

Annual statement on research integrity

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	Bournemouth University
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independ ent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher Education Institution
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	University Research, Innovation and Enterprise Committee on 2 October 2025
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/research/research-environment/research-concordat/concordat-support-research-integrity which can be accessed here .
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Andy Scott
	Email address: ascott@bournemouth.ac.uk
1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Dr Fiona Knight
	Email address: researchintegrity@bournemouth.ac.uk

Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture.

Description of actions and activities undertaken

2A. Description of current systems and culture

Bournemouth University is committed to maintaining high standards of research integrity and promoting a positive research culture.

Policy and Systems

BU has the following policies in place:

- [Code of Good Research Practice](#)
- [Code of Practice for Research Degrees](#)
- [Code of Practice for the Employment and Development of Research Staff](#)
- [Conflicts of Interest Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- Health & Safety in Research (in the Code of Good Research Practice)
- [Information Classification Guidance](#)
- [Research Data Policy](#)
- [Research Ethics Code of Practice](#)
- [Research Misconduct: Policy and Procedure](#)
- [Risk Assessment Policy](#)
- [Safeguarding Policy](#)

These are available to all researchers and are reviewed regularly.

BU also has several systems in place to oversee research integrity, including:

- ProGRess – online monitoring for Postgraduate Research Students
- [Online Ethics Checklist](#) – for all researchers
- [Online Data Management Plan](#)

Communication and Engagement

BU uses a variety of media to communicate with researchers. Information is available on both external and internally facing webpages (for example: Research Governance, Research Ethics and Integrity), intranet sites and SharePoint.

Information is reviewed annually.

Training sessions are provided regularly for all levels of researcher from embedding research integrity into UG & PGT programmes, to PGR Research Development programme and to research staff through online and in-person events.

Our [Research Blog](#) is also used to communicate updates relating to research integrity, which are also disseminated on Faculty Blogs. All those involved in PGR activities receive a monthly newsletter.

BU recognises the importance of research integrity and has “champions” within Faculties and Schools who are responsible for promoting ethical research within their discipline.

Culture, Development and Leadership

A cross-institutional Research Concordat Steering Group is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of a coherent action plan embedding the principles of the Research Concordats to which Bournemouth University has signed up. The principles of Research Integrity are applied to all aspects of research, including the preparation of project proposals, the use of technology and AI tools, the publication and dissemination of research outcomes.

Several training opportunities and guidance are available at BU to support responsible research and promote a positive research culture and environment:

- Research Integrity is continuously embedded into training workshops offered to our Researchers (staff and postgraduate research students).
- Specific training sessions on Research Ethics are included in the Researcher Development Programme and the Supervisory Training delivered by the Doctoral College.
- Online ethics e-modules are mandatory for all those carrying out research.
- Specific guidance on the use of AI is offered to all researchers.
- UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) training opportunities are shared with the BU research community.

Monitoring and Reporting

The BU Research Ethics Committee (REC) provides oversight of activities and assurance on behalf of Senate:

- The Science, Technology & Health and Social Sciences & Humanities Research Ethics Panels (REPs), ensure best ethical practice by reviewing research ethics applications for Staff (both low and above minimal risk levels) and PGR (above minimal risk only).
- Faculties are responsible for managing the review process of ethics submissions for UG, PGT (low and high risk) and PGR (low risk).
- Periodic review of the Research Integrity Policies and Procedures.

The Clinical Research Adviser (CRA) oversees 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 CRA 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.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

Monitoring and compliance of Research Concordats and associated action plans is undertaken within Research and Innovation Services, with dedicated administrative support from the Doctoral College.

In 2024-25 the following policies were reviewed:

- [Code of Practice for Research Degrees](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Information Classification Guidance](#)
- [Research Ethics Code of Practice](#)
- [Research Misconduct: Policy and Procedure](#)

Last year, additional training on Research Integrity was offered to the BU research community, including:

- A keynote on “Research Integrity in the age of AI” was delivered by Professor Mary Davis at the 2024 Annual PGR Conference.
- Academic Integrity Webinar Series, facilitated by experts from around the world, were promoted within the BU research community.
- Additional guidance on Artificial Intelligence was provided to PGRs on the Virtual Learning Environment and *ad hoc* sessions organised within the Researcher Development Programme.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

Activity in 2024/25

The following key activities were undertaken in the previous year:

- Research Integrity is continuously embedded into training workshops offered to our researchers (staff and PGRs), including:
 - for PGRs via Doctoral College’s Research Development Framework Programme.
 - for PGR supervisors via Doctoral College’s Supervisory Training
 - for all researchers (staff and PGRs) via the Research and Knowledge Exchange Development Framework (RKEDF)
- Online ethics e-modules were mandatory for all those carrying out research under the auspices of BU (Staff, PGR, PGT and UG students)
- Quality assurance and oversight of all research activities by the Research Ethics Committee (REC).

- Risk assessment and review of ethical checklists (staff and PGRs) by Ethics Panels.
- Risk assessment and review of ethical checklists (PGT and UG students) by Faculties.
- Annual review of the Research Ethics Code of Practice
- Engagement with UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) (Commitments 1 and 3), with colleagues from our professional services and research community encouraged to attend.

Activity planned for 2025/26

Bournemouth University has appointed a new Head of Research Excellence & Governance. They will take responsible for the review, development and implementation of all research integrity and governance policies and procedures and ensuring full compliance with and implementation of all relevant legislation and guidance.

In March 2026, the current subscription with Epigeum will come to an end and we are currently exploring how mandatory online ethics training will be delivered going forward. Full consideration is being given to replacing the current training with the UKRIO training course "Introduction to Research Integrity", which would be supplemented by additional online and in-person training developed in-house.

By April 2026, BU aims to have updated the Research Integrity webpages and to have reviewed the Research Misconduct policy to include provisions on Questionable Research Practice, in line with the new version of the Research Integrity Concordat.

2D. Case study on good practice (optional)

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Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

In addition to the policies list in previous sections, BU has specific policies and procedures relating to research misconduct. These are updated regularly include / processes:

- [Academic Appeals: Policy and Procedure for Research Awards](#)
- [Academic Appeals: Policy and Procedure for Research Awards](#)
- [Academic Appeals: Policy and Procedure for Taught Awards](#)
- [Academic Appeals: Policy and Procedure for Taught Awards](#)
- [Academic Offences: Policy and Procedure for Taught Awards](#)
- [Academic Offences: Policy and Procedure for Taught Awards](#)
- [Code of Good Research Practice](#)
- [Code of Practice for Research Degrees](#)
- [Conflicts of Interest Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Data Protection Policy](#)
- [Dignity and Respect \(Harassment\) Policy and Procedures](#)
- [Intellectual Property Policy and Procedures](#)
- Investigation Procedure – available on BU’s People Hub
- [Research Ethics Code of Practice](#)
- [Research Misconduct: Policy and Procedure](#)
- Staff Disciplinary Procedure – available on BU’s People Hub
- Staff Grievance Procedure – available on BU’s People Hub
- Staff Suspension Procedure – available on BU’s People Hub
- [Student Disciplinary: Procedure](#)
- [Student Disciplinary: Procedure](#)
- [Third Party Involvement: Procedure](#)
- [Third Party Involvement: Procedure](#)
- [Whistleblowing \(Disclosure in the Public Interest\) Policy and Procedures](#)

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 2024/2025, there were:

- There were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against any UG/PGT student.
- There were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against any PGR student.
- There were no reported cases of allegations relating to research misconduct made against any member of staff.

See below for further details

3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken				
Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication	-	-	-	-
Falsification	-	-	-	-
Plagiarism	-	-	-	-
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	-	-	-	-
Misrepresentation (e.g. data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	-	-	-	-
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	-	-	-	-
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	-	-	-	-
<i>Other*</i>	-	-	-	-
Total:	-	-	-	-
*If you listed any allegations under the 'Other' category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.				
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