Research Integrity Statement

September 2018

Introduction

As a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (Concordat), Bournemouth University (BU) is committed to fulfilling the principles of the Concordat and provides a framework for good research conduct and its governance.

In accordance with the Concordat this annual statement outlines the activities in support of the highest standard of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research undertaken at BU during the 2017/18 academic year.

Policy framework:

- Research Ethics Code of Practice
- BU Code of Good Research Practice
- Research Misconduct: Policy and Procedure
- Conflicts of Interest Policy and Procedures
- Research Data Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Research Data Management Policy
- Health & Safety in Research
- BU Risk Assessment Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Information Classification Policy
- Code of Practice for Research Degrees
- Code of Practice for the Employment and Development of Research Staff
- RKE Framework Policy

During 2017/18 activities undertaken to support research integrity included the following:

- Regular training for research students was delivered under the Doctoral College's Research Development Framework Programme.
- Regular training for supervisors was delivered under Supervisory Training by the Doctoral College.
- Regular training for Researchers was delivered under the Research and Knowledge Exchange Development Framework by the Research and Knowledge Exchange Office (RKEO).
- Online ethics e-modules continue to be mandatory for all those carrying out research under the auspices of BU.
- University Ethics Committee (UREC) continued to provide oversight of activities and assurance on behalf of Senate.

- Science, Technology & Health and Social Sciences & Humanities Research Ethics Panels (REP), on behalf of UREC, continued to ensure best ethical practice by reviewing, rejecting or approving research ethics applications for Staff and PGR (high risk).
- Faculties and Departments continue to manage the review and approval process of ethics submissions for UG, PGT and PGR (low risk), with oversight by UREC.
  - Supervisors continue to review the PGR ethics checklist to ensure a good quality. Low risk ethics checklists are approved by an appropriate Ethics Champion and REPs continue to review and approve high risk PGR checklists.
  - UG and PGT checklists continue to be reviewed and approved by Supervisors (low risk projects) and Ethics Programme Team (high risk projects).
  - A wide range of education and training provision is provided by Departments across the University where research is an integral part of the Undergraduate or Master's programme of study. Research integrity is discussed as part of research methodology units or bespoke online ethics modules. Each Faculty is supported in the research ethics process by a Deputy Dean for Education & Professional Practice.

Ongoing activities

- During 17/18 the online ethics checklist was reviewed and updated to improve the monitoring and auditing required as part of the review and approval process. The new checklist re-launched September 2018.

Addressing research misconduct

BU has relevant policies and procedures to respond to research misconduct; namely

- Research Misconduct: Policy and Procedure
- Academic Offences: Policy and Procedure for Taught Awards
- Code of Practice for Research Degrees
- Research Ethics Code of Practice: Policy and Procedure
- Code of Good Research Practice
- Academic Appeals: Policy and Procedure for Taught Awards
- Academic Appeals: Policy and Procedure for Research Awards
- Student Disciplinary: Procedure
- Third Party Involvement: Procedure
- Dignity and Respect (Harassment) Policy and Procedures
- Staff Disciplinary Procedure
- Staff Grievance Procedure
- Staff Suspension Procedure
- "Whistleblowing" (Disclosure in the Public Interest) Policy and Procedures
- Conflicts of Interest Policy and Procedures
- Data Protection Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy and Procedures
- Investigation Procedure

The Research Misconduct policy applies to staff and postgraduate research students undertaking research under the auspices of the University. It also applies to undergraduate and postgraduate taught students in relation to suspected cases of a serious breach of research ethics.

In 2017/2018 there was one reported student case logged under the Research Misconduct policy.

Type of allegation	Stage reached	Investigation result
Improprieties of authorship	Preliminary Stage	minor infractions have occurred which do not constitute research misconduct

In 2017/2018 there was one reported staff case logged under the Research Misconduct policy.

Type of allegation	Stage reached	Investigation result
An academic offence in submitting a paper to a journal and the student did not give sufficient credit to the supervisor's input to the thesis.	Preliminary Stage	Minor infractions have occurred which do not constitute research misconduct

Conclusion

BU will continue to develop and implement new initiatives and policies to support our commitment to maintain high standards of rigour and integrity in our research activities; to be overseen by the University Research Ethics Committee and University Research & Professional Practice Committee.