsibilities of the institution and research leaders. In addition, statutory and regulatory requirements and responsibilities must also be complied with as well as disciplinary specific guidance, such as ethical codes of conduct.

Internal governance arrangements such as the Code of Conduct for Research and the Declaration of Interest Policy reiterate UCL's commitment to ensuring that activities by UCL and its staff and students are conducted according to the highest standards of ethics and integrity.

The current procedure for investigating and resolving allegations of misconduct in academic research closely follows the UK Research Integrity Office model and sets out the procedure for investigating allegations, as well as defining what constitutes research misconduct at UCL.

As part of the culture of research integrity at UCL, the procedure also reiterates that all "staff (including honorary staff) and students of UCL are under a general obligation to preserve and protect the integrity and probity of research". It is therefore expected that staff, students, visitors and collaborators will work with UCL in supporting a culture of research integrity.

In addition, as part of its commitment to reviewing and strengthening its policies and practices following the merger with the Institute of Education, UCL is undertaking a review of its ethical procedures to ensure that the processes and requirements are as clearly defined, cohesive and accessible as possible for all research. In addition, a Research Funding Ethics Committee has been established in order to review and advise on the appropriateness of funding arrangements.