

Background

Munster Technological University (MTU) is committed to promoting the responsible conduct of research (RCR) and has introduced a range of measures to support this, including policies, procedures, and training. Since 2022, the Research Integrity & Compliance Officer in collaboration with relevant offices and postholders developed wide-ranging research related policies and procedures and complemented these with training.

In June 2022, as a component of a research study titled *Responsible Conduct of Research @ MTU*, staff (Academic, Research, Professional, Management and Support Services), along with research postgraduate students were surveyed to gain insight into perceptions of the conduct of research and supports of same in MTU. The survey initially obtained a baseline opinion on the RCR and was repeated in June 2024.

Method



A collaboration between the Research Integrity & Compliance Officer, Library, Research Office, Innovation & Enterprise Office and School of Graduate Research, leveraged the survey questions used in the research culture surveys from the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 2019 and University College Dublin, Ireland, in 2021. Questions relating to participant's academic/research entities were asked. There were also questions on the extent that researchers perceived that MTU could deliver on good research practices, along with their level of understanding of these practices. Participants were also asked of their awareness of the various research

supports available, along with ranking on what they would like to know more about. In the 2024 survey, additional questions on awareness of policies and procedures, along with participation in research training in the previous two years were asked. The survey was open for participation over a two-week period in June biennially, with two reminders emails sent to participate.



Examples of some of the initiatives implemented between 2022 and 2024 RCR surveys



Potential participants were made aware in the promotion that the survey results would be used to inform future policy, and its practical implementation, as well as training. Standardised reports were generated using R Markdown summarising all data, along with specific reports for academic/research entities. The reports were followed by meetings with members of respective entities to discuss the survey findings.

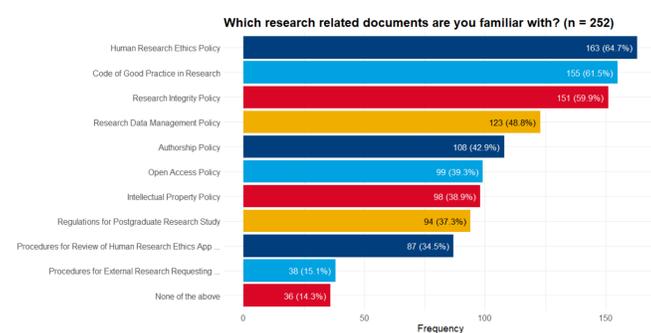
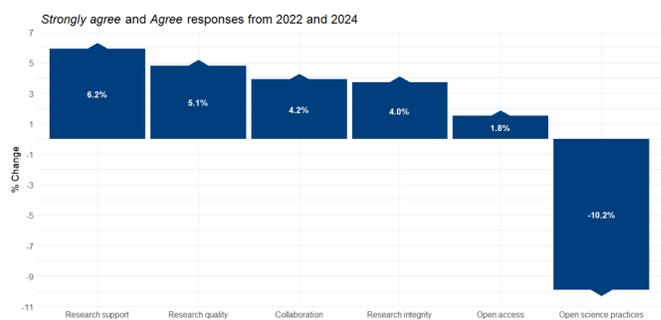


from R Studio

Qualitative analysis on the open-ended question was initially performed using a word frequency analysis, with a more in-depth analysis to follow in Summer 2025.

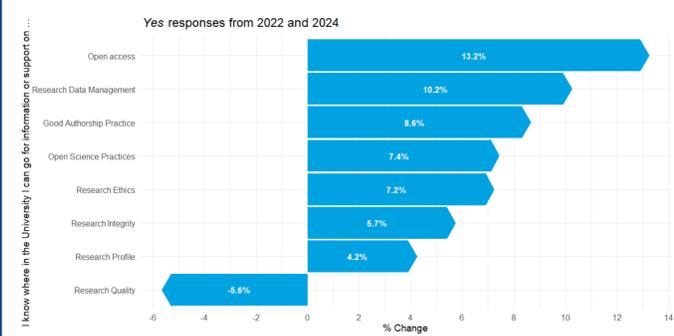
Findings

In both the 2022 (n = 329) and 2024 (n = 254) surveys, findings show that there was an improvement in perception of researchers in the University having the expertise to deliver on good research practices including research support, research quality and collaboration.

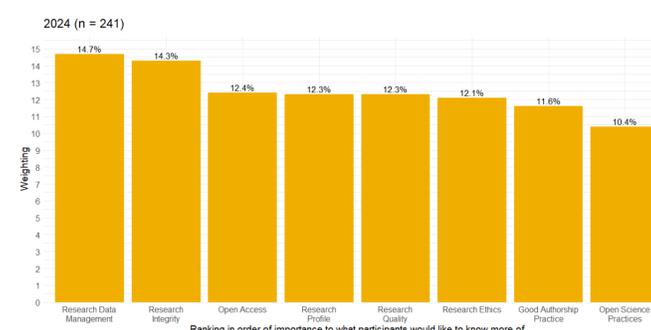
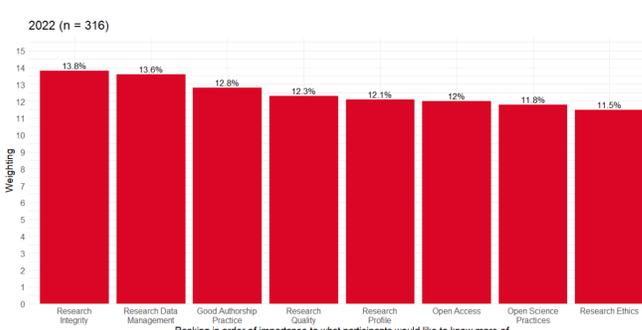


Interestingly, from the 2024 data, 14.3% of participants shared that they were not familiar with the stated research related policies and procedures, while 48.1% of participants had not engaged in research related training in the previous two years.

There was an improvement in participant awareness of where to go for research supports including Open Access, Research Data Management and Good Authorship Practice.



In 2022, the ranking of importance of components of good research practice were similar ($p > 0.05$), while in 2024 research data management and research integrity were to the fore of topics that participants stated they would like to know more of ($p < 0.001$).



Acknowledgements

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