RMIT University

Guidance Note on COVID-19 and Research Integrity

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# Purpose

The purpose of this Guidance Note is to consolidate guidance and advice on COVID-19 and research integrity in one place where it can be contextualised to be understood by RMIT researchers and other stakeholders. It describes new practices and resources for responsible research and meeting the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018)* (‘the Australian Code’) during the COVID-19 pandemic. This Guidance Note will be regularly reviewed and revised, as necessary or appropriate.

# Summary

The COVID-19 pandemic and rapidly evolving responses at a Victorian, national and international level necessitates renewed consideration of research integrity. Research integrity or responsible research is the coherent and consistent adherence to a set of principles that underpin the trustworthiness of research. Research integrity remains crucial in the COVID-19 pandemic. The principles and responsibilities of researchers and institutions for research integrity as defined by the Australian Code remain unchanged. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the research environment at RMIT and elsewhere and introduced new stressors that affect how researchers, institutions and sponsors meet research integrity requirements.

This Guidance Note on COVID-19 and Research Integrity provides advice and resources on key areas impacted by the pandemic:

* Governance of research integrity;
* Conducting COVIDSafe research;
* Changing research directions including pathways for ethical research;
* Responsible research about the COVID-19 pandemic including ways to ensure rigour and the rapid sharing of results;
* Responsible research during the COVID-19 pandemic including advice on remote supervision, graduate research and data management.

# Governance of research integrity

The responsible and ethical conduct of research at RMIT continues to be governed and guided by various state, national and international laws; the Australian Code and its supporting guides; the national instruments for research involving human participants and the care and use of animals; RMIT Research Policy and linked processes; and, various academic and scholarly standards.

The Australian Code is the key guide for research integrity in Australia. No revisions have been made to the Australian Code in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and researchers at RMIT are expected to continue to adhere to it. Given the changes and new stressors introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the principles and responsibilities described by the Australian Code and its supporting guides are perhaps more important now than ever. The principles of the Australian Code are honesty, rigour, transparency, fairness, respect, recognition, accountability and promotion.

You can learn more about the principles and practices of research integrity through the Australian Code and its supporting guides and RMIT’s Research Integrity Training and Education program, RITE. If you have questions or concerns about responsible research at RMIT, you can seek advice from the network of Research Integrity Advisors across the University.

* The Australian Code and supporting guides [[NHMRC Webpage](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018)]
* Research Integrity Advisors (RIAs) at RMIT [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsjPUAQ)]
* RITE Community in Canvas for all RMIT HDR Candidates [[Canvas link](https://rmit.instructure.com/courses/59453)]
* Access to RITE Online training for staff [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsKPUAY)]

# Conducting COVIDSafe research

According to the Australian Code,researchers at RMIT will ‘*R17 - Comply with the relevant laws, regulations, disciplinary standards, ethics guidelines and institutional policies related to responsible research conduct. Ensure that appropriate approvals are obtained prior to the commencement of research, and that conditions of any approvals are adhered to during the course of research.’*

RMIT has developed a COVIDSafe Plan which outlines the principles, protocols and actions that will guide the safe transition of learning, research and work to campus. Adherence with the COVIDSafe Plan will prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection. Please review and implement RMIT COVIDSafe Plan as appropriate and required for your research.

* RMIT COVIDSafe Plan and information [[RMIT WorkLife – COVIDSafe Plan](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/our-rmit/initiatives/transitioning-back-to-campus)]

# Changing research directions and ensuring ethical research

Physical distancing measures and other restrictions for health and wellbeing have changed how research can be conducted. They have introduced new challenges for working together. The restrictions have also reduced the capacity for oversight and replication of certain types of research. Together, the restrictions have meant that some research methods and approaches are significantly changed. For example, some research methods – such as face-to-face interviews or experimental work in laboratory settings – must take into account working according to RMIT’s COVIDSafe Plan [[RMIT Website](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/our-rmit/initiatives/transitioning-back-to-campus#plan)].

The substitution or modification of research methods requires careful thought and practice around responsible research, including to amend existing ethics approvals. In line with the Australian Code, researchers will obtain, and adhere to conditions of, any relevant approvals for research and to apply principles of ethical research (Responsibilities R17 – R20). Research involving human participants or the care and use of animals have both been greatly affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to amending existing approvals, there are specific requirements that must be adhered to for certain types of human research, including clinical trials and for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Please refer to RMIT guidance about gaining and maintaining human research ethics approval and changes to respecting and engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples during the COVID-19 pandemic.

* Guidance Note on COVID-19 and Human Research Ethics [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S5K0000000NosUAE)]
* Human research and ethics processes are guided by the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)* [[NHMRC Website](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018)]

There are various considerations for animal ethics and welfare including specific protocols to be followed to support animal ethics, welfare, while ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of RMIT staff and students. Please refer to RMIT guidance about gaining and maintaining animal ethics and supporting animal welfare during the COVID-19 pandemic.

* Guidance Note on COVID-19 and Animal Research Ethics [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S5K0000000R8hUAE)]
* Animal ethics and welfare practices and approval processes are guided by the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition* [[NHMRC Website](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-care-and-use-animals-scientific-purposes)]

# Responsible research about the COVID-19 pandemic

In addition to new challenges, there are new opportunities for research into the pandemic that will have a positive impact for the community served by RMIT. For health and non-health research about the COVID-19 pandemic, in addition to high-levels of public interest there are added pressures to achieve outcomes, share openly and publish rapidly. The need for research into the pandemic raises the potential for researchers to work outside their core speciality and this may affect the rigour and quality of research.

## Rigour, robustness and reproducibility

In accordance with the Australian Code, researchers at RMIT will ‘*P2 - Rigour - Underpin research by attention to detail and robust methodology, avoiding or acknowledging biases’,* and, *‘R21 - Adopt methods appropriate to the aims of the research and ensure that conclusions are justified by the results.’*

There has been a profound and rapid increase in the communication and publication of COVID-19-related research since early 2020. Much of this has been via preprint services. Research methodologies and findings reported via preprint services are not peer reviewed and should be treated with caution.

Social research methods that can be adopted for certain disciplines during the COVID-19 pandemic are described – please see Lupton, D. (editor) (2020) Doing fieldwork in a pandemic (crowd-sourced document). Available at: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1clGjGABB2h2qbduTgfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/edit?ts=5e88ae0a#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1clGjGABB2h2qbduTgfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/edit?ts=5e88ae0a)

International reporting guidelines developed for various study types relevant for COVID-19-related research can help you to design research and meet these responsibilities. Please refer to reporting guidelines resourced by the EQUATOR-Network <https://www.equator-network.org>

Consider starting open research practices including the registering of your research plans to enable the peer review of your proposed methodologies ahead of conducting work. Please see more information about ‘Rapid Registered Reports’ via [[Nature Index - Rapid Registered Reports initiative aims to stop coronavirus researchers following false leads](https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/rapid-registered-report-coronavirus-aims-to-stop-researchers-following-false-research-leads)]

## Responsible sharing

The need for rapid and open sharing of trustworthy research data and findings about the COVID-19 pandemic reaffirms Australian Code responsibilities of researchers for honesty, rigour, transparency and accountability in in the development, undertaking and reporting of research. In line with the Australian Code, researchers at RMIT will ‘*R23 - Disseminate research findings responsibly, accurately and broadly. Where necessary, take action to correct the record in a timely manner.’* The open sharing of potentially commercially valuable research in the public domain should only occur after there has been a consideration of the intellectual property (IP) pathway to impact, including patenting and commercialisation.

The following are provided to enable researchers at RMIT to meet these requirements:

* Please create and use a Publication and Authorship Plan [[Planning Template Word](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00P7F00000D0k8bUAB)]
* Review information about Strategic Publishing provided by the Library [[RMIT Library - Strategic Publishing Guide](http://rmit.libguides.com/strategicpublishing)]
* Get prepared to engage with media and the public by completing online training [[Researcher Portal - Media and public engagement](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsQxUAI)]
* Please refer to advice about the effective management of conflicts of interest in research [[Researcher Portal - Conflict of Interest: The 6 R's of COI Management](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000Xhb4UAC)]
* IP pathway to impact, including patenting and commercialisation [[Researcher Portal – IP and Commercialisation](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article-list?tags=%2FKeywords%2FIP%20and%20Commercialisation)]

Working in accordance with the Australian Code, you can rapidly and openly share your research using preprint servers and products such as:

* The [RMIT Open Access Research Repository](http://researchbank.rmit.edu.au/)
* RMIT Figshare - more information [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsHjUAI)] and access [[RMIT Figshare](https://rmit.figshare.com/)]
* Discipline-specific preprint servers such as medRxiv, bioRxiv and other services listed by ASAPbio [[ASAPbio - Surveying the landscape of products and services for sharing preprints - Website](https://asapbio.org/preprint-products)]

The rapid and open sharing of COVID-19 research data is supported by global funders and publishers in line with their commitment for data sharing in public health emergencies ([Wellcome Trust Statement](https://wellcome.ac.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/open-data)). Consequently, the following actions may apply to your COVID-19 research:

* all peer-reviewed research publications relevant to the outbreak are made immediately open access, or freely available at least for the duration of the outbreak;
* research findings relevant to the outbreak are shared immediately with the World Health Organisation (WHO) upon journal submission, by the journal and with author knowledge;
* research findings are made available via preprint servers before journal publication, or via platforms that make papers openly accessible before peer review, with clear statements regarding the availability of underlying data
* researchers share interim and final research data relating to the outbreak, together with protocols and standards used to collect the data, as rapidly and widely as possible - including with public health and research communities and the WHO.

## Integrity in rapid research data management

In line with the Australian Code, researchers at RMIT will ‘*R22 - Retain clear, accurate, secure and complete records of all research including research data and primary materials. Where possible and appropriate, allow access and reference to these by interested parties.’*

* Please create and use a Research Data Management Plan [[Researcher Portal – DMP](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsnqUAA) and [RMIT Library Research Data Management Guide](http://rmit.libguides.com/researchdata)]
* Please use RMIT Figshare to store, publish and openly share your COVID-19-related research data [[Researcher Portal - Figshare](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsHjUAI)]
* Seek advice from research support services at RMIT including eResearch and the Library.
* You can also access SpringerNature research data support services, which are available free for COVID-19-related research [[SpringerNature Website](https://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/campaigns/coronavirus/research-data)]
* You can refer to specific guidelines developed for the management, sharing and reuse of research data for COVID-19 research [[RDA Webpage](https://www.rd-alliance.org/group/rda-covid19-rda-covid19-omics-rda-covid19-epidemiology-rda-covid19-clinical-rda-covid19-0) / [PDF 4th Edition](https://www.rd-alliance.org/system/files/RDA%20COVID-19%3B%20recommendations%20and%20guidelines%2C%204th%20release%2015%20May%202020.pdf)]
* You can refer to the FAIRsharing COVID-19 Collection of databases and standards for COVID-19-related research to support your research and enable sharing of digital data [[FAIRsharing Webpage](https://fairsharing.org/collection/COVID19Resources)]

# Responsible research during the COVID-19 pandemic

## Remote collaboration, supervision and graduate research

Physical distancing, travel restrictions, restrictions on non-essential work and other requirements in combination with the need for research into the COVID-19 pandemic have implications for all researchers and how they can meet the principles and responsibilities of the Australian Code. The following advice and resources are provided to support the responsible planning, conducting and reporting of research during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Together with your students, supervisors and/or collaborators, you should make plans for key components of your research including but not limited to the:

* management and storage of research data and records [[Research Portal - Managing your research data](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsDhUAI)];
* authorship and communication of research findings [[Researcher Portal - Authorship](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsJXUAY)];
* collaborative research [[Australian Code: Collaboration Guide PDF](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/file/14916/download?token=D6icKXqA)].

The responsible supervision of other researchers and HDR candidates is a requirement of the Australian Code and is informed by a supporting guide. Research has found that the relationship between supervisors and HDR candidates is one the major risks for research integrity (Bouter et al. 2016; Haven et al. 2019). The COVID-19 pandemic introduces new challenges for supervisory teams and relationships, including between HDR candidates and their supervisors at RMIT, such as:

* The potential need to rescope HDR research projects and supervisory teams;
* Limited opportunities for ad hoc, unplanned or informal interactions between supervisors and HDR candidates and other supervisees;
* Difficulties in the direct monitoring of research practices;
* A tendency for supervisory teams to discuss and review processed data and results as compared to being able to discuss and review raw data;
* Potential to miss non-verbal cues or for other misunderstandings to develop due to the imperfect nature of video communications;
* Additional challenges for supervisors in providing support for belonging and wellbeing to HDR candidates and other supervisees.

RMIT’s School of Graduate Research (SGR) has provided helpful advice to both supervisors and HDR candidates about managing their research and candidature during the COVID-19 pandemic. To support HDR candidates and their research during the crisis SGR has also implemented a COVID-19 Candidate Action and Support Plan. Furthermore, advice and strategies to support HDR candidate wellbeing and belonging are outlined by a new review by RMIT researchers. For more information please refer to:

* Guides for supervisors on using Microsoft Teams, supporting candidates remotely and handling tough conversations [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bth4UAA#PDsupervision)]
* COVID-19 Candidate Advice [[SGR Website](https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/phds-and-other-research-degrees/school-of-graduate-research/news-and-events/covid-19-candidate-advice)]
* COVID-19 Candidate Action and Support Plan (HDR-COVID-CASP) [[SGR Website](https://www.rmit.edu.au/students/student-essentials/information-for/research-candidates/managing-your-candidature/candidature-progress-and-milestones/action-and-support/candidate-action-and-support-plan) / [PDF Form](https://www.rmit.edu.au/content/dam/rmit/documents/Students/StudentEssentials/Information-for/HDR-Forms/SGR_COVID-CASP_29-April.pdf)]
* *‘In a time of uncertainty: supporting belonging and wellbeing for HDR students’* a review by RMIT researchers for SGR [[PDF Publication](https://mcusercontent.com/d8b66e0df546ff123838be814/files/fa5dedca-1c8a-448e-99ce-a1449fffa620/HDR_Belonging_Report_20200525.pdf)]
* [RMIT WorkLife Remote Working](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/hr-central/accessibility-flexibility/flexibility/remote-working) provides guidance and tools for staff about working remotely including resources for safety and wellbeing.
* Australian Code: Supervision guide [[NHMRC webpage](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018)]
* ‘Science-ing from home’ articles published in *Nature* journal [here](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00935-3) and [here](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01027-y) about supervising remotely.

## Use trusted resources for data

RMIT WorkLife provides guidance and tools for staff about working remotely including resources for remote access to data storage. Storage platforms suitable for research during remote working include Microsoft OneDrive and AARNET Cloudstor, which is similar to Dropbox and provides 1TB of secure cloud storage for RMIT staff and students. RMIT Figshare is a recently installed platform supported by the Library that can enable the storage, publication and open sharing of research data.

* [RMIT WorkLife Remote Working](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/hr-central/accessibility-flexibility/flexibility/remote-working) provides guidance and tools for staff about working remotely including resources for accessing data.
* Advice on storing research data [[Researcher Portal - Storing your research data](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bscUUAQ)]
* AARNET Cloudstor [[AARNET Webpage](https://www.aarnet.edu.au/network-and-services/cloud-services/cloudstor)]
* RMIT Figshare: information [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsHjUAI)] and access [[RMIT Figshare](https://rmit.figshare.com/)]
* Australian Code: Data guide [[NHMRC webpage](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018)]

# Further advice and support

RMIT staff and student researchers can access research integrity training for discipline areas or on specific topics via RITE Online. Please visit the [RITE Community in Canvas](https://rmit.instructure.com/courses/59453) or the [Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsKPUAY)

If you have any questions or concerns about the responsible conduct of research at RMIT or elsewhere, you should contact a Research Integrity Advisor (RIA) via email and meet together via phone, Skype or Teams [[RMIT RIA Network Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsjPUAQ)]

Research & Innovation’s Research Ethics and Integrity team is working actively to monitor the research environment and support RMIT researchers in the responsible conduct of research. We understand this is a challenging time and should you need any advice or support, please contact us at [researchintegrity@rmit.edu.au](mailto:researchintegrity@rmit.edu.au)

or via Email, Skype or Teams, as follows:

Dr David Blades, Senior Coordinator, Research Integrity [[Email](mailto:david.blades@rmit.edu.au) / [Contact Info](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/profile?id=david.blades)]

Ms Anita Arndt, Senior Manager, Research Ethics and Integrity [[Email](mailto:anita.arndt@rmit.edu.au) / [Contact Info](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/profile?id=anita.arndt)]

Dr Daniel Barr, Principal Research Integrity Advisor [[Email](mailto:daniel.barr@rmit.edu.au) / [Contact Info](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/profile?id=daniel.barr)]

# Additional Resources

* [RMIT Staff Update on Coronavirus (COVID-19)](file:///Users/danielbarr/Documents/COVID19%20RI%20Guidance/Version%201/•%09https:/www.rmit.edu.au/staff/our-rmit/news/2020/jan/coronavirus)
* [Assuring research integrity during a pandemic](https://blogs.bmj.com/bmj/2020/06/08/assuring-research-integrity-during-a-pandemic/) by Gopalakrishna et al. Blog post in The BMJ Opinion, 8 June 2020
* Speed Science: The risks of swiftly spreading coronavirus research. Reuters. Published 19 Feb 2020 <https://graphics.reuters.com/CHINA-HEALTH-RESEARCH/0100B5ES3MG/index.html>

By Daniel Barr with Andrew Greentree, Catherine Gomes, Alem Molla, Chloe Patton, Anita Arndt, David Blades, Jessica Keath, Stephanie Morrison-Duff, Robyn Barnacle, Gary Pearce and Nicholas Smale (RMIT University).

## Table 1. COVID-19 and Research Integrity Resources List

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Resources |
| Governance and principles of research integrity and responsible research | * The Australian Code and supporting guides [[NHMRC Webpage](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018)] * Research Integrity Advisors (RIAs) at RMIT [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsjPUAQ)] * RITE Community in Canvas for all RMIT HDR Candidates [[Canvas link](https://rmit.instructure.com/courses/59453)] * Access to RITE Online training for staff [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsKPUAY)] |
| Conducting COVIDSafe research | * RMIT COVIDSafe Plan and information [[RMIT WorkLife – COVIDSafe Plan](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/our-rmit/initiatives/transitioning-back-to-campus)] |
| Changing research directions and ensuring ethical research | * Guidance Note on COVID-19 and Human Research Ethics [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S5K0000000NosUAE)] * Human research and ethics processes are guided by the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)* [[NHMRC Website](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2007-updated-2018)] * Guidance Note on COVID-19 and Animal Research Ethics [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S5K0000000R8hUAE)] * Animal ethics and welfare practices and approval processes are guided by the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes 8th edition* [[NHMRC Website](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-care-and-use-animals-scientific-purposes)] |
| Research about the COVID-19 pandemic | |
| Rigour and reproducibility | * Social research methods during the COVID-19 pandemic – Lupton, D. (editor) (2020) Doing fieldwork in a pandemic (crowd-sourced document). Available at: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1clGjGABB2h2qbduTgfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/edit?ts=5e88ae0a#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1clGjGABB2h2qbduTgfqribHmog9B6P0NvMgVuiHZCl8/edit?ts=5e88ae0a) * International reporting guidelines via the EQUATOR-Network <https://www.equator-network.org> * Open research practices including the registering of your research plans via ‘Rapid Registered Reports’ [Nature Index - Rapid Registered Reports initiative aims to stop coronavirus researchers following false leads](https://www.natureindex.com/news-blog/rapid-registered-report-coronavirus-aims-to-stop-researchers-following-false-research-leads) |
| Transparency and responsible sharing | * Please create and use a Publication and Authorship Plan [[Planning Template Word](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00P7F00000D0k8bUAB)] * Review information about Strategic Publishing provided by the Library [[RMIT Library - Strategic Publishing Guide](http://rmit.libguides.com/strategicpublishing)] * Get prepared to engage with media and the public by completing online training [[Researcher Portal - Media and public engagement](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsQxUAI)] * Please refer to advice about the effective management of conflicts of interest in research [[Researcher Portal - Conflict of Interest: The 6 R's of COI Management](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000Xhb4UAC)] * IP pathway to impact, including patenting and commercialisation [[Researcher Portal – IP and Commercialisation](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article-list?tags=%2FKeywords%2FIP%20and%20Commercialisation)] * The [RMIT Open Access Research Repository](http://researchbank.rmit.edu.au/) * RMIT Figshare - more information [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsHjUAI)] and access [[RMIT Figshare](https://rmit.figshare.com/)] * Discipline-specific preprint servers such as medRxiv, bioRxiv and other services listed by ASAPbio [[ASAPbio - Surveying the landscape of products and services for sharing preprints - Website](https://asapbio.org/preprint-products)] * The rapid and open sharing of COVID-19 research data is supported by global funders and publishers in line with their commitment for data sharing in public health emergencies ([Wellcome Trust Statement](https://wellcome.ac.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/open-data)). |
| Rapid data management | * Please create and use a Research Data Management Plan [[Researcher Portal – DMP](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsnqUAA) and [RMIT Library Research Data Management Guide](http://rmit.libguides.com/researchdata)] * Please use RMIT Figshare to store, publish and openly share your COVID-19-related research data [[Researcher Portal - Figshare](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsHjUAI)] * Seek advice from research support services at RMIT including eResearch and the Library. * You can also access SpringerNature research data support services, which are available free for COVID-19-related research [[SpringerNature Website](https://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/campaigns/coronavirus/research-data)] * You can refer to specific guidelines developed for the management, sharing and reuse of research data for COVID-19 research [[RDA Webpage](https://www.rd-alliance.org/group/rda-covid19-rda-covid19-omics-rda-covid19-epidemiology-rda-covid19-clinical-rda-covid19-0) / [PDF 4th Edition](https://www.rd-alliance.org/system/files/RDA%20COVID-19%3B%20recommendations%20and%20guidelines%2C%204th%20release%2015%20May%202020.pdf)] * You can refer to the FAIRsharing COVID-19 Collection of databases and standards for COVID-19-related research to support your research and enable sharing of digital data [[FAIRsharing Webpage](https://fairsharing.org/collection/COVID19Resources)] |
| Responsible research during the COVID-19 pandemic | |
| Remote collaboration, supervision and graduate research | * management and storage of research data and records [[Research Portal - Managing your research data](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsDhUAI)]; * authorship and communication of research findings [[Researcher Portal - Authorship](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsJXUAY)]; * collaborative research [[Australian Code: Collaboration Guide PDF](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/file/14916/download?token=D6icKXqA)]. * Guides for supervisors on using Microsoft Teams, supporting candidates remotely and handling tough conversations [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bth4UAA#PDsupervision)] * COVID-19 Candidate Advice [[SGR Website](https://www.rmit.edu.au/research/phds-and-other-research-degrees/school-of-graduate-research/news-and-events/covid-19-candidate-advice)] * COVID-19 Candidate Action and Support Plan (HDR-COVID-CASP) [[SGR Website](https://www.rmit.edu.au/students/student-essentials/information-for/research-candidates/managing-your-candidature/candidature-progress-and-milestones/action-and-support/candidate-action-and-support-plan) / [PDF Form](https://www.rmit.edu.au/content/dam/rmit/documents/Students/StudentEssentials/Information-for/HDR-Forms/SGR_COVID-CASP_29-April.pdf)] * *‘In a time of uncertainty: supporting belonging and wellbeing for HDR students’* a review by RMIT researchers for SGR [[PDF Publication](https://mcusercontent.com/d8b66e0df546ff123838be814/files/fa5dedca-1c8a-448e-99ce-a1449fffa620/HDR_Belonging_Report_20200525.pdf)] * [RMIT WorkLife Remote Working](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/hr-central/accessibility-flexibility/flexibility/remote-working) provides guidance and tools for staff about working remotely including resources for safety and wellbeing. * Australian Code: Supervision guide [[NHMRC webpage](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018)] * ‘Science-ing from home’ articles published in *Nature* journal [here](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-00935-3) and [here](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01027-y) about supervising remotely. |
| Trusted resources for data | * [RMIT WorkLife Remote Working](https://www.rmit.edu.au/staff/hr-central/accessibility-flexibility/flexibility/remote-working) provides guidance and tools for staff about working remotely including resources for accessing data. * Advice on storing research data [[Researcher Portal - Storing your research data](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bscUUAQ)] * AARNET Cloudstor [[AARNET Webpage](https://www.aarnet.edu.au/network-and-services/cloud-services/cloudstor)] * RMIT Figshare: information [[Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsHjUAI)] and access [[RMIT Figshare](https://rmit.figshare.com/)] * Australian Code: Data guide [[NHMRC webpage](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018)] |
| Further advice and support | * For research integrity training please visit the [RITE Community in Canvas](https://rmit.instructure.com/courses/59453) or the [Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsKPUAY) * If you have any questions or concerns about the responsible conduct of research at RMIT or elsewhere, you should contact a Research Integrity Advisor (RIA) via email and meet together via phone, Skype or Teams [[RMIT RIA Network Researcher Portal](https://rmitheda.force.com/Researcherportal/s/article?id=a6S7F000000bsjPUAQ)] * Research & Innovation’s Research Ethics and Integrity team via [researchintegrity@rmit.edu.au](mailto:researchintegrity@rmit.edu.au) |