ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

Annual statement on research integrity 2022-23

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response	
1A. Name of organisation	Arts University Bournemouth	
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher Education Institution	
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)		
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	**https://aub.ac.uk/our-research/research-standards**	
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Dr Christian Mclening	
	Email address: cmclening@aub.ac.uk	
1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Valerie Lodge	
	Email address: vlodge@aub.ac.uk	

Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture.

Description of actions and activities undertaken

2A. Description of current systems and culture

2.1   Arts University Bournemouth is committed to maintaining the highest standards of ethics and integrity in its research and places ethics and integrity at the heart of its decision-making.

2.2   It has confirmed its commitment to comply with the Concordat to support Research Integrity (2019).

2.3   The University has policies and procedures in place to ensure that research is conducted to the highest levels of ethics and integrity:

2.4   AUB's **Research Ethics Policy and Procedure** governs the ethics of research across the University. It sets out the principles for good practice in research: honesty, rigour, transparency and open communication, care and respect, accountability, alongside the guiding principles of non-maleficence and beneficence. It provides guidelines on the standards of conduct required by all staff and students engaged in research. It also sets out the procedure for getting ethical approval.

2.5   The University's **Misconduct in Research Procedure** outlines the procedure to be followed when there is an allegation of misconduct in research.

2.6   Policies are made available through the University webpages and Intranet and are referenced at staff induction and student handbooks.

2.7   Research Ethics Committee has oversight of ethics approval at the University, reporting to Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and then up to Academic Board and the Governing Body. It is chaired by the University Secretary. Membership includes the Director of Research and Development who is responsible for the oversight of research integrity.

2.8   To promote knowledge and understanding around research ethics, each school at the university has a School Ethics Adviser who can help advise on the ethical implications of both staff and student research and approve ethics applications that cannot be signed off at a local level.

2.9   Advisers are members of Research Ethics Committee and provide an annual report on activity.

2.10   The University is committed to acting in accordance with the Concordat to support research integrity and provides an annual statement.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

2.11   Initiatives during the year:

- Commenced mapping the Research Ethics Policy against the UKRIO Self-Assessment Tool by looking at Policies and Systems.

- Updated the Research Ethics Policy to include revisions in respect of the approval processes for research undertaken outside of the UK to provide additional scrutiny.

- Highlighted government support and guidance available from the Research Collaboration Advice Team (RCAT) on research collaborations with overseas partners.

- Reviewed the process for ensuring that ethical considerations were considered for Knowledge Exchange projects.

- Noted guidance papers on Internet-Mediated Research and Research with participants who were children.

- Continued to developed case studies to support understanding, including one around projects where potentially illegal activity might arise.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

2.12   AUB Research Ethics Committee met four times during the year. Additionally, it convened to consider matters that required an urgent decision outside of the Committee cycle. The mapping of activity against UKRIO Self-Assessment Tool highlighted a few areas where guidance was missing or unclear, these were subsequently addressed.

2.13   Plans for future developments:

- AUB will review the provision of information on research ethics. This will look at   information on research ethics giving guidance to staff and information for   students enabling them to learn about research ethics.

- Ensure that research ethics is embedded into a new suite of online MA courses   currently being developed.

- Ensure that research ethics is considered as part of the Periodic Review process.

- Investigate how ethical approvals might best be recorded including a digital central record of ethical approvals.

- Map AUB's Procedure for Research Misconduct against the revised UKRIO Research Misconduct Procedure to ensure compliance.

- Continue to review support around ethics for students including developing an online interview consent form.

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

3.1   AUB has a Research Misconduct Procedure to be used to investigate alleged research misconduct by current and former staff of the University or by others who conduct research on University premises, or use University facilities, resources or funding for their research.

3.2   This Procedure aims to ensure that any allegation of research misconduct is handled fairly and in line with the UK Research Integrity Office's Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research. The Procedure will also be used to investigate any allegation of research misconduct which is initially raised through the University's Whistleblowing (Public Interest Disclosure Policy). Employees who make allegations of research misconduct in the reasonable belief that misconduct may have occurred will be supported and will not be subject to any detrimental treatment.

3.3   Allegations of research misconduct by University students will be dealt with through the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

3.4   AUB's Research Ethics Policy defines what it considers to be misconduct in research. It emphasizes the requirement to report misconduct and the commitment to investigate allegations thoroughly and fairly, using independent external members for formal investigation panels, with clear routes for appeal.

3.5   The University's website signposts people to named members of staff who will act as the first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity.

3.6   AUB reviewed its Misconduct in Research Procedure in 2020. The process will be reviewed again in academic year 2023-24.

3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken

Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication	0	0	0	0
Falsification	0	0	0	0
Plagiarism	0	0	0	0

Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	0	0	0	0
Misrepresentation (eg data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	0	0	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0	0	0
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	0	0	0	0
*Other**	0	0	0	0
Total:	0	0	0	0

Misrepresentation (eg data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	0	0	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0	0	0
Multiple areas of concern (when received in a single allegation)	0	0	0	0
*Other**	0	0	0	0
Total:	0	0	0	0

*If you listed any allegations under the 'Other' category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.