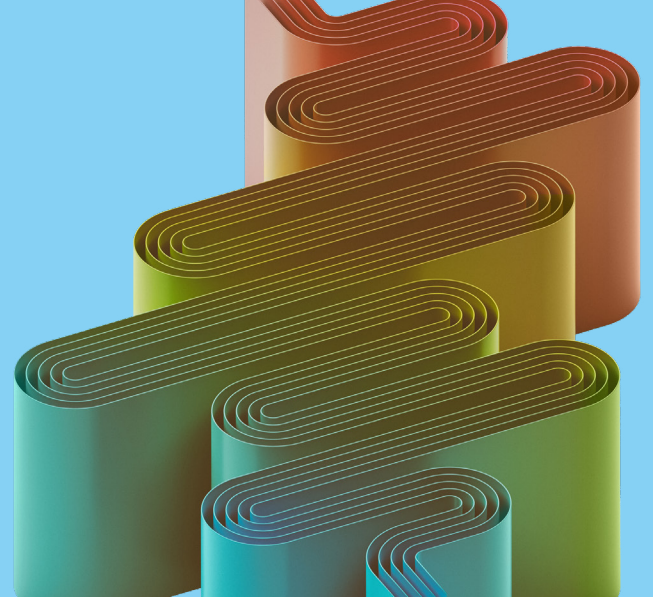


Transforming higher education training



Case study - Research Integrity and the School of Oriental and African Studies

The **School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)**, University of London, has subscribed to Epigeum's *Research Integrity* programme since 2016. They have subscribed to all previous editions of the programme and currently use the second edition via the Epigeum platform. We spoke with Khalid Hasan, Research Ethics & Governance Officer, about SOAS's subscription to *Research Integrity*. Khalid joined SOAS in 2018 and has managed their Epigeum subscription since then.



Who did we speak to?

Khalid Hasan, *Research Ethics and Governance Officer*.



What kind of subscription do SOAS have?

Research Integrity accessed via the Epigeum Platform, forming the baseline of their training provisions.



Highlights

Over **2000** learners have completed the programme, which SOAS have subscribed to since 2016. It is mandatory for researchers upgrading to a PhD, and some academic members of staff, and has brought "huge benefits" for both learners and the institution.

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Case study

Implementation

At SOAS, the *Epigeum Research Integrity* programme is mandatory for doctoral researchers when they upgrade to a PhD, academic members of staff who are in receipt of externally funded research grants, and academic members of staff seeking promotion. However, Khalid described that they also 'strongly encourage' undergraduate and master's students to take the programme, noting that it will become mandatory if they undertake certain types of research, particularly if it requires approval from the research ethics panel.

Because of its mandatory nature and the duration of SOAS' subscription, the programme is well-embedded into the institution.

Whilst SOAS have other training provisions in place, for example anthropology has a bespoke training programme with the programme integrated into it, *Research Integrity* is a baseline programme rolled out for the entire university. This allows Khalid and his team to highlight their uptake and completion rates. It also allows them to show their high level policies. They have created a customised landing page on their external-facing website ([see it here](#)), which explains their high-level policies for students, researchers, and external funding bodies.



Get in touch

To find out more about any of our programmes and what Epigeum can do for your institution, please get in touch.



Outcomes

Khalid described the "huge benefits" *Research Integrity* has brought to SOAS across researcher levels. For the researcher starting out, "it's critical to have something for them because many of the concepts and ideas are unfamiliar [...] it's a very weighty foundation." He also noted the changes he has been able to observe in students completing their ethics form once they have taken the programme, describing how "the programme makes them think a little more diligently." Higher up the research ladder, the programme provides a refresher for more experienced researchers. One colleague described the programme as particularly helpful and encouraged her colleagues to take *Research Integrity* when they had the opportunity.



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Part of the appeal of *Research Integrity* for Khalid and SOAS is in having something "reputable, off the shelf, and available to everyone at SOAS, whether you're a researcher or not." Khalid described hearing anecdotal evidence of former students who found jobs in NGOs, the aid sector, and the United Nations that being able to raise that they'd undertaken this training and received an accreditation in it was incredibly useful to include in their CVs and discuss at interview. Khalid highlighted that "any course or certificate is always going to be a positive" as students walk away with their degree and something above and beyond.

The numbers

In terms of numbers, Khalid provides quarterly reports to the research ethics panel to give a snapshot of the data across the board. Generally, this is the number of registrations and number of passes. As mentioned, the programme is mandatory, but there can be a gap in their data between students registering and completing the programme. Once completed, learners upload certificates of completion to Inkpath (a skills and career development platform) so it appears in their training record. Since subscribing to the second edition, they have had 2,276 learners complete the core component of *Research Integrity*, with an additional 617 users completing the optional supplementary modules.

Overall, Khalid recommends *Research Integrity* to other institutions. He described how RCAT were impressed that SOAS had the programme as a whole, particularly the Export Controls module, and noted that "we're very happy with the service we get."