Research Integrity

Programme for DCU Research Students | 2020-21

Jointly developed by Research Support and the Graduate Studies Office

Research Integrity is about knowing and meeting your responsibilities as a researcher. It means performing research to the highest standards of professionalism, at all stages of the research process, from design through to dissemination. DCU is committed to ensuring the highest standards of integrity in all aspects of its research.

Research Integrity is a key component in the induction of DCU research students, postdocs and research supervisors, and information sessions are held on an annual basis. Attendance at these sessions, in combination with the University's online Research Integrity Training module (Epigeum), will ensure that research students have a good working knowledge of the various aspects of Research Integrity. Implementation of this programme, in part, addresses DCU's responsibility for future scholar generations, one of the principles outlined in the *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*.

For further information on the policies, regulations and procedures concerning Research Integrity at DCU, visit: www.dcu.ie/researchsupport/research_integrity.shtml.

Session 1: An Introduction to Research Integrity

This session is compulsory for year-one research students

Speakers: Prof Joseph Stokes, DCU Dean of Graduate Studies; Ms Fiona Brennan (Research Support Services); Prof Alan Smeaton (Insight Centre for Data Analytics); Dr Sinéad Smyth (School of Psychology)

Details: online from 10.30 – 12.00 | Thursday 26th November 2020

In this session, aspects of the Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland are introduced. In the context of the DCU Code of Good Research Practice, research integrity considerations for all disciplines are presented and the key issue of plagiarism is addressed. This session will cover the following topics:

- An overview of the Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland.
- The eight principles of research integrity as per the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
- How ethical considerations can impact research in all disciplines and instances where specific ethical approval is required.
- Plagiarism, expectations at research level and how to avoid problems
- A demonstration of DCU's online Research Integrity module (Epigeum) and a general course introduction.

Post-session work:

- Participants should review the National Statement in the context of their own research projects
- Have a discussion with your supervisor about whether your research raises any specific research integrity issues

Session 2: Dissemination of your Research, Authorship & Advocacy (The Dilemma Game)

Details: online from 10.30 - 12.00 Wednesday 2nd December 2020
Speaker: Dr Janine Bosak, Professor of Work and Organizational Psychology, DCU Business School

DCU encourages the publication and dissemination of high quality research but this must be done responsibly and with an awareness of the consequences of dissemination in the wider media. Open access to publicly funded research projects is a key focus of the European Commission. This session will use The Dilemma Game, developed by Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR), to present, poll and open discussion between participants on a number of ethical dilemmas.

The session will address:

- The DCU Code of Practice on Authorship
- Ethical dissemination of your research

Preparing for the session:

- Read DCU's Code of Practice on Authorship

Session 3: An Ethical Approach to Moving your Research Online*

*Session to support researchers conducting research online

Speaker: Dr Ger Scanlon, Assistant Professor in Psychology and Education in the School of Human Development and Chair of DCU Research Ethics Committee
Details: online from 11.00 - 12.30 Wednesday 9th December 2020

Semester 2 Information Sessions

Session 4: Data Management and GDPR

Details: Spring 2021 (date tbc)

This session will provide an overview of data management as it relates to research students. Speakers include staff members from DCU's Data Protection Unit, DCU Library and ISS:

Data Management: Data Management Planning; Storing and Archiving Data; Data Management Plans (DMP); Data Management Tools
IT Considerations: Data Management Handling; Encryption and Storage
Data Protection – What Researchers Need to Know: Principles of Data Protection; Data Protection Law; Protecting Personal Data; Processing Personal Data; Special Categories of Personal Data; Privacy Notices & Consent

Session 5: Ethical Considerations and DCU's Ethical Review Process

This session is compulsory for year-one research students whose research involves human participants, human tissue or animal subjects. It is also recommended for research students registered in other years and working in this area.

Details: Spring 2021 (date tbc)

This session will focus on ethical considerations in your research and DCU's ethical review process. Ethical approval is granted by the Research Ethics Committee (REC) and it is required for all research projects involving human participants, human tissue or animal subjects.

- Establish when ethical approval is required and what to do if you are unsure
- Learn how the ethical approval process works in DCU and what is involved for applicants
- Address some of the common issues and misunderstandings

Pre-session work:

- Discuss potential ethical issues with your supervisor
- Read through the application documentation on the Research Support website

Post-session work:

- Draft and discuss a plan for handling research ethics with your supervisor
- Apply for and receive ethical approval prior to commencing research with human participants, human tissue or animal subjects