

University of Birmingham

Research Integrity Statement 2016 –2017

Introduction

This is the University of Birmingham's fourth annual summary statement on research integrity, as recommended by the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity. The Concordat outlines the responsibilities and commitments of stakeholders in UK research with respect to research integrity. All members of Universities UK are signatories to the Concordat and HEFCE and Research Councils UK have both made commitment to the Concordat a condition of funding. This statement has been reviewed and approved by Council, the governing body of the University.

Activities to Support Research Integrity

The University is committed to strengthening the integrity of research and reviewing progress on this regularly and openly. The University Executive Board (UEB) sponsor for research integrity is Professor Tim Softley, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Transfer). Research integrity activities at the University are overseen and coordinated by the Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity Committee. This report updates on the following actions, which have been undertaken throughout the 2016–2017 academic year following on from the UEB review to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues, and which are ongoing:

- *Review and Revise the University's Code of Practice for Research*
The Code of Practice for Research details the University's expectations of researchers with respect to ethics and integrity, forms part of their terms and conditions of employment. A detailed review of the code was undertaken in the 2014–2015 academic year, and consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken in the 2015–2016 academic year. The revised Code of Practice for Research was approved by Council on 30th November 2016.
- *College based activities*
Individual colleges have undertaken a range of activities including activities to promote the new Code of Practice, internal monitoring and audit of projects, and development of policies on essay validation and Peer Review.
- *Participation in Russell Group Research Integrity Group*
The University of Birmingham is an active contributor to meetings of Russell Group Universities aiming to develop common approaches to research integrity.

Research Misconduct Hearings

In the period October 2016 to September 2017, there has been one formal hearing of a case of alleged research misconduct. This case was dealt with in accordance with the research code of practice and the University's ordinances and appropriate and proportionate actions taken. In the same period two allegations of research misconduct were received. These are being addressed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Research.

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The next annual statement will be published in November 2018.

Further Information

Further information on research integrity at the University is available from Dr Sean Jennings, Research Governance and Ethics Manager (s.jennings@bham.ac.uk Ext. 58011).