

Hartpury University: Annual statement on research integrity

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	Hartpury University
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	Higher Education Institute
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	19/11/25
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/university/research-innovation/research-governance/
1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Professor Stephen Draper
	Email address: Stephen.draper@hartpury.ac.uk
1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone	Name: Rosie Scott-Ward
	Email address:

wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Rosie.Scott-Ward@hartpury.ac.uk
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Section 2: Promoting high standards of research integrity and positive research culture. Description of actions and activities undertaken

2A. Description of current systems and culture
<p>Research at Hartpury 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The University's policies and guidance relevant to research, its governance, research integrity and ethics are available from the University's governance web page: Research governance Hartpury University</p> <p>University policies applicable to wider matters of institutional governance are available from: Policies, regulation, and information Hartpury University & Hartpury College</p> <p>Staff and postgraduate students are made aware of relevant policies and 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, and within delivery for modules that embed research, so that they can be actively addressed in research design or delivery, as appropriate.</p> <p>The University's Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Research Misconduct serves to ensure institutional attention and that relevant actions</p>

can be taken if allegations of research misconduct arise overseen by a senior member of staff. 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 named senior member of staff 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. This is achieved through a variety of mechanisms including targeted annual continuing professional development in research integrity and ethics for staff and students.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

As reported below, there were no cases of alleged research misconduct raised or investigated in 2024-2025. Our procedures and processes alongside the Hartpurv Code of Research Practice and the Procedure to Investigate Allegations of Research Practice were put in place in 2020-2022. As aspects of our research integrity policies also apply to the broader organisation (subsidiary Further Education College and Commercial) these policies were approved by Hartpurv Executive and are in place across all parts of the organisation. These are reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

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 Hartpurv. The principles of research integrity and ethics are embedded within the delivery of undergraduate modules that include research activities. 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.

An audit of low-risk ethics applications is conducted annually by the Ethics Committee. The outcome of the audit is used to inform staff development sessions and in addition, where issues were identified, these were followed up with individual staff and their line managers.

Following a successful departmental pilot in 2023-24, we completed a process of ethical scrutiny for all of our university taught provision in 2024-25. This is alongside the robust processes in already in place for all dissertation and project modules.

Hartpury University Ethics Committee received a high number of applications for scrutiny in 2024/25. In 2024/25, there were 265 research applications that required full committee scrutiny, 490 low risk applications and 147 teaching applications resulting in a total of 902 applications. 122 teaching applications received committee scrutiny so 387 applications in total required review. The remaining teaching applications were low-risk and signed off at departmental level. Therefore, there was a substantial increase from the 2023/24 academic year where 201 applications for full scrutiny were received (734 applications total were received in 23/24 including low-risk submissions). Of the 265 research applications that were received in 2024/25, 42 were approved, 177 were approved following amendments, 32 were returned for amendment and are awaiting resubmission, 3 were rejected and 11 were withdrawn by the applicant. It was notable that the resubmission rate for research applications was higher in 24/25 than in previous years meaning that the total number of submissions for research applications totalled 503. Of the 122 teaching applications submitted to the committee for review, 38 were approved, 61 were approved following amendments, 20 were returned for amendment and 3 are awaiting further information. No studies were suspended in the 2023-24 academic year.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

The volume of work continues to grow for our Ethics Committee; therefore, we have increased resource and capacity for our Ethics Committee (including the appointment of Deputy Chairs) to support this important work. We will also be reviewing the research integrity training provided to staff and post-graduate students, since it is several years since the original introduction.

As highlighted above all policies are regularly reviewed and subject to full committee scrutiny. All policies relating to research integrity will be reviewed and presented to committees early in 2025-26.

2D. Case study on good practice (optional)

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of 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 Named Person for allegations of research misconduct is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rosie Scott-Ward, Rosie.Scott-Ward@hartpurv.ac.uk. Advice in relation to research policies, integrity and research misconduct is available from the Pro Vice Chancellor (Education, Research and Knowledge Exchange), Prof Stephen Draper, Stephen.Draper@hartpurv.ac.uk.

The key policies and guidance related to research governance and conduct with the date of issue / adoption of the current versions are listed below:

- Code of Practice for Research (November 2025 v.3)
- Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research (November 2025 v.3)
- Research Governance Standard Operating Procedures (November 2025 v.2)
- Intellectual Property Policy (November 2025 v.4)
- Code of Professional Conduct (June 2025)
- Financial Regulations (May 2025)
- Public Interest Disclosure Procedure ('Whistle Blowing') (January 2024)

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.

The University creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct by embedding relevant procedures and policies including discussion of sector developments and emerging issues within induction and annual research integrity updates. This includes signposting of key contacts who can provide informal guidance in matters relating to research governance and misconduct.

3B. Information on investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken

Type of allegation	Number of allegations			
	Number of allegations reported to the organisation	Number of formal investigations	Number upheld in part after formal investigation	Number upheld in full after formal investigation
Fabrication	0	0	0	0
Falsification	0	0	0	0
Plagiarism	0	0	0	0
Failure to meet legal, ethical and professional obligations	0	0	0	0
Misrepresentation (e.g. data; involvement; interests; qualification; and/or publication history)	0	0	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0	0	0
Multiple areas of concern (when received	0	0	0	0

in a single allegation)				
<i>Other*</i>	0	0	0	0
Total:	0	0	0	0
*If you listed any allegations under the ‘Other’ category, please give a brief, high-level summary of their type here. Do not give any identifying or confidential information when responding.				
NA				