

Research Integrity Annual Statement

2022 / 2023

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Research Integrity Annual Statement 2022/2023

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 across SOAS.

2. Summary of the Research Ethics Panel (REP)

2.1 The Panel convened three-formal sessions (Oct-22, Jan-23 and May-23) in addition to the monthly virtual REP, excluding Sept-22 where no listings were convened.

2.2 For academic year 2022/2023 a total of 73 submissions proceeded to be determined by the Research Ethics Panel (REP), representing an increase of approximately one-third to the previous academic year (56). The breakdown of these submissions was as follows:

- Academic staff 23
- PhD Upgrade (and Fieldwork) 24
- PhD embargo 7
- PGT 17
- UGT 2

2.3 No submissions came within scope of being security sensitive (category 1). 60% of all submissions proceeding to the Panel were related to research involving potentially vulnerable research participants (category 2). The next largest referral category at 20% was related to potential fieldwork risks (category 3). Nine submissions were determined by Chairs Action, to expediate a decision. Exclusions for the period totalled 55.

3. Safeguarding

3.1 Safeguarding procedures remain 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.

3.2 For the academic year 2022/2023, there were a total of 5 referrals made for research that involved potentially vulnerable participants. No DBS checks were undertaken for specific funded projects during this period.

4. Epigeum Research Integrity course

4.1 The Research Ethics Panel has discussed the recommendation of making version 2 of the [Epigeum research integrity course](#) a mandatory requirement for all student academic supervisors, in addition to the current requirements of PhD students and academic principal investigators.

4.2 Pass rates for each academic department have been collated, with Heads of Department and Research Convenors notified. Figures for AY 2022/2023 saw a total of 788 registrations for the course (Core component) with 622 passes overall.

5. Additional Guidance: Use of Artificial Intelligence in Research

- 5.1 Following review of SOAS' [published](#) guidance as it relates to AI by the REP in May-23, a sub-committee was convened to work on a guidance note specifically related to academic research / integrity in this area for all levels of researcher.
- 5.2 Guidance documentation is currently being finalised and will proceed before SOAS committee structures in the autumn.

6. Research Misconduct

- 6.1 One allegation was raised during the period but did not proceed further given its scope.