

Research Integrity Annual Statement 2021 / 2022

Authored	RKED
Date	Sept-2022

Research Integrity Annual Statement 2021/2022

1. Summary of actions and activities

1.1 Outlined here is a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues at SOAS.

2. Epigeum Research Integrity course

- 2.1 Version 2 of the [Epigeum research integrity course](#) remains mandatory for PhD students at Upgrade and for academic principal investigators with externally funded research grants.
- 2.2 Uptake for the course remains particularly strong, with 968 researchers across all levels registering during the course of the academic year. Pass rates (against registrations) remain particularly strong across all researcher levels - students: Masters (85%), PhD (92%), as well as academic staff (76%).

3. Summary of the Research Ethics Panel (REP)

- 3.1 The Panel convened three-formal sessions throughout the year with the remainder work being conducted in the monthly virtual sessions. A total of 81 submissions were determined upon by the Panel, which is an increase of one-third compared to the previous academic year. In addition to the submissions that proceeded to the Panel, here were a total of 47-exclusions (submissions that were not in scope mandating referral to the Panel).
- 3.2 The 81-submissions were made from researchers at all levels of the university:
- 24 academic staff
 - 28 PhD (Upgrade 13, Fieldwork 11, Embargo 4)
 - 29 PGT

4. Safeguarding

- 4.1 Safeguarding procedures are formally embedded into the research ethics approval process with a mandatory safeguarding referral to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or equivalent deputy where safeguarding issues potentially arise. Only the Research Ethics Panel (REP) can provide approval for research that involves potentially vulnerable participants. Where research is being undertaken with potentially vulnerable participant groups, the [Safeguarding Essentials](#) training module is mandatory and must be successfully completed. Where applicable, a relevant Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check should be obtained.
- 4.2 For the academic year 2021/2022 there were a total of 13 safeguarding referrals made to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for research that involved potentially vulnerable participants. No DBS checks were undertaken for specific funded projects during this period.

5. Updated Guidance

- 5.1 In consultation with SOAS Insurance, version 3 of the Assisted Fieldwork Guidance has been published. The updated guidance note takes account of procedural changes at SOAS, together with helping researchers to continue to navigate the landscape which still continues some restrictions, particularly regarding overseas entry requirements.
- 5.2 Revisions to SOAS' research ethics assessment framework, as well as the [Code of Practice](#) are ongoing and are scheduled to be formally published for academic year 2022/2023, pending committee approval.

6. Research Misconduct

6.1 One allegation was raised during the period but did not proceed as it was not formally within scope