REPORT

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Annual Research Integrity Statement 2018-19

1. General context

1.1. Oxford Brookes University is committed to maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research, ensuring that our research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, as set out in the Universities UK Concordat to support research integrity. This concordat provides a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance, underpinned by best practice and support for the development of researchers. It also sets out expectations that Universities will have transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise.

1.2. The University already has policies covering academic integrity and how to deal with reports of misconduct as well as Research Data Management, which can all be found at: (http://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/policies-and-codes-of-practice/);

Policies relating to research involving human participants, including security-sensitive research:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/research-ethics/policies/;

Codes of conduct for staff:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/human-resources/working-here/employment-policies/code-of-conduct-for-staff/;

Student Conduct Regulations and Procedure:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/regulations/current/appeals-complaints-and-conduct/c1-2/.

The Annual Research Integrity Statement is reported to the Board of Governors each year, and the University also publishes it on its dedicated Integrity webpage that was set up last year.

1.3. This Research Integrity Statement covers the academic year 2018-19 and summarises the University's status relative to the expectations of the Concordat. It outlines actions and activities undertaken in support of fostering a culture of research integrity, and provides a high-level summary of investigations (if any) of research misconduct that have been undertaken by the University.

1.4. The Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Global Partnerships, is responsible for institutional oversight on matters relating to research integrity. She reports to the University's Board of Governors on an annual basis on any reports of misconduct (last report made on July 2019). She works closely with staff across the University ensuring that appropriate standards of academic integrity are maintained.

She (or her nominee) attends the induction programme for new research-active staff, part of the 'Your first three years' programme that is run every year and gives a presentation about the University, which covers how researchers are supported and includes a section on academic integrity.

1.5. In addition to processes relating to staff, research students are introduced to the University's academic integrity policies and procedures during their mandatory induction - which is run three times a year - and receive instruction about the University's stance on attribution and plagiarism in academic writing. As part of the Research Degrees Committee's Annual Progress Monitoring process, research students' work is reviewed to ensure they are working within the scope of the University's regulations and policies covering academic integrity. All students are required to submit a chapter of their thesis or piece of academic writing through Turnitin during the annual monitoring process. A training session on data management, storage, archiving and sharing is run annually and is open to all research students.

1.6. The University has a well-established research ethics process (see also more details below), which adheres to the principles of the UKRI and ESRC ethics in research guidelines. As part of this process, all staff and research students are offered research ethics training and support both at faculty and university level. The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) membership is made up of a Chair, appointed by the University's Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC); an experienced Administrator; Research Ethics Officers with expertise from each of the faculties; a Research Ethics Officer to oversee applications from the Directorates, an internal expert on data protection and information compliance; a PhD student representative and external lay members from the local community with no links to the University.

2. Named contact for Academic Integrity issues

2.1. The named contact for any initial issues concerning academic integrity is Sarah Taylor, Research Support Director, who liaises with the Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Global Partnerships on the appropriate way to respond to the concern, invoking the agreed procedures where necessary.

3. Updates this year

3.1. The University's Code of Practice for Academic Integrity, including procedures for investigating allegations of misconduct in research has been updated (May 2019) to reflect recent changes to practice by Cancer Research UK.

3.2.   The Academic Integrity webpage is being maintained, so that staff and research students can access the Academic Integrity policy and these statements:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/policies-and-codes-of-practice/research-integrity---statement/

3.3.   In addition, a new webpage has been established called 'Research Integrity Resources' which pulls together a range of internal and external policies, codes of practice, guidelines and other information on issues such as authorship, finance, referencing and plagiarism:

https://www.brookes.ac.uk/research/policies-and-codes-of-practice/research-integrity---resources/

3.4.   The University has subscribed to the UK Research Integrity Office and the Research Support Director and Researcher Development Coordinator attended the annual UKRIO conference on 8 May 2019.

3.5.   IT Services are updating their mandatory online training in data security and data protection for all staff, which includes sections on research data. This training is managed by the Head of Information Management, who has been leading the University's response to implementing the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and working towards the attainment of ISO 27001 (Information Security Management Systems).

3.6.   The University has agreed to licence a series of online modules on research integrity. It had been hoped that these would be ready for use in the academic year 2018-2019, but the supplier is re-filming part of the content to incorporate changes brought about the GDPR and we are waiting for this to be completed.

3.7.   The University's Research Data Management Steering Group is being reviewed to ensure it is fit-for-purpose. The remit and membership is being considered by the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Global Partnerships and the Associate Deans Research and Knowledge Exchange from the four faculties. A refreshed steering Group will be operational for the 2019-2020 academic year.

3.8.   The Oxford Clinical Allied Technology and Trial Services Unit (OxCATTS) has been established, with the aim to enable efficient development and evaluation of technology innovations for allied health professions and nursing. The OxCATTS activities build on previous work and experience by members of the Clinical Trials Unit. The University is also assessing its established processes for clinical trials support to make sure these continue to be fit-for-purpose.

3.9. The University has licenced Studyline, a project and portfolio management software developed specifically for the management of clinical studies. The licence enables the maintenance of studies, as well as overall oversight, for all partners involved in those studies.

3.10. The University has responded to the request from Parliament's Science and Technology Committee' for information on clinical trials transparency.

3.11. The University responded to the consultation on the revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

3.12. With regard to Responsible Metrics, the University is recommending that a Task and Finish Group be set up to ensure the University is in a position to sign up to the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), with a longer-term remit to align with the principles of the Leiden Manifesto.

4. Events

4.1. The University's mandatory training programme for research-active and research staff 'First three years' ran as usual during the course of the year with events in October, February and March (initial session repeated in June). Research Integrity was covered in the three sessions of this programme in the following ways:

- Session one 'Research induction – strategy, policies and integrity'. This includes internal and external integrity policies, concordats, ethics and misconduct;
- Session two 'Applying for external research grants'. This includes reference to financial management;
- Session three 'Managing a research grant'. This covers the role of the Principal Investigators, including research integrity and this year included a new section on 'The who and where of post-award support' which covered open access and publishing, research ethics, budget management and data management.

4.2. Work is at an early stage of putting together online training for research data management.

5. Misconduct report

5.1. There were no on-going investigations from previous years.

5.2. Two putative misconduct cases were investigated at the informal stage; neither were taken forward to the formal investigation stage.

Professor Linda King

Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research & Global Partnerships

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