

LONDON SOUTH BANK UNIVERSITY

Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2025-26

This statement reports London South Bank University's (LSBU) arrangements and activity in support of research integrity during the 2025-26 academic year. The document follows the structure of the current Concordat reporting approach.

Section 1: Key contact information

1A. Name of organisation	London South Bank University (LSBU)
1B. Type of organisation	Higher Education Institution
1C. Date statement approved by governing body	07/10/2026
1D. Research integrity and governance webpage	https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/governance
1E. Named senior member of staff overseeing research integrity	Prof Rodney Day, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Global
1F. First point of contact for research integrity	Dr Richard Taylor, Director of Research & Innovation - ethics@lsbu.ac.uk

Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and a positive research culture

2A. Description of current systems and culture

LSBU is committed to maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in research and to ensuring that research is conducted within appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks. The University's research integrity arrangements are underpinned by its research governance framework, including the Code of Practice for Research Ethics and Integrity, and the Procedure for Investigation of Misconduct in Research which was reviewed in 2025-26 (see all relevant policy here <https://www.lsbu.ac.uk/research/governance>).

The University Ethics and Integrity Committee (UEIC) provides institutional oversight of research ethics and integrity. Four College Ethics and Integrity Panels (CEIPs) undertake proportionate review within the University's academic structure, with more complex, high-risk or institution-wide matters escalated to UEIC. Following the 2024 restructure, the CEIPs became embedded during 2025-26 and operated as the principal local mechanism for staff and postgraduate research ethics review.

During 2025-26, LSBU continued the use of PURE as its research ethics management system. The implementation was supported by panel capacity and expertise, targeted technical support, system evaluation, training and batched processing arrangements. PURE has strengthened reporting capability and enabled more accurate monitoring of the timeliness and performance of the ethics review service, although user feedback continues to identify opportunities to improve usability.

Governance, assurance and escalation

UEIC established an institutional process for managing emergent research integrity issues. The process provides clear routes for identification, initial assessment, escalation, evidence gathering, specialist advice, institutional decision-making and record keeping. For complex or high-risk matters, a multidisciplinary 'Gold Team' is convened, drawing as required on ethics expertise, Legal Services, data protection, communications, library support and other specialist advice. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, Innovation and Global, and the Director of Research & Innovation are briefed or involved where the nature and level of risk require senior oversight.

The emergent integrity process was activated in three integrity cases in 2025-26. A live case record is maintained throughout, with decisions and follow-up actions formally recorded to support accountability, organisational learning and appropriate oversight.

Ethical review and monitoring

From August 2025 to July 2026, 128 staff and postgraduate research ethics applications were submitted through PURE. At 30 July 2026, 97 had received a final outcome and 31 were pending. Of the 97 completed applications, 95 were approved, one was declined and one was withdrawn. Most completed applications were assessed as medium risk; one high-risk application was reviewed by UEIC.

Improving turnaround times was a strategic priority. The annual UEIC report records a substantial year-on-year improvement in processing time, with the reported median reducing from 34 days in 2024-25 to 23 days in 2025-26. A monthly submission cycle allowed batched processing improving processing time.

Training, awareness and researcher development

Research ethics and integrity training remained a priority in 2025-26. Ten ethics and integrity sessions were delivered to a broad range of stakeholder groups, including postgraduate researchers, early career researchers, College Ethics and Integrity Panel members, research staff and research groups.

Research integrity also remains embedded in researcher development. The Research Ethics and Integrity workshop is a compulsory component of the Doctoral College Key Skills and Academic Development Programme for postgraduate research students, and completion is monitored through formal progression arrangements. Additional training was produced and published to support the use of the new submission system. Online training covering Research Integrity, DORA and Open Research remains available to staff through the University's learning platform.

Research culture, openness and responsible research

LSBU supports a research environment based on good governance, best practice and researcher development. The University is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and maintains an Open Access Policy. Research integrity, responsible research assessment and open research are supported through institutional guidance, researcher development and the work of Research & Innovation Services.

The University continues to promote appropriate ethical scrutiny for taught student projects where participants, sensitive data or other ethical risks are involved. During 2025-26, College ethics leads continued to provide training and support for staff in the Colleges and on specific taught programmes. Work is continuing to strengthen the auditable capture of ethics approvals and review decisions in modules where students collect participant data.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

PURE was successfully embedded as the University's research ethics management system, supported by technical assistance, training, evaluation and revised working practices.

The College Ethics and Integrity Panels established following the 2024 restructure operated successfully during 2025-26.

An institutional process for emergent research integrity issues was established and used in practice in three cases, strengthening escalation, case oversight, coordinated decision-making and record keeping.

Ethics review performance improved, with the annual UEIC report recording a substantial reduction in median processing time compared with 2024-25.

Ten ethics and integrity training sessions were delivered across PGR, ECR, staff, research group and panel-member audiences, including IRAS/NHS-related training.

The University continued work to improve the oversight of ethics in taught programmes, including identifying all modules which may require ethics approval and strengthening the audit trail.

Academic Transformation during 2026 led to substantial turnover across ethics and integrity leadership and panel membership, creating a material continuity and capacity risk that will require active management in 2026-27.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

The principal achievements of 2025-26 were the successful transition to PURE, the embedding of the CEIP structure, improved ethics review timeliness and the introduction of a clearer institutional route for managing emergent research integrity issues. Together, these developments have strengthened the University's ability to evidence decisions, monitor performance and respond proportionately to complex integrity concerns.

The principal risk identified for the coming year is the loss of experienced ethics and integrity leadership and panel capacity arising from Academic Transformation. Re-establishing a sustainable leadership structure, retaining expertise where possible and ensuring that new panel members receive timely training will therefore be a priority. The following actions are planned:

Re-establish the ethics and integrity leadership team and rebuild CEIP membership, including disciplinary representation, succession and deputy arrangements.

Work towards consistent achievement of the 20-day ethics review KPI while continuing to monitor workload, capacity and variation between panels.

Extend ethics and integrity training to staff and PGR students, including colleagues on teaching and scholarship contracts who support student research and PGR supervision.

Determine an appropriate institution-wide approach to ethics oversight in taught programmes, ensuring that local arrangements are proportionate, robust and auditable.

Review and update governance documentation, including the UEIC Code of Practice which is due to be reviewed in 2027.

Consider responsible and transparent uses of AI to support applicants in thinking through ethical issues and preparing ethics applications, while retaining researcher responsibility and appropriate human review.

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct and research integrity concerns

3A. Processes for dealing with allegations or concerns

LSBU is committed to using transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to address allegations of research misconduct and other research integrity concerns. The University publishes its

Procedure for Investigation of Misconduct in Research and provides a public point of contact for research integrity matters (ethics@lsbu.ac.uk). The Code of Practice for Research Ethics and Integrity, extensively reviewed and approved in January 2025, sets out the wider framework within which research ethics and integrity are supported.

During 2025-26, UEIC strengthened institutional arrangements by reviewing the Process for Managing Research Integrity Issues. Potential concerns may be identified through ethics panels, Research & Innovation Services, staff, students, external stakeholders or members of the public. The UEIC Chair undertakes an initial assessment and determines the appropriate route. Straightforward matters may be resolved through existing processes; more complex matters are escalated to senior research leadership and, where appropriate, a multidisciplinary Gold Team.

The process requires evidence gathering, consideration of regulatory, legal, reputational and operational factors, documented recommendations, institutional decision-making and a live case record. High-risk or sensitive matters are subject to accelerated escalation and review. This approach is intended to support consistency, confidentiality, accountability and organisational learning. There were three research integrity issues investigated through the process described above during 2025-26.

3B. Information on research misconduct investigations

There were no allegations of research misconduct in 2025-26.

Number of allegations received in 2025-26	0
Number progressing to formal investigation	0
Number dismissed/not upheld	0
Number upheld in part	0
Number upheld in full	0

3C. Speaking up and learning from concerns

LSBU seeks to maintain an environment in which staff, researchers and students can raise concerns and seek advice without stigma. The public research governance webpages identify a research ethics and integrity contact, while the UEIC process provides a route for concerns received from within or outside the University. Recording decisions and follow-up actions through UEIC supports institutional learning.

Approval and publication

This Annual Statement on Research Integrity 2025-26 was prepared by the University Ethics and Integrity Committee, reviewed by the **University Research and Innovation Committee**, and approved by the **University Academic Board** on 07/10/2026 and will be published on LSBU's research governance webpages.