

## 2. GOOD RESEARCH CONDUCT

### 2.1 Terminology - integrity, good research conduct, good research practice and research misconduct

This Code uses the following meanings. Research integrity is what we are trying to achieve. Good research practice is what we do to achieve integrity in our research (and is outlined in more detail below at 2.2). Good research conduct is demonstrated when our research practice is of a sufficiently high standard to ensure that integrity is upheld. Research misconduct, as defined in the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*, is behaviour or actions that fall short of the standards of ethics, research and scholarship required to ensure that the integrity of research is upheld. Research governance is the framing within which we manage research to ensure research integrity is achieved. This framing includes principles, legal and regulatory provisions, standards of good practice, policies, guidance, systems, management and supervision; and spans institutions and in some cases national boundaries.

### 2.2 What is good research practice?

2.2.1 The *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* sets out a comprehensive national framework for good research conduct and its governance. Good research practice is defined by the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity* as research which is conducted to the highest standards of rigour and integrity.

The core elements are set out as:

- **Honesty** in all aspects of research, including in the presentation of research goals, intentions and findings; in reporting on research methods and procedures; in gathering data; in using and acknowledging the work of other researchers; and in conveying valid interpretations and making justifiable claims based on research findings.
- **Rigour**, in line with prevailing disciplinary norms and standards: in performing research and using appropriate methods; in adhering to an agreed protocol where appropriate; in drawing interpretations and conclusions from the research; and in communicating the results.
- **Transparency and open communication** in declaring conflicts of interest; in the reporting of research data collection methods; in the analysis and interpretation of data; in making research findings widely available, which includes sharing negative results as appropriate; and in presenting the work to other researchers and to the general public.
- **Care and respect** for all participants in and subjects of research, including humans, animals, the environment and cultural objects. Those engaged with research must also show care and respect for the stewardship of research and scholarship for future generations.

2.2.2 The *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*, published in July 2012, is signed by a number of key research funders, including HEFCE and the Research Councils. The Concordat sets out expectations of the signatories in relation to good research conduct, and compliance is a condition of research funding from those organisations. The expectations set out in the Concordat are the broadly accepted standards against which universities and researchers should judge research integrity, and is therefore a fundamentally important document for all researchers. Staff and students engaged in research are expected to familiarise themselves with the Concordat which can be found at:  
<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Documents/2012/TheConcordatToSupportResearchIntegrity.pdf>

### 2.3 Why is good research practice important?

Research integrity underpins the value of research. As stated in the foreword on page 5 of the Concordat, 'Excellence and integrity are inextricably linked'. Good research practice has a direct impact on the quality of research, and on its value to those who might use it and therefore the impact it may have. Demonstrable research excellence goes hand in hand with demonstrable excellence in research practice and processes. Together, these contribute to the reputation of both researchers and the University. Good research practice also contributes to public trust in research, and protects research participants and those otherwise affected by research processes and outcomes; it also ensures that the best possible value is obtained from research funding. UWE Bristol places the highest possible emphasis on integrity and excellence in research practice. This is also a matter of compliance with key funder requirements, without which the University would be unable to receive research funds from funders who are signatories to the Concordat.