



Teaching Intensive Research Informed

2020-21 Annual Report - UUK Concordat to Support Research Integrity

The University of Bolton supports the Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity

The following constitutes the statements required annually by the Concordat;

A summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and the application of research integrity issues (for example postgraduate and researcher training, or process reviews)

The University has incorporated research integrity and ethics into its research training arrangements both for staff and research students. The Research and Graduate School work closely with staff in Schools to deliver a Master's level module that prepares them for taking on the role of a doctoral supervisor. Research ethics generally, and specifically the University processes, are explored. Alongside this are a series of scheduled sessions throughout the year that form the Research Degree Student Development Programme where the University's ethics processes are explained by experienced research supervisors; staff are also invited to attend these sessions. Research ethics documents are available at <https://www.bolton.ac.uk/join-us/research-programmes/research-policies-and-documents/research-ethics-framework/>. There is a formal University Research Ethics Committee (UREC), School-based ethics committees (DREC) and periodic audits of School operation of ethics processes.

A statement to provide assurance that the processes the institution has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, timely, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation

The University has a clear policy, published on the University website regarding allegations of research misconduct;

<https://www.bolton.ac.uk/assets/Uploads/Code-of-Policy-and-Procedures-for-Investigating-and-Resolving-Allegations-of-Misconduct-in-Research-2019-2020.pdf>

This policy has a clear statement on individual and collective responsibility.

“Responsibility for adherence to the principles is collective and devolves not only to individual researchers but also to teams and especially to professors, team leaders, supervisors, coordinators and managers. It applies not just to the design of individual research projects but also to the training, supervision and management of researchers and to those with responsibility for supporting, promoting and disseminating research. University staff members in research leadership or research supervisory positions have an obligation to foster personal integrity in the conduct of staff and students under their direction.”

Formal Investigations of Research Misconduct in the Context of the Concordat.

In 2020-21 (August 2020 to July 2021) there were no formal investigations of research misconduct at the University of Bolton.

What the institution has learned from any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken, including what lessons have been learned to prevent the same type of incident re-occurring:

As there were no investigations in the reporting period this is not applicable.

Point of contact for further information on matters of research integrity, the UUK Concordat and related matters:

Dr Andrew Graham, Executive Dean, Research and Graduate School, University of Bolton, 01204 903220, a.graham@bolton.ac.uk

Any person wishing to raise concerns about the integrity of research being conducted at the University of Bolton should consult the University's Public Interest Disclosure Document:

<https://www.bolton.ac.uk/assets/Uploads/Whistle-Blowing-Policy-Approved-BOG-12-Feb-2019.pdf>

The initial step in raising concerns under this policy is to contact the Clerk to the Governors.

How the institution creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct:

Each School has a Research Ethics Committee alongside the University Research Ethics Committee and these structures allow staff to raise concerns in an appropriate manner. Complementing this, the Executive Dean for the Research & Graduate School maintains an operational oversight of ethics and colleagues are able to discuss concerns confidentially. Advice is given on how an issue should be resolved and the appropriate process for resolution. This may involve the aforementioned Research Misconduct Policy or the Public Interest Disclosure policy. The University has incorporated further consideration of research integrity into student induction and research supervisor training.