Research Integrity Statement

September 2017

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 2016/17 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
- BU Risk Assessment Policy
- Code of Practice for Research Degrees
- Code of Practice for the Employment and Development of Research Staff
- RKE Framework Policy

During 2016/17 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 further developed and delivered under Supervisory Training by the Doctoral College.
- Regular training for Researchers was further developed and 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.
  - During 2016/17 the approval process for PGR ethical approval of online checklists (low risk) was changed with the introduction of Ethics Champions within Departments to approve low risk applications; Supervisors retain responsibility for the review and forward onto an appropriate Ethics Champion for approval. The REPs continue to review and approve PGR checklists (high risk).
  - 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

- The current review and approval process for ethics submission was established in 2013/2014 and has been incrementally improved over time, including 2016/17. A comprehensive review of what has worked well and where processes can be improved is currently in progress to report in 2017/18. This has involved seeking feedback from all Faculties (to include UG, PGT and PGR levels) and Stakeholders (to include Researchers, Members of UREC and REP). Following this review, recommendations will be made to ensure processes are robust and reflect best practice in ensuring Research Integrity.

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 2016/2017 there were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against any UG, PGT or PGR student.

In 2016/2017 there were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against staff

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 Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee.