

**September 2020**

### **Introduction**

BU upholds the commitments outlined in the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (Concordat) and is committed to fulfilling the principles of the Concordat by providing a framework in support 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 2019/20 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
- 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 2019/20 the following activities continued to support research integrity:**

- Regular training workshops for research students continued to be delivered under the Doctoral College's Research Development Framework Programme.
- Bespoke training workshops for supervisors were delivered under Supervisory Training by the Doctoral College.
- Regular training workshops for Researchers (staff and postgraduate research students) was delivered under the Research and Knowledge Exchange Development Framework by Research Development & Support (RDS).
- Online ethics e-modules continue to be mandatory for all those carrying out research under the auspices of BU.
- The Research Ethics Committee (REC) continued to provide oversight of activities and assurance on behalf of Senate:

- The Science, Technology & Health and Social Sciences & Humanities Research Ethics Panels (REPs), on behalf of REC, continued to ensure best ethical practice by reviewing 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).
- Initiation of quarterly meetings between BU and the Heads of Research and NHS R&D representatives of local NHS Trusts. These meetings discuss effective collaboration and research governance in order to conduct clinical research to the highest standard and with efficiency.

### ***Ongoing activities***

- The Online Ethics Checklist and OEC Admin System were reviewed with minor updates to improve usability. These will continue in 20/21.
- The Research Governance & Integrity Website was launched July 2020. This replaces the Research Ethics Blog. The purpose to provide better navigation to the support available to staff and students.
- Improved online materials to support researchers in navigating the online ethics checklist.

### ***Addressing research misconduct***

BU has 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 2019/2020 there were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against any UG, PGT or PGR student.

In 2019/2020 there was one reported staff case logged under the Research Misconduct policy.

Type of allegation	Stage reached	Investigation result
academic fraud	preliminary stage	minor infractions which do not constitute research misconduct

### **Conclusion**

Planned activities for 2020/21 will be delivered online where possible, until such time activities can resume on campus.

This statement has been approved by the Research & Professional Performance Committee.

Anyone with comments, concerns or questions regarding research integrity at Bournemouth University should contact Mrs Julie Northam, Head of Research Development & Support by email to [researchintegrity@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:researchintegrity@bournemouth.ac.uk)