Hartpury University

Research Integrity Annual Report 2022-2023

Key Contact information

Name of organisation:	Hartpury University
Type of organisation:	Higher Education Institution
Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	22-11-2023
Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/postgraduate/research-and-knowledge-exchange/research-governance/
Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity Name: Email address	Professor Stephen Draper Stephen.Draper@hartpury.ac.uk.
Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Professor Stephen Draper Stephen.Draper@hartpury.ac.uk.

Actions and Activities Related to Research Integrity

As reported below, there were no cases of research misconduct in 2022-2023 but we did have two instances involving students, that were not deemed misconduct but rather poor academic practice and as such were handled through that process (in line with our procedures). We remain vigilant and ensure the procedures and policies (Hartpury Code of Research Practice, Research Governance Standard Operating Procedures and the Procedure to Investigate Allegations of Research Practice) are all in place to deal with allegations when they may arrive. As aspects of our research integrity policies

also apply to the broader organisation (subsidiary Further Education College and Commercial) these policies are approved by Hartpury Executive and are in place across all parts of the organisation.

We continue to provide research integrity training for all academic staff and research students through compulsory online training events and all post-graduate students (taught and research receive research integrity training as part of their induction to Hartpury. Alongside these training events the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee regularly holds staff briefings to ensure staff are up to date with developments in this area.

This was a busy year for the Ethics Committee with a large increase in the number of applications received. The Committee received 172 applications for scrutiny compared to 122 applications in 2021-22. This reflects an increase in research activities across the institution. Of the 172 applications received 44 were approved following the initial submission and a further 100 were approved following amendments. One application was rejected, ten were withdrawn and 14 are awaiting resubmission. There are three applications which are currently under review at end of academic year. No studies were suspended in the 2022-23 academic year.

Handling of Allegations of Research Misconduct

The University has in place a Procedure for the Investigation of [Allegations of Misconduct in Research](#). The Procedure is based on the guidance produced by the UK Research Integrity Office, and also draws on a number of other institutions' procedures. The Procedure was created during 2019/20.

The Named Person for allegations of research misconduct is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rosie Scott-Ward, Rosie.Scott-Ward@hartpury.ac.uk. Advice in relation to research policies, integrity and research misconduct is available from the Academic Dean (Research and Knowledge Exchange), Prof Stephen Draper, Stephen.Draper@hartpury.ac.uk.

The University commits to engage constructively with other relevant organisations in their investigation of an allegation of research misconduct, and to alert other relevant organisations to potential cases of research misconduct of which it becomes aware.

Formal Investigations of Allegations of Research Misconduct

1. During the year, 2022-2023 no allegations of research misconduct were received. Their progress is shown in the table below.

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total number received; of which:	0	0	0	0
Currently under initial consideration	0	0	0	0
Referred to a different policy / process after initial consideration	0	0	0	2
Dismissed as not being research misconduct	0	0	1	0

Currently under Preliminary Investigation	0	0	0	0
Addressed through education and training after the Preliminary Investigation	0	0	0	0
Referred to a different policy / process after the Preliminary Investigation	0	0	0	0
Dismissed after the Preliminary Investigation	0	0	0	0
Currently under Formal Investigation	0	0	0	0
Completed the Formal Investigation	0	0	0	0

2. No formal investigations were completed in 2022-2023, with none upheld in full or in part.

	Number of formal investigations completed				Number of allegations upheld - in full or in part			
	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Fabrication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Falsification	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plagiarism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Misrepresentation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Breach of duty of care	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (specified below)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Details of any allegations upheld in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Academic year – 1 September to 31st August

Lessons from Formal Investigations of Allegations of Research Misconduct

The University seeks to learn from any and all parts of the process for handling allegations of misconduct. We also, where relevant, draw on public information of the experience of other institutions and on activities or events where research integrity is discussed, such as the World Congress on Research Integrity.

Environment to Support Good Research Practice and for Reporting of Allegations of Research Misconduct

The research at the University takes place in the context of its academic structure, with research managed within Departments. The governance of the research uses this structure along with that of the formal committee structure, in particular the Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee and the Ethics Committee, reporting to Academic Board and Corporation.

The Code of Research Practice provides a framework for the highest standards of personal conduct in research. These minimum standards are applicable to all researchers and those who support research in addition to their professional or funding body requirements and legislation.

The University's policies and guidance relevant to research, its governance and its integrity are available from the Research governance (hartpury.ac.uk) web page. University policies applicable to wider matters of institutional governance are available from the Policies, regulation, and information | Hartpury University & Hartpury College web page. The key policies and guidance, and the date of issue / adoption of the current version are:

- Code of Practice for Research
- Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research
- Research Governance Standard Operating Procedures
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Code of Professional Conduct
- Financial Regulations
- Public Interest Disclosure Procedure ('Whistle Blowing')

Staff and research students are made aware of these policies and relevant processes when they join the University as part of their induction, and updates are communicated through Heads of Department, as well as through general communication mechanisms, where relevant. Specific aspects of research governance, good practice or other requirements are highlighted on a project-by-project basis as needed, so that they can be actively addressed in the research design or delivery, as appropriate.

As already noted, the University has the Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Research Misconduct, with a senior member of staff being responsible for the procedure. This serves to ensure institutional attention and that relevant actions can be taken. The Procedure provides some flexibility in the way in which an allegation might initially be raised, in order to allow staff, researchers, students and others to feel comfortable in reporting potential instances of misconduct. Whilst providing this flexibility, the Procedure requires a full written statement of the allegation to be received by the senior member of staff in order to ensure that the process is transparent, timely, robust and fair.

The environment for research is created and sustained by the culture and behaviours of our researchers, those who support them, and the wider institution. Whilst seeking excellence and applicability in what we do we are also conscious of the need to enable and encourage good practice in research, as embodied in the Code of Research Practice. We seek to ensure that our research vision, strategy, operational plans, resource deployment and performance monitoring all take account of our commitment to research integrity and do not introduce inappropriate or perverse incentives.