Research Integrity Statement

September 2019

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 2018/19 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 2018/19 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).
- Updated 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 the Deputy Dean for Education & Professional Practice and Deputy Dean for Research & Professional Practice.
  - The research website has been updated to include a section on Concordats which support research which will improve visibility and external access to the annual statements. (Formerly available via the research ethics blog).

Ongoing activities

- During 18/19 the online ethics checklist was reviewed (taking into account comments received from faculties) and has been updated to include improved workflow process and clearer questions in sections relating to working with human participants. The new checklist will re-launched September 2019.

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 2018/2019 there were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against any UG, PGT or PGR student.

In 2018/2019 there were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against staff

Conclusion

A revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity is expected to be issued in the Autumn and 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.

RDS has subscribed to the UK Research Integrity Office[1] and we look forward to working with them to strengthen our existing policies and training provisions.

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[1] UKRIO is an independent charity providing advice and support to organisations to further good practice in academic, scientific and medical research.