Research Integrity Annual Statement Sept 2018 – August 2019

In accordance with the UK Concordat for Research Integrity’s Commitment #5, BGU reports on activity in 2018-19.

**1. Statement confirming incidents of misconduct**

In 2018-19, as previously, there have been no incidents of research misconduct raised or investigated at Bishop Grosseteste University. No breaches of policy or complaints of process have been raised.

**2. Summary of actions and activities undertaken to support and strengthen research integrity at BGU**

BGU’s Research Ethics Policy was reviewed over 2018-19, and revised in July 2019, principally to reflect updated processes of data security, particularly with regards to GDPR. As such the updated policy has been shared widely with staff and students via workshop and seminar opportunities over the past year.

In the same period, staff and students were consulted on the efficacy of the research ethics review processes, at both local (for undergraduate and PGCE projects) and institutional (for staff, postgraduate and additionally sensitive projects) levels. Feedback was clear that the policy and processes are fit for purpose, and that support with the processes is suitable.

However, in order to ensure that all aspects of data protection and security are equitable and enhanced, a review of the current research ethics application forms commenced in 2018 and will continue through 2019. As supported by colleagues in the quality and regulatory compliance offices, research ethics training has been updated to ensure that all staff are familiar with GDPR, data storage and retention, sharing data collaboratively (and otherwise), and implications of working with sensitive and/or identifiable data.

Research Ethics Training has been delivered via CELT Staff Development Workshops to all subject and committee representatives, and cascaded to teams as appropriate. Staff training has been offered at four points across the academic year, and online materials are being developed to support training further. Training has also been offered to BGU’s partner institutions.

BGU continues to offer support and mentorship to researchers at all stages of their careers, providing opportunities to meet with the Chair of the Research Ethics committee and/or subject representatives to discuss project specific queries as required.

**3. Reassurance of appropriate governance of research integrity, and associated procedures for raising misconduct**

Policies are in place for both staff, via the Whistleblowing Policy and associated procedures, and for students via the Complaints Procedure, to raise any issues of research integrity or concern.

[**You can view the Research Integrity Statement for the year 2017/18 here.**](https://www.bishopg.ac.uk/document-download/64040#entry:64040@1:url)

Statement of activity in previous years:

2017-18: there were no breaches of policy, complaints or concerns over research ethics and integrity.

2016-17: there were no breaches of policy, complaints or concerns over research ethics and integrity

2015-16: there were no breaches of policy, complaints or concerns over research ethics and integrity.

2014-15: there were no breaches of policy, complaints or concerns over research ethics and integrity.

2013-14: there were no breaches of policy, complaints or concerns over research ethics and integrity.

2012-13: there were no breaches of policy, complaints or concerns over research ethics and integrity.

2011-12: there were no breaches of policy, complaints or concerns over research ethics and integrity.