The University provides information and resources about different aspects of the responsible conduct of research. Some of these are specific to certain research disciplines, others are generic to all research. 

Specific topics:

- Clinical Trials and Research Governance: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/ctrg
- Collaborative Research: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/integrity/collaboration
- Conflict of Interest: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/integrity/conflict
- Human participants in research: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/ethics
- Intellectual property: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/innovation/ip
- Plagiarism: https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism
- Publication and authorship: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/integrity/publication
- Research data and records management: http://researchdata.ox.ac.uk/
- Research involving animals: http://www.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events/animal-research/animal-welfare

External resources:

- UK Research Integrity Office: www.ukrio.org/
  - The UK Research Integrity Office is an independent body which provides expert advice and guidance about the conduct of research. Covering all subject areas, it offers support in research integrity to the research community, including to individual researchers.
- US Office of Research Integrity: https://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/
  - The US Office of Research Integrity’s Educational Resources website provides free access to a range of materials and online training.
A message from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation

The University of Oxford has a reputation worldwide for the range and excellence of its research, and for the reputation of its researchers. Upholding the quality of the research activity is a commitment to the highest standards of research integrity. As set out in our Code of Practice and Procedure, the University expects that everyone engaged in research will observe the highest standards of conduct in its undertaking. The University’s Code upholds the commitments outlined in Universities UK’s Concordat to Support Research Integrity, which we support frameworks that ensure research outputs are robust and defensible and that research is conducted with the utmost honesty, transparency, impartiality and collegiality. The University promotes good conduct in research in a variety of ways. This leaflet is designed to provide researchers and students with an introduction to the University’s policies and procedures, as well as training available in the responsible conduct of research. It also includes some pointers to resources which provide more detailed information and advice about research integrity in general.

We all share responsibility for understanding and upholding policies relating to the conduct of research. I strongly encourage all members of the research team, the research community and society as a whole. This takes time and effort, but everyone benefits in the long run.

Creating a climate that promotes research integrity requires openness, transparency and communication with regard to competing concerns and interests of various members of the research team, the research community and society as a whole. This takes time and effort, but everyone benefits in the long run.

For the University as an institution, research integrity is a commitment to creating an environment that promotes responsible conduct by embracing standards of excellence, trustworthiness and lawfulness. The terms ‘research integrity’ or the responsible conduct of research are used in general terms to encompass a range of practices including but not limited to:

1. Intellectual honesty in proposing, performing, and reporting research;
2. Accuracy in representing contributions to research proposals and reports;
3. Fairness in peer review;
4. Collegiality in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of research;
5. Transparency in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest;
6. Protection of human participants in the conduct of research;
7. Humane care of animals in the conduct of research;
8. Adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams.

For individual researchers, research integrity entails a commitment to a range of practices including but not limited to:

1. Intellectual honesty in proposing, performing, and reporting research;
2. Accuracy in representing contributions to research proposals and reports;
3. Fairness in peer review;
4. Collegiality in scientific interactions, including communications and sharing of research;
5. Transparency in conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest;
6. Protection of human participants in the conduct of research;
7. Humane care of animals in the conduct of research;
8. Adherence to the mutual responsibilities between investigators and their research teams.

CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH?

There are no universally correct ways to do research. There are, however, standards of practice which apply generally.

Researchers should:
1. Be aware of the legislation, codes of practice and University policies relevant to their field;
2. Have the necessary skills and training for their field;
3. Be aware of the publication rules for the journals they want to publish in;
4. Ask if they feel something isn’t quite right;
5. Not ignore problems;
6. Be accountable to the University and their peers for the conduct of their research.

All researchers are expected to be committed to ethical principles and professional standards. Not upholding such standards, either intentionally or through lack of knowledge, damages the scientific process and may harm research participants, colleagues, the University and society as a whole. Misconduct or poor practice in research should therefore be challenged.

Sources of advice and support include:

1. Fellow students and colleagues;
2. Supervisors;
3. Mentors;
4. Senior Tutors;
5. Directors of Graduate Studies;
6. Heads of Department;
7. Research Services;
8. UK Research Integrity Office.

For further information, see the University’s Academic Integrity Code of Practice and Procedure. For research integrity training, see: www.learning.ox.ac.uk/supervision/ research.supervision or www.le.ac.uk/teaching/teaching.research.

For further information, visit the University’s Academic Integrity Code of Practice and Procedure. This provides information about University policy and guidance on the conduct of research, with links to other useful information and resources.

Research integrity online training
http://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/professionaldevelopment

This provides an introduction to good practice in research, including advice on how to meet the key responsibilities of being a researcher. The course is available in five different versions: biomedical sciences; natural and physical sciences; engineering and technology; arts and humanities; social and behavioral sciences.

Further information about skills training for researchers is available from: https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/services/research-supervision/personal-and-professional-development.

Research supervision
http://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/research-supervision

This provides resources to assist supervisors and new and continuing researchers. It covers the process of research for an Oxford doctorate from beginning to end – planning work, establishing an effective and productive working relationship between student and supervisor, through the research thesis to the write-up and examination.

Research Services
http://researchservices.admin.ox.ac.uk/ResearchServices

Research Services promotes the responsible conduct of research and compliance with regulatory and sponsor requirements through specialist information and advice on aspects of research integrity, including policy development, guidance on clinical trials and governance and advice on intellectual property.

Email: research.services@admin.ox.ac.uk