

Nottingham Trent University

Annual Statement on Research Integrity, 2013/14

Context

The *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* (July 2012) was published by Universities UK in July 2012 to provide a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. Signatories include the four UK higher education funding councils (HEFCE, SFC, HEFCW, DELNI), Universities UK, Research Councils UK (RCUK), the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Wellcome Trust.

Higher Education Institutions will be asked to confirm compliance with the *Concordat* in their HEFCE annual assurance statement, which will be subject to routine audit. HEFCE has stipulated that compliance with the *Concordat* will be a condition of the HEFCE grant from 2014/15. In addition, for all Research Organisations in receipt of RCUK research funding, RCUK will be monitoring compliance with the *Concordat* via their own standard Assurance Programme and therefore NTU will also be subject to regular audit of compliance through this route.

A requirement of the *Concordat* is that each University should present a short annual report to its governing body, to provide:

1. A summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues;
2. Assurances that the processes they have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation;
3. A high level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken.

To improve accountability and provide assurances that measures being taken continue to support consistently high standards of research integrity, the annual statement should be made publicly available. To meet this requirement it is the intention that NTU's Statement will be made public on its webpages relating to research integrity.

2013/14 Statement to Academic Board and Board of Governors

1. *Summary of actions and activities:* During 2013/14 a University-wide exercise has taken place to ensure that its research related documents, policies and practices meet the requirements for compliance with the *Concordat*. This exercise, led by the Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Associate Deans for Research, was conducted in consultation with a range of appropriate and relevant NTU staff. Outcomes from this exercise were:
 - a. Review and revision of University-wide *Code of Practice for Research* and *Research Ethics Policy*, to ensure that these two over-arching documents continue to reflect current standards and expectations for good conduct and practice in research;

- b. Review and revision of the University-wide policies and procedures for dealing with allegations of research misconduct in relation to both staff and research students;
- c. Review and revision of College-wide documents relating to process and procedures for granting research ethical clearance;
- d. University-wide dissemination of the content of the *Concordat* and application of research integrity issues to all School Research Co-ordinators, Chairs of College Ethics Committees and professional staff in the College Research Support Teams;
- e. Review of training and guidance currently in place in support of research integrity and development of our research integrity training portfolio in 2014/15 for staff and research students.

2. *Assurances relating to processes in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct:* Review and revision of the University-wide policies and procedures for dealing with allegations of research misconduct in relation of staff (via the *NTU Disciplinary Policy and Procedure*) and research students (via the *NTU Procedure for Investigating Alleged Research Misconduct*) provides assurance that the University processes in place for dealing with allegations of research misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation.

3. *Statement on formal investigations of research misconduct:*

- a. Research students: There have been no reported cases of alleged research misconduct during 2013/14 and therefore no formal investigations of research misconduct have been undertaken;
- b. Staff: There have been no reported cases of alleged research misconduct during 2013/14 and therefore no formal investigations of research misconduct have been undertaken.