

Template: annual statement on research integrity

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)	TBC
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	<a href="https://aub.ac.uk/our-research/research-standards">https://aub.ac.uk/our-research/research-standards</a>
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Professor Christian Mclening
	Email address: <a href="mailto:cmclening@aub.ac.uk">cmclening@aub.ac.uk</a>
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: <a href="mailto:vlodge@aub.ac.uk">vlodge@aub.ac.uk</a>

## **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**

Please describe how the organisation maintains high standards of research integrity and promotes positive research culture. It should include information on the support provided to researchers to understand standards, values and behaviours, such as training, support and guidance for researchers at different career stages/ disciplines. You may find it helpful to consider the following broad headings: Policies and systems; communications and engagement; culture, development and leadership; monitoring and reporting.

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.

It has confirmed its commitment to comply with the Concordat to support research integrity (2025).

AUB is a specialist art, design, media and performance university. Most of the research that is carried out is of a creative nature, often involving research participants.

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

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.

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

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

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 Innovation who is responsible for the oversight of research integrity.

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. Advisers are appointed for a fixed term of three years and then normally rotated to foster greater awareness across the University. Advisers are members of Research Ethics Committee and provide an annual report on activity.

AUB has responsibility for all taught degree programmes including postgraduate, delivered remotely and on campus. Research degree programmes are offered in partnership with the University of the Arts London who, as the awarding body, provides oversight and approval of research ethics for projects undertaken by postgraduate research degree students.

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**

Please provide an update on any changes made during the period, such as new initiatives, training, developments, also ongoing changes that are still underway. Drawing on Commitment 3 of the Concordat, please note any new or revised policies, practices and procedures to support researchers; training on research ethics and research integrity; training and mentoring opportunities to support the development of researchers' skills throughout their careers.

During the period under review AUB developed a process for providing oversight for research ethics for franchised courses. This includes having a member of academic staff at the partner institution nominated as the local adviser, with more complex claims forwarded for wider REC consideration. All ethical considerations are covered during the proposal stage and given some case studies to gain a deeper understanding of the considerations.

An online ethics approval form is under development which will provide a central record of approvals given which will improve monitoring and reporting; also facilitate completion through a standardized form. Students will have access to the online submission process, including those studying on franchised courses. It is hoped that the ethics approval forms will be in a more user-friendly style to facilitate completion when compared to current forms.

All PGR Post registration ethics applications that are considered more than minimal risk are forwarded for further consideration by University of the Arts London, as the awarding body. The feedback and decision given is always reported back to AUB's Research Ethics Committee. This is useful both to confirm that the decisions made by AUB are correct but also to provide additional guidance from which AUB can learn. This is particularly useful for new areas such as AI where guidance on ethics is being written as the technology is being developed, applied and used.

## 2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

This should include a reflection on the previous year's activity including a review of progress and impact of initiatives if known relating to activities referenced in the previous year's statement. Note any issues that have hindered progress, e.g. resourcing or other issues.

Over the coming period we intend to review our policy and ethical approval process for Knowledge Exchange and Innovation projects that are delivered under the auspices of AUB including projects delivered through our Innovation Studio.

Research Ethics Committee noted that UKRI had produced a Policy on Research and Innovation Involving Animals. Whilst this might not have mass application at AUB, there had been projects which had involved animals and the university was in the process of updating its policy based on the UKRI guidance.

Following the appointment of a new Director of Marketing in summer 2025, there will be a review of information provision on both AUB's front facing external website and the AUB intranet including information and guidance on research ethics. We hope this will make it easier for stakeholders to access the advice they require.

## Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

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

Please provide:

- a brief summary of relevant organisation policies/ processes (e.g. research misconduct procedure, whistle-blowing policy, bullying/harassment policy; appointment of a third party to act as confidential liaison for persons wishing to raise concerns) and brief information on the periodic review of research misconduct processes (e.g. date of last review; any major changes during the period under review; date when processes will next be reviewed).
- information on how the organisation creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct (e.g. code of practice for research, whistle-blowing, research misconduct procedure, informal liaison process, website signposting for reporting systems, training, mentoring, reflection and evaluation of policies, practices and procedures).
- anonymised key lessons learned from any investigations into allegations of misconduct which either identified opportunities for improvements in the organisation's investigation procedure and/or related policies / processes/ culture or which showed that they were working well.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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