

# **MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**

## **UNIVERSITY ETHICAL STATEMENT**

### **1. Introduction**

Manchester Metropolitan University is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and regulatory compliance in all of its activities. This statement sets out the University's stance on ethical considerations and provides a framework through which staff, students and Governors should consider the ethical implications associated with the activities with which they engage.

This statement is supported by more detailed policies referred to in this document, including detailed standards of ethical conduct in relation to research, as demonstrated by its engagement with the Concordat to support Research Integrity.

### **2. Guiding Principles**

The University aims to provide high quality education and research outcomes that benefit individuals, society and the economy. As a public body, the University is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct and integrity in all of its activities in the UK and overseas. Members of the University's Board of Governors and staff are committed to upholding 'The Principles of Public Life' (originally published by the Nolan Committee, the Committee on Standards in Public Life). These principles are 'Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership'. As Trustees of the University, the Board of Governors is committed to ensuring that all activities, including University fundraising, are conducted ethically, legally and honestly, and in accordance with changes in best practice and regulation.

### **3. Ethical Statement**

- 3.1** The University is committed, at all times, to acting with propriety and care for the welfare of its staff, students and the wider public.
- 3.2** The University's staff, students and Governors are required to consider the ethical implications of all activities, both home and internationally, and shall be made aware of their responsibilities and obligations to consider all ethical issues arising from their activities or study at, or on behalf of, the University.
- 3.3** The University is committed to upholding its ethical responsibility to assess all policies and services as part of the public sector equality duty to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- 3.4** The University is committed to considering economic, social and environmental impacts and whole-life costs in ethical decisions and to taking appropriate action.

## **4. Scope**

This statement applies to:

- All staff (full time, part time, temporary and casual) who work for the University.
- All students.
- Governors.
- Subsidiary companies, partnership and joint ventures that the University enters into.
- Persons or organisations that the University engages to undertake activities on its behalf.

## **5. Policies and Procedures**

The University's approach is deliberately non-prescriptive in listing 'ethical' or 'non ethical' activities. However, mechanisms are in place to support informed decision-making on matters relating to ethics, and associated risks, on a case by case basis, within the appropriate policy or procedural context.

### **5.1 Governance**

The University is committed to good governance and conducts its affairs in a responsible and transparent way, taking into account the requirements of the Higher Education Code of Governance: <https://www.universitychairs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CUC-HE-Code-of-Governance-publication-final.pdf> and the Seven Principles identified by the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life.

### **5.2 Education and Research and Knowledge Exchange**

The University is committed to considering ethical matters relating to education, including admissions, teaching partnerships and awards. The University's approach to education is underpinned by a suite of academic policies and procedures: <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/legal-and-policies#study>

The University's Academic Ethical Framework sets out a framework that requires 'all staff and students engaged in scholarly and other activities to be aware of the ethical implications of such activities and to commit to discharging their responsibilities to the University with integrity, and in an open, honest and ethical manner.' The University is supported in its commitment to the highest possible ethical standards for research through the Research and Knowledge Exchange Directorate and through the oversight of the Research Ethics and Governance Committee (REGC) and its sub-committees.

The University is committed to ensuring that its research activities minimise risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself. In doing so, it balances risk against the benefits of pushing the boundaries of knowledge in the interests of innovation and creativity. All research taking place within the University is required to undertake an appropriate ethical review via the University's electronic approval system, EthOS: <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/research/staff/ethics-and-governance/>

### **5.3 Finance and Procurement**

The University's Modern Slavery Statement sets out its commitment to ensuring that its operations and supply chains are trafficking and slavery free, consistent with the Modern Slavery Act 2015:

<https://www2.finance.mmu.ac.uk/documents/public/21.9.16%20Modern%20Slavery%20Act%20Policy.pdf>

The University sets out to ensure that all of its financial transactions are carried out with due consideration for legal, ethical, environmental, corporate governance and social issues. The anti-fraud suite of policies can be found at:

<https://www2.finance.mmu.ac.uk/documents/>, for example:

- Anti-Money Laundering Policy.
- Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.
- Bribery Act Compliance Statement.
- Criminal Finances Act Statement
- Conflict of Interests Policy.
- Ethical Investment Policy
- Fraud and Corruption Response Plan.
- Fundraising
- Public Interest Disclosure Policy.

## **6. Advice and Guidance on Ethical Issues**

**6.1** The University recognises that ethical queries can arise in a variety of circumstances and requires all members of the University to act ethically, referring to line managers for guidance when support for decision-making is required.

**6.2** Advice and guidance is also available through other channels, including from:

- The University Executive Group.
- Human Resources.
- Personal Tutors.
- Staff and student representatives including the recognised Trade Unions and Students' Union Officers.
- Academic supervisors.
- Faculty Research Ethics and Governance Committees.
- The University Research Ethics and Governance Committee.
- The RKE Research Ethics and Governance Team.

## **7. Legislation and Professional Body Codes of Conduct**

### **7.1 United Kingdom Legislation**

This statement does not attempt to define or alter the obligations of staff or students under English law.

### **7.2. Professional Bodies' Codes of Conduct, Ethics Principles and Guidelines**

Staff and students should also be aware of, and abide by, the published codes of conduct, ethics principles and guidelines of those professional bodies associated with their discipline.

## 8. Monitoring and Reporting

The University's Public Interest Disclosure Policy seeks to ensure that staff and students feel able to raise concerns about a potential breach of the University's Ethical Statement:

<https://www.mmu.ac.uk/media/mmuacuk/content/documents/legal/Public-Interest-Disclosure-Policy.pdf>

## 9. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility
Board of Governors	Responsible for approving this statement and for oversight of implementation.
University Executive Group	Strategic responsibility for the University's ethical approach and framework.
Chief Operating Officer	Owner of this statement. Responsible for maintaining the statement.
Pro-Vice-Chancellor Education	Oversight of education-related ethical matters.
Pro-Vice-Chancellor Research and Knowledge Exchange and Chair of Research Ethics and Governance Committee	Oversight of research-related ethical matters.
Director of External Relations	Oversight of ethical approach to fundraising.
Director of Finance	Oversight of finance-related ethical matters.

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