

Research Integrity Review – 2017

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.
 - 1.1. 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.
 - 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. Additional changes to the code had been implemented since the last review, revising the Brunel University London Guidance on Risk and Insurance for Research with additional guidance on definitions and requirements for insurance for Human subjects of Research.
 - 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. The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) made 16 investigations into research misconduct in 2016/7 (2 staff members; 14 students). Of these, 15 were upheld (1 staff member; 14 students). The student cases involved 13 taught students and 1 PGR student. All investigations undertaken in academic year 16/17 were resolved informally; none involved research funded by a Research Council.
 - 1.6. There had been 31 investigations of research misconduct over the three year period to 2017, 23 of which were sustained or partially sustained.
 - 1.7. Plans for 2017/18 include:
 - Completion of University-wide research ethics audit;
 - Completion of review of guidance and training documentation and development of new webpages;
 - Fundamental review of BREO application system in consultation with the Colleges;
 - Review of UREC Terms of Reference and potential expansion into research integrity matters;
 - Development of policy on security sensitive research and storage of relevant data;
 - Review of Research Misconduct Procedure to incorporate RCUK updates.

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).