

University of Brighton Statement on research integrity 2023/24

1 Introduction and overview

The University of Brighton aims to ensure the quality and integrity of the planning, conduct and management of research, in reporting and disseminating the results, and in the delivery and reporting of research impact. The University is also committed to acting in accordance with the principles and commitments outlined in the [Concordat to Support Research Integrity \(2019\)](#). This statement summarises the activities undertaken during 2023/24 to support and strengthen research integrity within the University of Brighton.

2 Actions and activities to support and strengthen research integrity.

In March 2024, research leaders and members of Research and Knowledge Exchange attended a Trusted Research Briefing by a Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT) advisor from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). The briefing focussed on national security risks linked to international research and offered risk-management guidance. Further advice for university staff has been provided via our internal SharePoint site.

The University's Research Ethics and Integrity Committee which oversees our ethics and governance framework including associated policies has begun, amongst other issues, to consider the impact of AI on research ethics and integrity.

A systematic review of the ethics application and all public facing documents such as the Participant Information Sheet and Consent Form has been initiated to ensure they are still fit for purpose and have kept pace with developments in research. These changes are currently at the consultation stage with the aim of rolling out in early 2025. A template for applicants to respond to ethics reviewer comments has been developed to allow queries and concerns to be more directly addressed, reducing ambiguity and improving clarity. This was piloted in a school with a high volume of ethics applications, prior to being rolled out across the institution.

2.1 Dissemination, awareness raising, education and training

Staff newly engaged in ethical review routinely receive training. 13 new members and a new Chair were appointed to our Ethical Review Tier 2 Committees and the University-level policy Committee UCOREI appointed a new PGR representative. All received full training prior to assuming their role as a committee member.

The University has embedded training throughout the institution and continues to run mandatory sessions for all Post Graduate Research (PGR) students. Regular Brighton Research Ethics Application Management (BREAM) training sessions were provided for reviewers, ethics administrators and student supervisors.

Each academic School has a Research Ethics and Integrity Lead who is responsible for ethical review, awareness raising and training in their Schools. This year, they have carried out the following activities to promote research ethics and integrity.

- The School of Arts & Media offered research ethics and integrity training to all course leaders and targeted for bespoke training for staff teaching on the two modules which historically were most likely to undertake work with participants.

- The School of Applied Sciences ran 3 induction sessions for new staff across the year as well as targeted workshops for research project modules.
- The School of Education ran an open ethics session as well as 6 course specific workshops
- The School of Business and Law ran bi-weekly ethics drop ins for doctoral candidates and staff, held several Postgraduate student supervisor workshop and training sessions 'Conducting research ethically' and a specific workshop for Doctoral students. Course specific workshops on ethics in dissertation research were also ran for taught postgraduate students.
- The School of Sports & Health Science produced additional written guidance on completion of an ethics application form which highlighted regular areas of concern and looked at examples of best practice. As identified good practice, this has now been made available across the university.
- The School of Humanities and Social Science offered an ethics drop in for student and an ethics Q&A session.

In April, the University ran a Research and Knowledge Exchange Week that offered session covering many aspects of research, with a designated ethics stand at the week's showcase event where attendees had an opportunity to discuss any queries about the institution's structure and processes. There was also a seminar conducted on Open Research, which covered areas of impact and visibility.

In May, the university offered an online 'Introduction to Research Integrity', provided by UKRIO, to all Ethics Committee members and Early Career Researchers. This was completed by 85 members of staff.

2.4 External engagement

In June, the CREC Chairs attended a joint session on Research Ethics and Integrity with the University of Sussex and have started exploring potential options for shared learning between the institutions. There has also been communication between the two institutions about best practices for completion of ethics application forms using the online platform.

The University continued its membership of UKRIO and ARMA during 2023/24 and members of the Research and Knowledge exchange have attended several online events hosted by UKRIO throughout the year on ethical issues in research and open access.

Over the summer, members of Research and Knowledge Exchange were delegates at the annual ARMA conference and attended sessions on Due Diligence and International Research Collaborations and Ethical Considerations in Trusted Research.

3 Research misconduct

There have been 2 allegations of research misconduct in the past academic year, both of which were dismissed.

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