

Research misconduct policy

The Academy is a supporter of the [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#). The concordat defines research misconduct by stating:

“research misconduct constitutes the behaviours and deliberate actions that fall short of the principles in Commitment 1 of the Concordat, occurring at any point in the research lifecycle. This includes behaviours associated with the ideation of research proposals, reviewing the work of others, and the reporting of research findings.

Research misconduct can take many forms, including: fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations, and improper dealing with allegations of misconduct.

Honest errors and differences in, for example, research methodology or interpretations, do not constitute research misconduct.”

As per our conditions of the award, organisations are expected to have formal written procedures for the handling of allegations of research misconduct, and such procedures are to meet at least the minimum criteria set out in [Wellcome’s statement](#) on the handling of allegations of research misconduct.

In addition, as part of our award conditions, we would expect to be notified should there be an investigation started, or a complaint upheld against anyone funded through or working in any capacity on one of our awards. Any information shared with us would be treated confidentially and shared with our staff and assessors on a need-to-know basis, and in accordance with our [grants privacy policy](#). Additionally, as per our [grants privacy policy](#), there may be instances when we would need to notify scheme funders of such allegations.

How to tell us about research misconduct cases

The organisation should contact the Academy’s Assistant Director – Grants (clare.mcvicker@acmedsci.ac.uk) when an investigation into an allegation of research misconduct is started that relates to a grant Award or an application for funding that is under review.

Our role in investigations

The Academy will not undertake its own investigations but may ask for the relevant organisational policy and final report to be provided to ensure the relevant process has been followed. Where misconduct is confirmed, the case will be reviewed by the Academy’s Research Misconduct Committee. Following review, the committee may recommend the award be terminated, as per the Award conditions, or to implement other sanctions.

Sanctions

The Academy would expect the organisation to implement its own disciplinary procedures, but the Academy may also:

- withdraw any ongoing funding applications
- restrict future grant applications from individuals or organisations
- restrict access to future Academy events and programmes

Where a grant includes multiple collaborators or funds other positions, the Academy will seek to reduce any impact on these individuals as part of the sanctions.

At application

The Academy will ask for confirmation at the point of application that the applicant(s) are not under investigation and have not had a complaint upheld for research misconduct or bullying and harassment.

Where there is an active investigation or a complaint that has been upheld, the applicant/organisation should contact the Academy's Assistant Director – Grants (clare.mcvicker@acmedsci.ac.uk) to discuss the circumstances before applying. The Academy will review these on a case-by-case basis. The Academy reserves the right to reject applications on this basis and where there are no mitigating circumstances.

Where applicants have been at the organisation for under 12 months, we would expect the current organisation to check with the previous employer for any investigations or upheld complaints.