

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

The University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) made 3 investigations into research misconduct in 2017/8 (3 students). Of these, 3 were upheld. All investigations were resolved informally; none involved research funded by a Research Council.

The University Research Ethics Committee made its annual report to our governing body (Council) in June 2018 (CO/3641; minute 3579).

Council noted the report and the contribution of Committee members.

The report noted that the following actions in particular:

- i. The completion of a University wide Research ethics audit
- ii. A review of the guidance and training documented and development of webpages had been completed.
- iii. Conducted a review of the BREO system in consultation with Colleges.
- iv. A review of the Terms of Reference of UREC.
- v. Progress had been made on the development of policy on security sensitive research and storage of data.
- vi. Review of the research misconduct procedure to incorporate RCUK updates.
- vii. He also wished to flag in advance to members of Council that with the REF imminent the workload of College Research Officers is currently demanding and will increase.
- viii. A particular challenge is the number of requests for block approval and how these are handled, this is not unique to Brunel and is being discussed across the sector.
- ix. There had been one adverse event which in essence was a Health & Safety issue, which had been reported.
- x. Future activity will focus on Online Training, UKRIO & the financial implications of BREO.

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 Ms Jilly Court, Academic Registrar and Director of Student Services. She can be contacted at [res-ethics@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:res-ethics@brunel.ac.uk).