

Reproducible Research Oxford

RROx strategy 2025-2026

Reproducible Research Oxford (RROx) is the grassroots community node of the UK Reproducible Network (URKN) at the University of Oxford. A University-wide initiative, it is focused on embedding and spreading the culture of reproducibility across Oxford, developing and encouraging the growth of reproducible research and enabling researchers and students to conduct research that is rigorous and open, by providing training and resources. At the same time, RROx engages and supports the community in the University of Oxford and beyond as a key partner in awareness-raising and advocacy for reproducible research, in the wider context of the University's [Open Research Position Statement](#).

The members of the RROx steering committee also act as the UKRN Local Network Leads (LNLs) for Oxford.

This document outlines RROx's aims and strategy for 2025-2026. The five topics described below are the minimum issues or activities that should be addressed across the years, but the group of Local Network Leads (LNLs) and Liaison Points (LPs) may propose ad-hoc activities or actions if opportunities or the need arises. A priority of RROx is to ensure that resources, training, and engagement reach stakeholders regardless of preventable barriers. This will be facilitated through engagement with the University's [research practice programme](#), which aims to improve research practice for all researchers, and includes reproducibility as a core area of research practice development.

The three areas where LNLs and LPs will focus their work during the three-year tenure are:

1. **Social: community engagement and outreach**
2. **Resources, materials, and advocacy**
3. **Training**

In the future, once the "reproducible research community" is larger and stronger in Oxford, RROx will add these two other areas of activity:

4. **Research** collaboration
5. Collaboration with **funding** agencies

In this document, we will describe the plans for the tenure of the LNLs and LPs, and the first three areas of work. This plan should be continuously re-evaluated, catering for new institutional needs, feedback, and emerging technologies. Continuous improvement will require periodic review of all five themes. This document should be reviewed annually.

The UKRN Institutional Lead will always be informed of all actions and progress. The Research Practice Coordination team in Research Services will collaborate to support RROx in activities such as event planning and organisation, promotion, and financial management. A responsibility matrix follows, where leads assigned themselves one or more roles of being responsible, accountable, consulted or informed about each topic.

- **Responsible:** doing and/or completing the work or task;

- **Accountable:** answerable for correct completion and approval;
- **Consulted:** giving opinions or expertise on each subject;
- **Informed:** kept up to date about the process.

1. Social: community engagement and outreach

To represent a grassroots network of researchers, RROx will foster a vibrant community around reproducible, rigorous, and open research in Oxford. We will start by identifying researchers who are already interested in reproducibility and want to engage in a community of like-minded people to promote reproducibility in their respective fields. We will then expand the network, reaching out to those who are not yet sure about what reproducibility is or means, as well as those who find it interesting but have no idea how to implement it.

Our goal is to foster and grow a community where researchers can learn from one another and collaborate to advance reproducibility practices within their disciplines. Engaging these groups will require the organisation of social events in enjoyable venues where people from different groups, departments, and divisions can socialise. To promote a culture of reproducibility we need to start by encouraging collaboration, discussion, and the sharing of experiences among researchers. By talking about their concerns or challenges, they can find solutions.

Strategy:

- We will plan two social events per year, where speakers will talk about their experiences of open science or reproducibility, successful or otherwise, or even share critical case studies or challenges surrounding these areas. It could be someone telling the story of an interesting dataset shared, or of a study reproduced in an uncommon field, or about a single simple procedure that allows reproducibility (an “a-ha” moment). The speaker(s) will tell stories (not teach), and the talks should be short. The event will prompt and incentivise interaction with the audience, for which the space should allow people to talk to each other, not only with the speaker. Social events planned are supposed to be casual, with no formality, allowing researchers who are less experienced with open science to express themselves without feeling intimidated. They can be small; a group in the pub speaking freely instead of a full lecture room.
- We will make sure our audience is broad, and that people understand that everyone is included — not only researchers or students but also technicians, engineers, research assistants, librarians, statisticians, and anyone else working with research in any capacity. RROx aims to support everyone.
- We will aim to disseminate events across the university to encourage participation of people of different career stages, ages, experiences, academic disciplines, and social origins. This includes departmental newsletters, Slack, Twitter/X, and Teams channels, which are pivotal for community engagement. We will engage with the groups responsible for departmental and college newsletters, so that we can receive attention more locally, as well as using other comms and engagement channels (e.g. Divisional, Research Services and centrally) to raise the profile of the work and connect it back to and embed it within the broader University strategy and activities. RROx activities will not be seen in isolation but will happen in the wider context of other research practice and research culture activities. We will not limit ourselves to digital communication; whenever allowed by our resources, printed materials can be produced to be posted/dispensed in places like libraries, receptions, and offices.
- We will actively seek for feedback about and monitor registration at these events. This will allow us to start establishing clear metrics:

- Number of workshops, seminars and conferences organised per term (should be at least two)
- Attendance rates at each event
- Number of members on the RROx mailing list and its growth
- Participant feedback
- Number of collaboration initiatives as a result of these events
- Where people learn about our events and where to put our promotional efforts
- Department and career level engagement by which to understand demographics
- We will establish online forums or discussion boards to facilitate ongoing dialogue among researchers. One of the channels is via Slack, but we can also use other platforms, where people visit to chat, ask a question, or for a favour. This online platform will not replace the social events; instead, it will disseminate them informally. The online platform will serve as a hub for continuous communication and connection among individuals between the social events.
- We will analyse the feedback and content of the online platform to identify common themes, concerns, and suggestions for improving RROx and its initiatives described below.

2. Training

The RROx training programme aims to teach members of the University how to carry out open and reproducible research. The focus will be on interactive events to learn by doing. The format will include seminars, workshops, and webinars internally and externally. The themes will be as specific and narrow as possible, including writing techniques for complete reporting (including search strategies), version control, data management and sharing (including the FAIR principles), metadata and tagging, archiving/storing, workflow automation, software/coding in different languages, reproducible statistical practices. The training programme will be published on the website, with workshops, courses and short “lightning” events spread across the year with a mixture of online and in-person, varying levels of complexity and topics useful across the University divisions and disciplines.

The program will include:

1. At least two courses or workshops organised and provided by LNLs, LPs and RROx members per year
2. Training promoted by other UKRN and other RNs entities across the world.
3. Training by the University’s Research Practice Programme, and resources already available within the organization.

Strategy:

- We will link out from the website to the courses and training are already available from different areas of the University (both courses offered to staff and students) that address or include reproducibility themes or procedures/methods.
- We will canvas members of divisions and departments about what training is available in terms of open science and reproducibility and what they feel could be offered to their staff and students
- Based on what is found from the previous points, we will identify gaps to be filled in terms of content (for example, there are courses on data sharing but not on reporting) or places (for example, Humanities might be missing something that is provided in the Medical Sciences, or vice-versa)
- To do this gap identification, we will take on board information and support from the Research Practice team about what training is available in terms of open science and reproducibility in university divisions

and departments. We will seek support from the Research Practice team to identify gaps from these surveys.

- We will plan a programme of courses, workshops, and webinars in combination with existing offerings to avoid repetition, and if possible avoid overlap. This will be available to the whole university (independently of departments)
- We will aim to preferably use freely available spaces and facilities provided by the University such as university libraries and other appropriate spaces.
- Independent of the “RROx Training Programme”, we plan to develop/organise at least one Carpentry course (on software/coding) per year, with dates and space according to budgets
- We will select the instructors and design events according to the budget available. Instructors may be selected from any discipline in Oxford or other UKRN entities, including other LNLs
- We will use the RROx website, mailing list and social media to disseminate all relevant information.

3. Providing resources, materials, and advocacy

RROx aims to support researchers in the adoption of reproducibility practices. This comes in the form of emphasising and communicating the importance of openness in scientific work, and through the provision of resources, materials, and requisite standards to practise research in a responsible and reproducible way. To advocate for reproducible research across Oxford, we will identify key international organizations, consortia, and communities involved in the promotion of research integrity, reproducibility, and standardization efforts, and which already offer resources and materials about the importance of reproducibility in research and its implications for scientific progress, innovation, and public trust. These resources can be articles, online guides, tutorials, and repositories, blog posts, website pages, courses in video or podcasts, asynchronous training, sources of software, and standards (such as reporting guidelines and critical appraisal tools). The resources will be regularly signposted on appropriate pages of the RROx website and organised in such a way that facilitates them. All the external resources will be curated and reviewed by Local Network Leads, and the material which we produce ourselves will have the approval of the institutional lead.

Strategy:

- Publications on RROx website and social platforms:
 - Materials already offered in the “old” RROx website, organised into a new one
 - Open-access materials and links to them on the RROx website (in accord with copyright licences)
 - Comment on the successful adoption of these materials, showcasing the work done in Oxford (proving that it is possible and beneficial in Oxford)
 - Advocate for the adoption of existing reproducibility standards and guidelines, such as the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) and the many community-driven standards, by promoting them across the RROx platforms
 - Provide information on relevant events/workshops happening across the university
 - Include an FAQ section with questions like “what is the UKRN”, “what is open science”, “what is reproducibility”, with short answers linking external good, curated resources for those willing to go deeper
 - Point to workshops, forums and resources in languages other than English to accommodate multiple languages to reach a broader audience

- Externally, RROx will:
 - Collaborate with other research institutions through the UKRN to advocate for reproducibility by showcasing the work of RROx in Oxford at events such as the LNL retreat;
 - Use the opportunity of participating in conferences to promote the work of RROx and reproducibility in general where possible;

Support from the University of Oxford to RROx

The University will support the work of the LNLs first by allowing and acknowledging the activities such as the creation of the visual identity (done) and website (in development), providing, as much as possible, the administrative support, the space for social and training events and endorsing the actions. Specifically, the Research Support team will ensure:

- There is a single first point of contact within Research Support (Sarah Callaghan), who will then cascade to other members of the team as appropriate, avoiding miscommunication and overlap or duplication of actions and efforts
- Support for the website transition and updates
- Support for event planning logistics, budget, promotions, communications, marketing, and other administrative tasks
- A stipend of £500 per academic term, to be spent in the year to support events
- Support for engagement with UKRN via Open Research Program training