

Arden University Research Governance Framework

Classification – *Public*

JUNE 2026

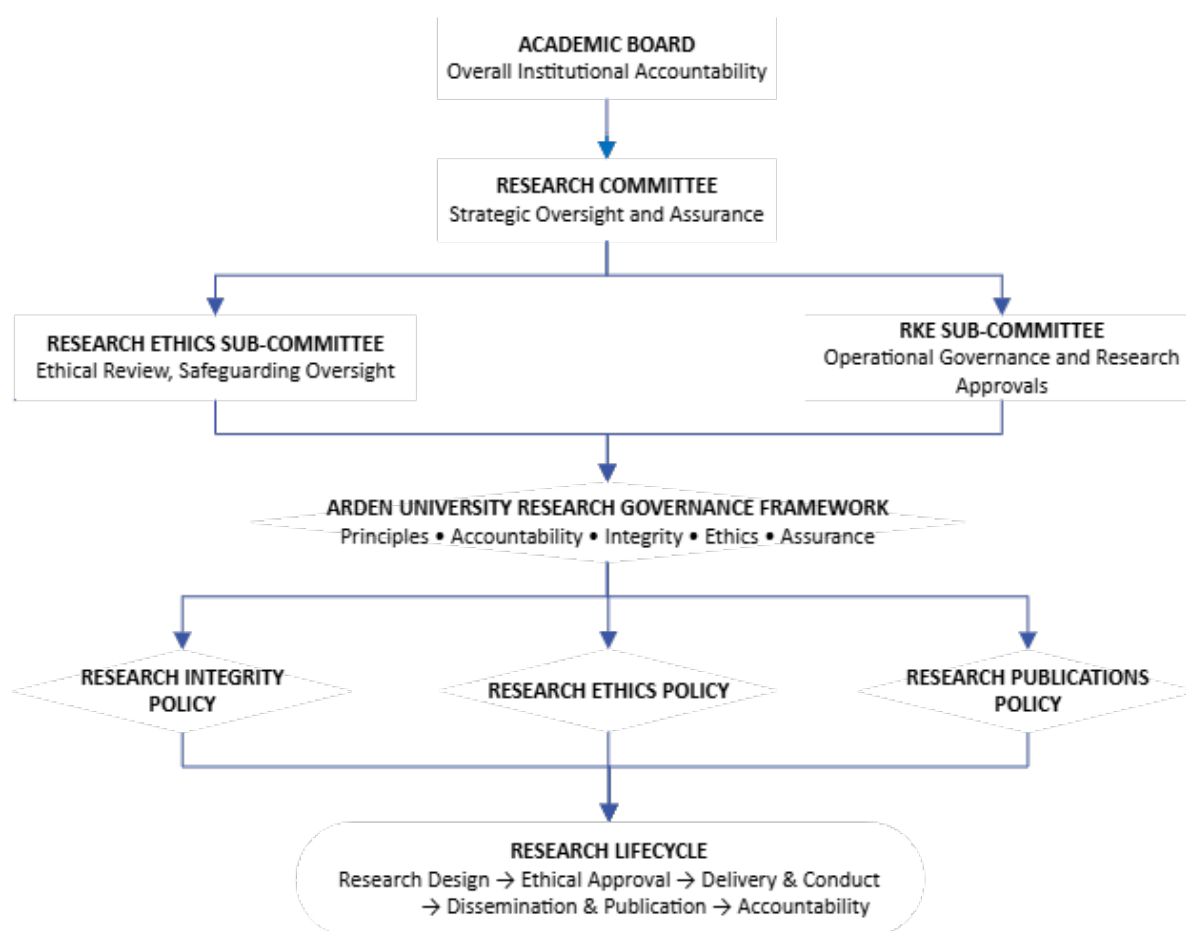


1. Purpose of the Research Governance Framework

Arden University's Research Governance Framework sets out the overarching principles, structures and policies through which the University ensures that all research undertaken in its name is conducted responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity, and that research outputs are disseminated in a manner that upholds public trust.

The Framework provides a coherent, end-to-end approach to research governance, spanning the full research lifecycle from design and conduct, through ethical approval and safeguarding, to publication and dissemination.

2. Research Governance Structure



3. Scope

This Framework applies to:

- All research and innovation activity undertaken under the University's name or affiliation
- All staff, students, visiting, honorary and adjunct researchers

- Research conducted in collaboration with external partners
- Applied, practice-based, pedagogic, professional and scholarly research
- Research involving digital methods, artificial intelligence (AI), secondary data, or external stakeholders

4. Core Governance Principles

Arden University's approach to research governance is underpinned by the following principles, which are embedded across all research policies and processes:

- **Integrity and honesty** in the design, conduct and reporting of research
- **Ethical responsibility** and respect for participants, communities and society
- **Safeguarding and wellbeing**, including the protection of vulnerable individuals and groups
- **Objectivity and fairness** in decision-making and review processes
- **Accountability** at individual, committee and institutional levels
- **Openness and transparency**, consistent with Open Research principles
- **Freedom of speech and academic freedom**, in accordance with Arden University's Freedom of Speech Code of Practice.
- **Leadership and stewardship** in promoting a positive research culture
- **Public interest and trust** as central considerations in all research activity

In exercising its research governance responsibilities, Arden University upholds the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles), which inform expectations of integrity, transparency, accountability and leadership across the research lifecycle.

5. The Research Policy Suite

The Research Governance Framework is operationalised through a primary suite of interrelated policies, each addressing a distinct aspect of research governance while operating together as a coherent whole.

5.1 Research Integrity Policy

The Research Integrity Policy establishes the standards of professional conduct and behaviour expected of all researchers. It sets out requirements relating to:

- Honest, rigorous and transparent research practice
- Responsible use of methods, data and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools
- Conflict of interest declaration and management

- Research misconduct definitions, reporting and investigation
- Leadership, supervision and responsible research management

The Integrity Policy provides the behavioural and cultural foundation for all research activity.

5.2 Research Ethics Policy

The Research Ethics Policy sets out the framework for ethical research practice and review. It governs:

- Identification and assessment of ethical risk
- Protection of participants, including safeguarding and duty of care
- Informed consent and participant rights
- Risk-based and proportionate ethical approval processes
- Oversight by Ethics Officers and the Research Ethics Committee

Ethical responsibility applies throughout the research lifecycle, including during dissemination and secondary use of research outputs.

5.3 Research Publications Policy

The Research Publications Policy governs the dissemination of research outputs and ensures that publication practices reflect:

- Research integrity and ethical approvals granted
- Safeguarding obligations and avoidance of harm through dissemination
- Accurate authorship, attribution and accountability
- Open access and Open Research principles
- Compliance with REF, UKRI, funder and legal requirements

The Publications Policy ensures that ethical and safeguarding considerations travel with research outputs, not just with approval decisions. In the event of any inconsistency, this Framework provides the overarching principles against which individual research policies should be interpreted.

6. Research Lifecycle Governance

Together, the policy suite provides governance across the full research lifecycle:

Research Stage	Primary Governance
Research design and conduct	Research Integrity Policy
Ethical risk and safeguarding	Research Ethics Policy
Delivery and ongoing responsibility	Integrity + Ethics

Dissemination and publication	Research Publications Policy
Post-publication accountability	Integrity + Publications

Operational approval processes and reporting routes are set out in associated procedures and guidance.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Individual researchers and students

- Conduct research in line with integrity, ethical and safeguarding standards
- Seek and comply with ethical approval where required
- Disseminate research responsibly and transparently

Principal Investigators and supervisors

- Provide leadership, oversight and mentoring
- Ensure compliance throughout the research lifecycle
- Support ethical decision-making and safeguarding awareness

Committees and governance bodies

- **Academic Board** – overall responsibility for research governance
- **Research Committee** – strategic oversight and assurance
- **Research Ethics Committee** – independent ethical review and safeguarding oversight
- **RKE Sub-Committee** – operational governance, and approvals for projects and publications

Institutional responsibility

Arden University retains institutional accountability for research undertaken in its name and may intervene where ethical, safeguarding, legal or reputational risks arise.

8. Continuous Improvement and Assurance

The Research Governance Framework and associated policies are reviewed regularly to ensure continued alignment with:

- UK legislation and regulatory requirements
- Sector guidance (e.g. UKRIO, Concordats, UKRI expectations)
- Developments in research practice and emerging technologies
- Feedback from researchers, students and governance committees

Continuous improvement is integral to maintaining research quality, safeguarding, and public confidence.

9. Relationship to Other Policies

This Framework should be read alongside relevant institutional policies, including (but not limited to):

- Safeguarding Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Data Protection and Information Governance Policies
- Health and Safety Policy
- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Staff and Student IP Policies (Draft)
- Research Data Management Policy (Draft)
- AI Policy (Draft)

Policy Name:	Arden University Research Governance Framework
Policy Reference:	n/a
Approval Authority:	Academic Framework, Regulation & Policy Committee
Last Approved:	June 2026
Version:	1
Responsible SMT Lead:	Deputy Provost
Responsible Department:	Academic Office
Policy Contact:	Research Policy and Process Officer
Review Frequency:	Annual
Policy Classification:	Academic

Record of Amendments			
Date	Version Number	Details of Change	Approval