

Nottingham Trent University
Annual Statement on Research Integrity, 2018/19

A) NTU continues to be a strong advocate of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity and the commitments that underpin it. The University looks forward to engaging with and supporting fully developments resulting from the recent Parliamentary Research Integrity Inquiry, including enhancements to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity.

The academic year 2018/19 has seen the establishment of a University Research Integrity Committee, which is tasked with taking the lead in developing policies and procedures to further enhance a thriving culture of research integrity. The work of the committee will begin in earnest in the following academic year and a number of developments have already been earmarked for the committee's attention (see section E).

B) Review of institutional policies

An extensive review of relevant institutional research integrity policies was undertaken in 2018 and approved by the University Research Committee during the 2018/19 academic year.

C) Inclusion of relevant external requirements and guidance into institutional or local process

No external requirements were incorporated during the 2018/19 academic year.

D) Dissemination and awareness-raising activities that have been undertaken, including any training or education provision and the audiences that have been reached

Guidance provided by individual research ethics committees is continually updated to maintain currency. Training sessions at a local level are provided to meet demand. Postgraduate research students are provided with relevant training upon enrolment at the University. The below events and resources have been developed in the 2018/19 academic year:

1. Training workshops (x2) for reviewers and prospective applicants to the College of Business, Law and Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (July 2019). The workshops were led by the committee chair.
2. The development of additional research ethics resources and an ethics quiz for undergraduate and postgraduate taught students in the College of Art, Architecture, Design and Humanities (to be rolled out in academic year 2019/20).

E) Description of internal auditing and monitoring processes, including information on any revisions or developments, plus summary data

An internal audit focusing on NTU's compliance with the Concordat to Support Research Integrity was undertaken in the first quarter of 2019. The audit found that the University is compliant with the five commitments in the Concordat. It did, however, recommend that;

- Compliance could be further strengthened by adopting a coordinated and consistent approach in relation to training materials and resources available to researchers to allow greater accessibility and to raise awareness, and;
- A targeted, risk-based approach to compulsory training could be developed to assist with enhancing research integrity and good practice.

These recommendations will be considered and associated actions developed by the University Research Integrity, established as consequence of an institutional review of research integrity undertaken in 2018, during academic year 2019/20.

F) Summary of outcomes of any external inspections/audits

No significant outcomes were reported during the 2018/19 academic year.

G) Research Misconduct

NTU is committed to a policy of openness on research misconduct. On the rare occasions where those acting under the auspices of NTU, whether staff or students, are alleged to have committed research misconduct these allegations are rigorously investigated. Where such allegations have been upheld NTU will publish anonymised top-level information on these cases, in addition to any resulting policy or procedural enhancements.

- PGR Student Research Misconduct

Allegations of research misconduct are investigated under the Procedure for Investigating Alleged Research Misconduct, as detailed in the NTU Quality Handbook. The procedure applies to all postgraduate research students undertaking a research degree (MPhil, MProf, PhD and Professional Doctorate courses).

No allegations of PGR student research misconduct have been investigated under the Procedure for Investigating Alleged Research Misconduct during the 2018/19 academic year.

- Staff Research Misconduct

Allegations of staff misconduct are investigated under the NTU Disciplinary Policy and Procedure, which is maintained and subjected to annual review and update by Corporate HR.

No allegations of staff research misconduct have been investigated under the NTU Disciplinary Policy and Procedure during the 2018/19 academic year.