Middlesex University

Annual Research Integrity Report – 2018-19

1. Introduction
Middlesex University remains committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of ethics and integrity in its research. The University was an early adopter of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (1) and adheres to the principles and practices set out in that document.

The University requires that all staff and students engaged in research to conduct their activities in line with the UUK Concordat, including any visitors who make use of, or are supported by, the University and/or its facilities.

The University’s Code of Practice for Research (2) was updated in 2016 to accommodate any necessary changes required at that time and to consolidate the requirements of the Concordat. Since then, UUK has published a progress report (3) and the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee have undertaken an inquiry into research integrity and compliance with the Concordat.

The Middlesex Online Research Ethics system (5), introduced in 2016, is now firmly embedded and has proved to be a very valuable resource. A series of workshops is provided each year which all research students, supervisors and expected to attend.

2. Summary of Activities for the 2018/19 Academic Year
Work has continued throughout the past academic year to both raise awareness of and further embed research integrity practice and policy. All actions planned for 2017/18 were completed with the exception of the development of an interactive, online learning/training resource.

The University’s Research Ethics Review Framework Statement (5) and Information Paper on Ethical Management of Knowledge Transfer Activities (7) were reviewed and updated and are available online.

Research Integrity is now an established standing item on the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (RKEC) and our processes and policies to consider any cases of suspected or reported breaches have been found to work well in practice.

Research integrity and ethics now feature in our generic staff welcome/induction sessions and have been strengthened in both the research student workshop series and supervisor training sessions. Additional emphasis is also now included in viva chair training sessions. Further changes are planned for 2019/20.

The University has now invested in Figshare to complement its research data storage. This follows a two year evaluation and represents an important enhancement to our data integrity provision that also facilitates secure sharing of data between partners.

3. Summary of Investigations
There were eight reported cases of academic misconduct in respect of research integrity during the 2018/19 year, six involving research students and two involving staff. Four of the six cases involving students have been concluded with three being permitted to proceed with penalties and the forth being required to withdraw. The two cases involving staff have also been concluded, one being dismissed at the initial screening stage as being without basis, the other went to the formal stage and found against the staff member.
4. **Actions for the 2019/20 Academic Year**

The following activities and actions are planned for the coming academic year:

- Wide publicity of the updated Concordat for Research Integrity published on 25 October 2019
- Review of relevant University research practice and policies to ensure alignment with the updated Concordat
- Review of Research Degree Regulations to include update/enhancement of research integrity content
- Review of practices and procedures for the sharing and monitoring of research integrity between the University and our partner sites
- Improvements to Research Integrity Intranet pages

5. **References**

(1) The Concordat to Support Research Integrity  
https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Pages/the-concordat-for-research-integrity.aspx

(2) Code of Practice for Research – Principles and Procedures  
https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/opportunities/research-at-middlesex/research-ethics

(3) The Concordat to Support Research Integrity – A Progress Report  

(4) The Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers  
https://www.vitae.ac.uk/policy/concordat/full

(5) Middlesex University Research Ethics Review Framework Statement:  
https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/study/opportunities/research-at-middlesex/research-ethics

(6) Middlesex Online Research Ethics (MORE) Applicant Guidance Notes (Student & Staff)  
https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/university-ethics-framework

(7) Information Paper on Ethical Management of Knowledge Transfer Activities  

See also:  
https://www.mdx.ac.uk/about-us/policies/public-policy-statements

R A Comley  
Director of Research  
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