

Annex 1: Research role definitions

Researchers

The Concordat uses the following definition of researchers, which can be used for the purposes of this Code of Conduct:

'Researchers: Following the UK Research Integrity Office Code of practice for research (2009), 'researchers' are defined as any people who conduct research, including but not limited to: as an employee; as an independent contractor or consultant; as a research student; as a visiting or emeritus member of staff; or as a member of staff on a joint clinical or honorary contract'

UWE Bristol regards anyone conducting research at, or under the auspices of, UWE Bristol as covered by this Code of Conduct. This includes research and professional services staff and students at any level. Whilst specific UWE Bristol procedures may differ between students and staff, the requirements necessary for good research practice apply to all. Visiting researchers (including both staff and students) are expected to comply with this Code of Conduct.

Research

The Concordat uses the following definition of research, which can be used for the purposes of this Code of Conduct:

'a process of investigation leading to new insights, effectively shared... It includes work of direct relevance to the needs of commerce, industry, and to the public and voluntary sectors; scholarship; the invention and generation of ideas, images, performances, artefacts including design, where these lead to new or substantially improved insights; and the use of existing knowledge in experimental development to produce new or substantially improved materials, devices, products and processes, including design and construction'

This document relates to all who are conducting research under the auspices of UWE Bristol. It is the activity, research, rather than the characterisation of the person doing it (the various kinds of research staff and students) that is the core underpinning of the code.

Student

Students for the purposes of this document are all students conducting research, including undergraduate, masters and postgraduate level. Students are 'researchers' when conducting research, and this includes research projects as part of taught courses, or research conducted as part of a placement.

Supervisor

Supervisor refers to the member of staff with given responsibility for the management of a student's research. For taught courses, this will usually be the student research Supervisor (who has ultimate responsibility for the management of the research conduct of the student), although the Module or Programme Leader also has a role to play in setting the framework for the module. For MPhil/PhD students, the Director of Studies has overall responsibility, but other named supervisors will also play a role. As students are in a training position, it is the responsibility of the

student research Supervisor to ensure that students are given effective training, support and monitoring to assure good research practice.

Visiting academics

All research conducted at or under the auspices of UWE Bristol is covered by this Code of Conduct. This means that visiting academics and students will be expected to comply with UWE Bristol requirements in relation to good research practice.

Public Research Partners

Where members of the public are involved as researchers in research conducted at or under the auspices of UWE Bristol, it is a requirement that they comply with the provisions of this code. Public research partners take various forms and have various roles within research projects, and could include patients, potential patients, carers and people who use health and social care services as well as people from organisations that represent people who use services. A further guidance note will be produced (2015) to set out the arrangements for such involvement at UWE Bristol.

Terminology used to describe the lead investigator

Various terms are used to describe the lead investigator in a research project, with different implied responsibilities. The following are some common terms.

Project Manager: All UWE Bristol research, whether internally or externally funded, must have a Project Manager, who is responsible for the conduct of the research, and within UWE Bristol, this person will normally be the Principal Investigator or lead applicant. For research led by a collaborating institution, there still needs to be a UWE Bristol Project Manager to lead for the University in relation to the project. For student research, the Project Manager is the Director of Studies (MPhil/PhD) or student research Supervisor (taught course research). For research conducted as part of personal research and scholarship, this is the individual researcher undertaking this activity.

Principal Investigator: This term is often used by funding bodies (who also sometimes use 'Lead applicant'), and this person will be the first named applicant on a research application, and will be expected to take overall responsibility for the research. This term is also used, in a different way, by the Department of Health Research Governance Framework to describe the person responsible for a research project at a given site.

Chief Investigator: This is the term used by the Department of Health Research Governance Framework to describe the person with overall responsibility for a research project. In multi-site projects, there may also be Principal Investigators at individual sites. This would not normally be a student.

Research Support Staff: Researchers are supported in conducting research by a range of research support staff, both project specific and university central support teams, including Professional Services and Technical Support staff. Research support staff are expected to observe high standards of integrity in their work.