



## **UK Research Integrity Office:**

### **Associate membership**

The UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) is an independent charity, offering support to the public, researchers and organisations to further good practice in academic, scientific and medical research. We promote integrity and high ethical standards in research, as well as robust and fair methods to address poor practice and misconduct. We pursue these aims through our publications on research practice, the support and services we provide to organisations, our education and training activities, and by providing expert guidance in response to requests for assistance.

As a charity, we help all involved in research, whether individuals or organisations. UKRIO does not place barriers in the way of anyone with questions or concerns about the conduct of research. Organisations involved in research can choose to subscribe to UKRIO and receive additional, long-term support and services. We do not provide a 'one-size-fits-all' service to our subscribers but tailor our activities to their particular needs. As well as the practical benefits, we feel that subscribing to UKRIO allows institutions to signal their commitment to support integrity and high ethical standards in their research.

Institutions which have agreed to support us include research-intensive universities such as Bristol, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, King's College London, Liverpool, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Queen Mary University of London, Queen's University Belfast, Sheffield, University College London and Warwick, as well as those which are still developing their research portfolios.

Recognition of the value of our work extends beyond higher education. *The Consensus Statement on Research Misconduct in the UK* strongly endorsed our work, urging those who have not done so to join, and the Royal Society and the British Academy have agreed to support us.

### **Associate membership for non-UK research organisations**

UKRIO's expertise is understandably rooted in the legal, ethical and other structures under which research is conducted in the UK. However, there is a great deal of crossover with how research is conducted in other countries, including common challenges and pitfalls. To that end, we offer an associate membership for non-UK research organisations which wish to use our advisory and support services, and access our subscriber-only events and publications. The few differences between associate membership and a UK-based subscription are set out at the end of this document.

## **Examples of the services we provide to subscribers and associate members**

UKRIO has amassed significant and unique expertise as the only dedicated research integrity organisation in the UK. We were established not only to address research misconduct but also to promote and support good research practice and related fields such as research ethics, research governance, integrity in research design, integrity in collaborative research and good practice in publication and authorship. The support we provide extends across all academic disciplines as it has done since our inception. While we promote common approaches to common situations, we provide specialist, subject-specific expertise whenever necessary.

To illustrate how the tailored services for our subscribers and associate members might work for you, here are some examples from the institutions which have already committed to support UKRIO.

### **Advisory and support services**

Some subscribers need our assistance with raising awareness of the importance of research integrity. Our activities in this area range from UKRIO coming in to give talks and lead discussions, to assisting with the creation or revision of systems for research governance and management, including research ethics. Then there are those who are seeking for us to be 'on tap' as a source of advice for staff and research students on research practice, drawing upon the experience of our expert Advisers. Other institutions are seeking specific help relating to particular research projects or challenging areas of research practice, particularly in relation to multidisciplinary research and collaborations with other organisations in the UK and abroad.

Certain universities are seeking our help with addressing and preventing research misconduct, whether specific cases or in general terms regarding systems for addressing concerns. Others feel that they have such issues in hand and have asked for our involvement in education and training in good research practice. This is something with which we have a great deal of experience, ranging from input into course content to actual help with its delivery.

Many institutions have a mixture of these needs and we have experience with facilitating them all and plan to do so. In addition, we will also undertake more general activities which will be of use to all subscribers, including but not limited to: updating our core guidance documents on good research practice and addressing misconduct; producing guidance on specific issues and problems; sharing case studies on research conduct; access to our expert Advisers to answer queries on research practice; expert assistance with investigations of alleged misconduct; and access to our advice and guidance services on issues of research integrity.

### **Exclusive events for subscribers and associate members**

Organisations that support UKRIO can attend our subscriber-only events, such as our annual conference. Each subscriber or associate member is allocated a complimentary place at the conference, with additional places available on request for a small charge. We also hold workshops on specific aspects of research

integrity. The workshops have a practical focus and cover promoting good practice within an organisation as well as responding to problems and concerns

### **Implementation of *The Concordat to Support Research Integrity***

UKRIO is a supporter of *The Concordat to Support Research Integrity*. We see it as an important step in the journey towards improving research integrity and enhancing the UK's world-class reputation for conducting exceptional research. Accordingly, we have expanded our programme of work to support our subscribers in meeting the requirements of the Concordat. UKRIO has created a *Self-assessment Tool* to help institutions implement the Concordat and are working with many of our subscribers to revise and improve their systems and practices. We do not offer a prescriptive approach but help institutions determine what would best meet their particular needs.

### **Publications and case studies**

Our subscribers and associate members get early access to some of our publications, while we produce other, exclusive guidance for subscribers and associate members only. Institutions which support UKRIO also receive regular illustrative case studies on issues of research integrity. We have found that these are an excellent way to raise awareness of good research practice and illustrate the complexities and 'grey areas' which can occur.

### **Key differences between associate membership and a UK-based subscription**

Most of UKRIO's support can be provided remotely and consequently associate members receive a similar level of service to UK-based subscribers, again tailored to their particular needs. The frequency of visits - which are optional - to associate member institutions is understandably less than to a UK subscriber and, as a small charity, we ask that associate members bear the (reasonable) cost of any visits. Finally, as noted earlier, UKRIO's expertise is understandably rooted in the legal, ethical and other structures under which research is conducted in the UK. As such, we may be unable to give advice on certain issues which arise in, or relate to, non-UK jurisdictions. For further information, see 'Guidelines for seeking advice' at <http://www.ukrio.org/get-advice-from-ukrio/>.

### **Becoming an associate member of UKRIO**

We are keen to explore how the services which we provide and our unmatched practical experience might best support research integrity in your institution. For further information on the benefits of associate membership of UKRIO and how to join us, please contact James Parry, Chief Executive of UKRIO, on +44 (0) 1273 234 697 or [james.parry@ukrio.org](mailto:james.parry@ukrio.org).