

## Research Integrity Statement

**September 2023**

### Introduction

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity was launched in 2012 and revised in 2019 with support from the Government, Research England and major research funders such as UKRI.

### Commitments

BU upholds the commitments detailed 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.

1. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research.
2. We are committed to ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.
3. We are committed to supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers.
4. We are committed to using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise.
5. We are committed to working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

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 2022/23 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 Development Framework Policy

**During 2022/23 the following activities continued to support research integrity:**

- Training workshops for research students were delivered online under the Doctoral College's Research Development Framework Programme.
- Training workshops for supervisors were delivered online under Supervisory Training by the Doctoral College.
- Integrity embedded training workshops for Researchers (staff and postgraduate research students) were delivered under the Research and Knowledge Exchange Development Framework (RKEDF) 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), 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 process of ethics submissions for UG, PGT (low and high risk) and PGR (low risk).
  - Carried out an annual review of the Research Ethics Code of Practice
- BU continues to subscribe to the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) (Commitments 1 and 3), with colleagues from our professional services and research community encouraged to attend.
- In 2019, BU signed up to the [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#) (DORA). To further demonstrate our commitment and reaffirm our alignment to fair and responsible approach and management of all research assessment at the university, we led an extensive staff engagement exercise on our 'Statement on the Responsible Research Assessment and Management' which was finalised in June.
- BU held its first REF mock exercise this year. It was mandatory for all reviewers to undertake our 'Fairness in Research Assessment' online module. Based on the training given to REF2021 panel members, the module was developed to specifically address unconscious bias in the research assessment context.

***Culture cafés***

During this academic year, a pilot scheme of culture cafés were organised by the Research Excellence Team (RDS). The cafés were based on the Wellcome Trust's 'Culture Café Toolkit', which includes a discussion guide and activities and were designed to facilitate the sharing of attendees' ideas on the issues, challenges, and opportunities regarding research culture. The

cafés have been piloted in the Faculty of Health and Social Science with a view to rolling them out across the university. Already actions have been taken forward to enhance research culture.

### ***Ongoing activities***

- The Clinical Governance Adviser (CGA) continues to oversee the processes by which BU ensures all NHS-related research complies with relevant legislation. All research activity taking place in the NHS requires a Sponsor which is overseen by the CGA supporting Researchers through the Health Regulatory Authority process. This also requires undertaking ongoing monitoring. Ethical review of such research is undertaken by an appropriate NHS Research Ethics Committee.
- The Science, Technology & Health and Social Sciences & Humanities Research Ethics Panels (REPs), continue to review research ethics submission for Staff (both risk levels) and PGR (high risk).
- Faculties/Departments are responsible for the review of UG/PGT and PGR (low risk) ethics submissions.

### ***Planned Activities***

- Drawing on the success of the pilot Culture Cafés, RDS plans to roll them out across the university. In March, the university established an institutional-wide Research Culture workstream to further activity in this area. Alongside the cafés, we plan to use the SCOPE framework to select metrics to track improvements in Research Culture.
- Develop Fairness Intention Statements for each REF unit of assessment ahead of our next mock exercise.

### ***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 2022/2023 there were:

- One reported case of an allegation relating to a serious breach of research ethics (UG or PGT students).
- There were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against any PGR student.
- There were no reported staff cases logged under the Research Misconduct policy.

<b>Type of allegation</b>	<b>Stage reached</b>	<b>Investigation result</b>
Serious Breach of Research Ethics	preliminary stage	On-going. Investigation at early stage

### **Recommendation**

That this statement is approved as BU's 2022/23 annual report on research integrity and be made publicly available on the research website.

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 Mr Andy Scott, Interim Head of Research Development & Support by email to [researchintegrity@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:researchintegrity@bournemouth.ac.uk)