



## UCL Statement on Transparency in Research

Novem

We note that exceptions exist where research data should not or cannot be shared, owing to privacy, non-consent, contractual agreements, legislation or practicality. For instance:

- x researchers may be allowed access to private archives on the condition that the records accessed are not made open
- x data pertaining to research participants should only be shared when this is in line with ethics and privacy policies associated with the research, consent has been obtained in line with guidelines,<sup>2</sup> and the data can be fully anonymised
- x in some cases research participants may have agreed to certain data, such as merged data, being shared but not individual data, such as transcripts
- x the data could be misused by others with the intention of causing harm
- x it may not be possible to share fully raw data for practical reasons, such as the size of the data. Data should be at a level of granularity that is feasible to share, while also enabling research methods or results to be reproduced as comprehensively as possible
- x it may be necessary to delay publication of research outputs and research data to allow for protection of intellectual property, for example through patenting
- x publication of research data or outputs may breach confidentiality of collaborating parties or require their consent under the terms of a collaboration agreement.

## Reproducibility

The reproducibility of both research methods and research results (see [Annex](#) for definitions) is critical to research in certain contexts, particularly in the experimental sciences with a quantitative focus. Reproducibility is a key principle of scientific research. We recognise that behaviours in support of transparency and rigour vary considerably across disciplines and methodologies, and encourage our researchers to adopt actions most appropriate to their disciplines.

In the arts, humanities and social sciences, it may be more useful to refer to transparency or academic rigour in the use of research methods and in the whole research process – from the collection of evidence or thoughts through analysis to final conclusions and the publication of findings.

The reproducibility of research methods is required for research to be replicated (see [Annex](#)). This, in turn, is essential in research contexts where findings must be robust and reproducible in order to form a solid foundation on which to build further knowledge. In research contexts where reproducibility is possible and appropriate, we strongly encourage researchers to use measures that support it. These include (but are not limited to):

- x pre-registration of study procedures and analysis plans, and use of registered reports<sup>3</sup> where appropriate
- x transparent reporting of research in line with recognised community guidelines<sup>4</sup>
- x disclosure of all tested conditions, analysed measures and results
- x transparency around statistical methods (including sample size planning and statistical assumptions and pitfalls)
- x use of preprints
- x carrying out replication studies
- x publication of

Munafò et al. have set out a [summary of initiatives that support reproducibility](#).<sup>5</sup>

UCL is committed to supporting transparency in research

## Annex:Definitions

Below we set out what we mean by some of the terms used in this statement.

### Transparency

Research is transparent if the methods, analysis and data are reported and disseminated openly, clearly and comprehensively.

### Integrity