

University of Birmingham Research Integrity Statement 2017 –2018

Introduction

This is the University of Birmingham's fifth 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 2017–2018 academic year:

- *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. Further minor revisions to the Code of Practice and consultation with relevant stakeholders was undertaken during the 2017-2018 academic year.
- *College based activities*
Individual colleges have undertaken a range of activities including a review of holdings of patient data and human tissue, internal monitoring and audit of projects, and the development of policies on research into hacking and cyber-security.
- *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. The University hosted a joint meeting with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) in April 2018, to discuss common interests in addressing issues around authorship, peer review and ethics review, and reproducibility and negative results.

Research Misconduct Hearings

In the period October 2017 to September 2018, there has been 1 formal hearing of a case of alleged research misconduct. In the same period 3 allegations of research misconduct were received, one of these relating to a former employee. These are being addressed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Research.

Research Integrity Statement 2018-19

The next annual statement will be published in November 2019.

Further Information

Further information on research integrity at the University is available from Dr Birgit Whitman, Head of Research Governance and Integrity (b.whitman@bham.ac.uk, ext. 58011).