Research Integrity Policy

1 Ownership

The policy is owned by the Research and Enterprise Committee.

2 Organisational Scope

The Policy applies to staff and students who conduct research, those who support researchers and those who teach and supervise research and research methods.

3 Purpose

The Research Integrity Policy ensures that research at The University of Northampton is underpinned by the highest standards of rigour and integrity.

4 Policy

4.1 In accordance with The Concordat to Support Research Integrity, the University is committed to:

- maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
- ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards
- 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
- using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise
- working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly

4.2 A Research Integrity Action Plan shall be developed and reviewed annually to ensure that the principles and commitments of The Concordat are met and best practice is adopted.

4.3 An annual statement on research integrity and research misconduct shall be produced and presented to the Board of Governors.
5 Definitions

The Concordat includes the following definitions:

**Research:** Drawing on the UK funding bodies’ definition used in the Research Excellence Framework, as described in Assessment framework and guidance on submissions (2011), ‘research’ is defined as, ‘a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared...It includes work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce, industry, and to the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances, artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products and processes, including design and construction’.

**Researchers:** Following the UK Research Integrity Office Code of practice for research (2009), ‘researchers’ are defined as any people who conduct research, including but not limited to: as an employee; as an independent contractor or consultant; as a research student; as a visiting or emeritus member of staff; or as a member of staff on a joint clinical or honorary contract.

**Employers of researchers:** Drawing on the UK Research Integrity Office Code of practice for research (2009), a broad definition of ‘employer’ is used. ‘Employers of researchers’ are any bodies which: conduct or host research; employ, support or host researchers; teach research students; or allow research to be carried out under their auspices.

**Funders of research:** These may be in the public, charity or private sector. Funders may also be employers of researchers, and they may also commission research. The definition includes organisations that provide financial sponsorship for research and/or researchers.

**Other organisations:** A diverse range of other organisations are involved with Supporting the integrity of research. ‘Other organisations’ engaged with supporting research and researchers include: professional, statutory and regulatory bodies; academies and learned societies; professional and subject-specific representative bodies; journals and publishers; and organisations offering advice, guidance and support, such as the UK Research Integrity Office and the Improving Dispute Resolution Advisory Service for Further and Higher Education.

6 Associated Documents

6.2 UoN Policies:
Research Ethics Policy
Research Misconduct Policy
Whistleblowing Policy
Data Management Policy
Intellectual Property Policy
Academic Integrity Policy
Data Protection Policy

7 Current Status

In draft

8 Date of this version

20th December 2016

9 Date of last review

n/a

10 Implementation

The owning Faculty/Department (as listed in 1 above) should ensure those to whom it applies (as listed in 2) comply with the policy, procedure or regulation. The dissemination of the policy, procedure or regulation is listed below.

10.1 Communication/Dissemination of the Policy

Please complete the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To whom</th>
<th>Communication/ Dissemination Method</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deans and Directors of Faculties, Institutes and Departments</td>
<td>By email</td>
<td>Immediately following approval of the policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Research and Enterprise Committees</td>
<td>By cascade from UR&amp;EC</td>
<td>Immediately following approval of the policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Staff</td>
<td>By email/newsletter within Faculties and Institutes</td>
<td>Within 1 month of approval of the policy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10.2 Accompanying Procedure
The Research Integrity Action Plan shall be maintained and monitored by Research and Enterprise Committee.

10.3 **Staff Development**

Implications for staff development are highlighted in the Action Plan.

11 **Review Process**

The Research and Enterprise Committee shall undertake a review of the Policy and Action Plan annually, normally in June. An Equality Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the review process.