

# LSE Annual statement on research integrity, 2023-24

## 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	London School of Economics & Political Science
1B. Type of organisation:	Higher education institution
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	TBC
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page	<a href="https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-and-innovation/research/Research-integrity-at-LSE">https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/divisions/research-and-innovation/research/Research-integrity-at-LSE</a>
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Louise Nadal
	Email address: <a href="mailto:l.nadal@lse.ac.uk">l.nadal@lse.ac.uk</a>
1F. Named member of staff who acts as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Lyn Grove
	Email address: <a href="mailto:l.grove@lse.ac.uk">l.grove@lse.ac.uk</a>

## 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture. Description of actions and activities undertaken

<p><b>2A. Description of current systems and culture</b></p> <p><i>Describe how the organisation maintains high standards of research integrity and promotes positive research culture. It should include information on the support provided to researchers to understand standards, values and behaviours, such as training, support and guidance for researchers at different career stages/ disciplines. You may find it helpful to consider the following broad headings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Policies and systems</i></li> <li>• <i>Communications and engagement</i></li> <li>• <i>Culture, development and leadership</i></li> <li>• <i>Monitoring and reporting</i></li> </ul>
<p>LSE's Research for the World strategy launched in October 2023 includes an objective to enhance research culture and collaboration at the School. A positive research culture centres around three priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Responsible Practice</u>: Ensuring our research and research community uphold the highest professional standards of rigour, integrity, ethical behaviour, transparency and collegiality to fully recognise and value the contributions that all roles play in generating high quality research.</li> </ul>

- **Supportive Environment:** Ensuring the environment in which our research community works allows them to flourish, maximising the potential of colleagues at all career stages, and equitably supporting them to achieve their aspirations to attract and retain diverse talent.
- **Stimulating Ecosystem:** Ensuring the research ecosystem at LSE encourages and facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration, citizenship, community-building, and innovative and creative thought leadership to deliver meaningful research, impact and influence.

To support the delivery of the enhancing research culture and collaboration workstream at LSE, three new roles were recruited into the Research and Innovation Division including the Senior Research Culture Manager (June 2024), Due Diligence Manager (June 2024), Senior Research Engagement Manager (July 2024), and Senior Research Compliance Manager (August 2024).

LSE provides a range of training, development and mentoring opportunities for researchers via Research and Innovation, Organisational Learning, Eden Centre for Education Enhancement, LSE Communications (Engagement and Impact), LSE Careers, LSE Library and the PhD Academy. In particular, the [Research and Innovation Sessions \(RISe\) Programme](#) offers training and opportunities to enhance the skills needed to flourish throughout the R&I lifecycle. Additionally, the School has taken part in the pilot of the online training course provided by the UK Research Integrity Office, 'An Introduction to Research Integrity', which provides a foundational understanding of what integrity means and why it matters, the approach to research integrity in the UK, and what it means to lead by example and build an environment with a good research integrity culture.

In addition, the LSE Equity, Diversity and Inclusion unit provides e-learning on a number of topics such as: Bullying and Harassment Effective Interventions; The Effective Bystander; How to be an Ally.

A mentor is assigned to staff in various LSE role profiles including academic staff pre-major review, all postdoctoral LSE Fellows, Research Officers and Fellows, Policy Officers and Fellows, and Assistant Professorial Research Fellows and Senior Policy Fellows according to our Mentoring Guidance.

## **2B. Changes and developments during the period under review**

*Please provide an update on any changes made during the period, such as new initiatives, training, developments, also ongoing changes that are still underway. Drawing on Commitment 3 of the Concordat, please note any new or revised policies, practices and procedures to support researchers; training on research ethics and research integrity; training and mentoring opportunities to support the development of researchers' skills throughout their careers.*

In 2023-24, the LSE Early Career Researcher Network's Changemakers Programme funded four projects to make distinct contributions to the future direction and development of the Network:

1. A qualitative investigation into ECR experiences

2. The clock is ticking: a quantitative analysis of working and living conditions of fixed-term ECRs and GTAs at LSE
3. Opening Lines: Book Writing Collective
4. Research Cafes: Developing community among LSE ECRs.

Further information about these projects can be found on the ECR Network webpage: <https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/staff-groups/ECR-Network>.

The Research and Innovation Sessions (RISe) Programme was rebranded from the Research *Information* Sessions to expand the Programme's remit beyond research development and to encompass the entire R&I lifecycle. This has resulted in more collaborative courses and a wider range of topics being offered, particularly related to research impact, innovation and commercialisation (such as Intellectual Property), open research and data management.

## **2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments**

*This should include a reflection on the previous year's activity including a review of progress and impact of initiatives if known relating to activities referenced in the previous year's statement. Note any issues that have hindered progress, e.g. resourcing or other issues.*

Based on the outcomes of the ECR Network's Changemakers Programme, six recommendations will be presented to the Research and Policy Staff Committee at the School. The recommendations will be considered and selected actions will be prioritised to further improve the experiences and development of ECR at LSE. Furthermore, in May 2024, the Network launched Round 2 of the Changemakers Programme for projects that will be funded in 2024-25.

In addition, plans for 2024-25 include delivering a Mid-Career Academic Coaching Programme, which seeks to address the specific opportunities and challenges that mid-career researchers (MCRs) face in developing their careers in the current UK higher education landscape. It will offer a targeted programme, which will enable MCRs to holistically evaluate their career, identify barriers and enablers to their progression, and strategize next steps to achieve their aspired career pathway. It will explore actions to help MCRs fulfil your personal and disciplinary goals whilst also meeting the School's priorities.

## **2D. Case study on good practice (optional)**

*Please describe an anonymised brief, exemplar case study that can be shared as good practice with other organisations. A wide range of case studies are valuable, including small, local implementations. Case studies may also include the impact of implementations or lessons learned.*

*Not provided at this time*

### 3: Addressing research misconduct

#### 3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

Please provide:

- a brief summary of relevant organisation policies/ processes (e.g. research misconduct procedure, whistle-blowing policy, bullying/harassment policy; appointment of a third party to act as confidential liaison for persons wishing to raise concerns) and brief information on the periodic review of research misconduct processes (e.g. date of last review; any major changes during the period under review; date when processes will next be reviewed).
- information on how the organisation creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct (e.g. code of practice for research, whistle-blowing, research misconduct procedure, informal liaison process, website signposting for reporting systems, training, mentoring, reflection and evaluation of policies, practices and procedures).
- anonymised key lessons learned from any investigations into allegations of misconduct which either identified opportunities for improvements in the organisation's investigation procedure and/or related policies / processes/ culture or which showed that they were working well.

#### Relevant policies:

- [Code of Research Conduct \(incorporating Procedures for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct\)](#)
- [Principles of Authorship](#)
- [Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy](#)
- [Ethics Code](#)
- [Research Ethics Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Safeguarding in Research and International Activities Policy](#)
- [Speak Up Policy \(formerly Whistleblowing Policy\)](#)

**Process for dealing with allegations of research misconduct:** the School's procedures for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct are set out in our Code of Research Conduct (see link above). The process is broadly in line with the UKRIO model procedure. It consists of 3 stages: i) Preliminary Steps (equivalent to UKRIO 'Receipt of Allegations' stage); ii) Screening Stage (equivalent to UKRIO 'Initial Investigation stage'); iii) Formal investigation (equivalent to UKRIO 'Full investigation' stage).

The Named Person responsible for overseeing the process at LSE is the School Secretary. The Senior Research Ethics Manager supports the School Secretary in the process and also handles correspondence with all parties involved and is responsible for record management, drafting revisions to the policy, etc.

**Review timeframe:** most LSE policies and procedures are reviewed on a 3-year basis. The Code of Research Conduct underwent review in 2022-23; the next review is due in 2025-26. Minor amendments/revisions are made as and when necessary.

**Research environment/reporting concerns:**

Please refer to section 2 for details of work undertaken to enhance the research environment and culture at the School.

The School has undertaken a lot of work over the last few years to improve awareness around the need to report issues of concern and also the support available for those who have concerns to raise. See the School's ['Report and Support'](#) webpage.

The School also has a network of ['Safe Contacts'](#), trained members of staff who can offer a confidential 'signposting' service for staff and students who have previously or are currently experiencing some form of bullying or harassment.

Academic induction programme: New members of academic and research staff are provided with a 3-day induction programme in September each year. This incorporates a dedicated session on ethics, which covers conflicts of interest, research ethics and research conduct. Emphasis is placed not only on the need to uphold good conduct but also on reporting concerns when they have these.

**Lessons learned from any investigations into allegations of misconduct:** every case prompts us to consider whether our Code of Research Conduct, and in particular our procedures for the investigation of allegations of research misconduct, have proved fit for purpose. Whilst we have not needed to make any significant revisions, we often make small improvements and/or clarifications.

**3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken**

*Please complete the table on the number of **formal investigations completed during the period under review** (including investigations which completed during this period but started in a previous academic year). Information from ongoing investigations should not be submitted.*

*An organisation's procedure may include an initial, preliminary, or screening stage to determine whether a formal investigation needs to be completed. These allegations should be included in the first column but only those that proceeded past this stage, to formal investigations, should be included in the second column.*

Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication				
Falsification				
Plagiarism	1 new; 1 concluded	0	0	0

Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations				
Misrepresentation (eg data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)				
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct				
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)				
<i>Other*</i>				
<b>Total:</b>				
*If you listed any allegations under the 'Other' category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.				