

## **Brunel University London 2018-19 Annual statement from University Research Ethics Committee**

The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) made 6 investigations into research misconduct in 2018/9 (6 students). Of these, 5 were upheld. 3 investigations were resolved formally; none involved research funded by a Research Council.

The University Research Ethics Committee met six times during academic year 2018-19 and reported on the business of the Committee to every meeting of Senate. Presentation of the UREC annual report is made to the October meeting of our governing body (Council) in October 2020.

The report notes the following actions in particular:

- i. Dr Derek Healy was appointed as Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee in 2019 (replacing Professor Peter Hobson).
- ii. A complete review of the BREO (online application and review) system had been completed and subsequent improvements implemented.
- iii. Increased regular training provision had been carried out in relation to research ethics with a focus on reviewers and academic supervisors. This training is linked to Staff Development and supplements the training available for students.
- iv. Training was provided to colleagues within the Taught Programmes Offices to ensure a joined up approach when dealing with student queries and advice.
- v. An electronic audit system was implemented to control use of human tissue samples across the University in line with the requirements of the Human Tissue Authority.
- vi. The University process around group 'umbrella' approval for students was scrutinised and policy tightened to ensure responsible research behaviour is monitored and evidenced where group approval is granted by exception.

Research Misconduct Policy is part of the Brunel University Research Integrity Code. This code is available on our website here <http://www.brunel.ac.uk/research/Research-Integrity>.

The University defines research misconduct thus:

Research misconduct includes fabrication, falsification, fiscal wrong-doing, plagiarism or deception in proposing, carrying out or reporting results of research, deliberate and dangerous or negligent deviations from accepted practice in conducting research, or conducting research with human participants without first obtaining research ethics approval. It includes failure to follow an agreed protocol if this failure results in unreasonable risk or harm to humans, other vertebrates or the environment, and facilitating misconduct in research by collusion in, or concealment of, such actions by others. Any plan or conspiracy or attempt to do any of these things is also considered to be research misconduct. This also includes failure to follow rules and regulations including those of a third party with a legitimate interest in the research of the University.

The senior officer responsible for dealing with cases of suspected misconduct or other concerns concerning the integrity of research is Mr Eliot Glover, Chief Governance Officer. He can be contacted at [res-ethics@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:res-ethics@brunel.ac.uk).