Academic Integrity in Research: Code of Practice

1. Code of Practice

University College expects all of its members, both staff and students, and those who are not members of the College but who are conducting research on College premises or using College facilities or College funding for their research, to observe the highest standards of ethics and integrity in the conduct of their research. In pursuance of such high standards they must:

a) be honest in proposing, conducting and reporting research. They should strive to ensure the accuracy of research data and results and acknowledge the contributions of others.

b) acquaint themselves with guidance as to best research practice and standards of integrity; for example, the Code of Practice for Research published by the UK Research Integrity Office or the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

c) comply with ethical and legal obligations as required by statutory and regulatory authorities, including seeking ethical review and approval for research as appropriate. Where appropriate, they should seek guidance from the relevant Departmental or Divisional Research Ethics Committee of the University of Oxford. They should ensure that any research undertaken complies with any agreements, terms and conditions relating to the project, and allows for proper governance and transparency.

d) seek to ensure the safety, dignity, wellbeing and rights of those associated with the research.

e) effectively and transparently manage any conflicts of interest, whether actual or potential, reporting these to the appropriate authority as necessary.

f) ensure that they have the necessary skills and training for their field of research.

g) recognise their accountability to the College, the University and their peers for the conduct of their research.

h) having due regard to subject disciplinary norms, acknowledge that authorship of a research output should be attributed only to a researcher who has made a significant intellectual, scholarly or practical contribution to that output and is willing to take responsibility for the contribution.

i) follow the requirements and guidance of any professional bodies in their field of research. Researchers who are members of a regulated profession must follow the requirements and guidance of the body regulating their profession.

2. Application of the Code

Anyone who is uncertain about the application of this Code of Practice to any aspect of their own research is under an obligation to consult the Senior Tutor who will determine whether and how the provisions of the code apply.