

Research Integrity Review 2018/19

1. The University carried out a self-assessment review of the research integrity code through Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee. The review looked at the three sectors outlined for investigation in the Research Integrity code - Policies and procedures, Staff Awareness and training and Formal investigations. The findings from the review were consistent with the University meeting the requirements and recommendations of our Research Integrity code. These findings were RECOMMENDED to Senate in November 2019.

1.2. The review NOTED that the research integrity code has been publicised through the intranet, external website and through training. New starters received specific guidance relating to the code and. PGR students were made aware through the code of conduct and on e-vision.

1.3. Four policies relating to the code had been updated: Anti-Bribery; Conflict and Declaration of Interest Policy; Data Protection Policy and Brunel University London Guidance on Risk and Insurance for Research. Additional policies were in the process of review: Brunel University Code of Research Ethics (inc. HTA procedures), Research Involving Animals, Procedures for Investigation of Research Misconduct, Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblowing) Policy.

1.4. The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) oversees all research ethics matters concerning research conducted by Brunel University staff and students which involves human participants, their tissue, and their data. Processes to ensure that research is planned and conducted in accordance with ethical standards are managed through College Research Ethics Committees (CRECs) in line with the standard operating procedures provided by the UREC.

1.5 There were 29 investigations of research misconduct over the three-year period to 2018-19, 19 of which were sustained or partially sustained.

Year	Investigated	Sustained
2016 - 2017	16	15
2017-2018	3	3
2018-2019	10	1

1.6. Activity in development:

- Review of the BREO system in consultation with the Colleges;
- Development of online training provision;
- Implementation of security-sensitive research policy and procedure;
- Collaboration with the UK Research Integrity Office on sector guidance documentation;
- Development of involvement in national multi-institutional forum for sharing of best practice;
- Development of procedure with regard to monitoring of projects post-approval;
- Review of Research Misconduct Procedure in line with new regulatory requirements.

Research Integrity compliance at Brunel University London is monitored on behalf of Senate by Research and Knowledge Transfer Committee of Senate. The Chair of this Committee is Professor Geoff Rodgers, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation).