

Ethics Annual Statement 2021-22

Named point of contact for more information on matters of research ethics and integrity: Professor Emile Bojesen (Director of Research and Innovation)

Named point of contact to act as confidential liaison for whistle-blowers or any person wishing to raise concerns about the ethics of research practice: Dr Samantha Scallan (Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee)

Practice and procedures concerning research ethics are overseen by the University Research Ethics Committee (UREC) which reports to Senate Research and Innovation Committee. Over the last academic year, UREC has continued to strengthen understanding and application of research ethics across the University through:

- Monitoring of the research ethics policy, taking account of research practice and integrity aligned to the *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*;
- Monthly virtual open meetings for academic and professional services staff undertaking research and evaluation;
- Targeted training for doctoral students and supervisors via virtual workshop sessions throughout the year;
- Training by request tailored to particular needs, for example masters dissertation expectations and processes; and
- The continued building of strong links between the Chair of the UREC, the Head of the Winchester Doctoral School and those within the Faculties with responsibility for ethics.

The institution is well placed to deal with any allegations of research misconduct to ensure they are investigated in a transparent, timely, robust and fair manner. The processes are detailed in the RKE Ethics Policy alongside examples of what actions may constitute misconduct. The University displays the contact name and details to whom any allegations of research misconduct should be addressed, reiterated in the RKE Ethics Policy.

No formal investigations of research misconduct were undertaken in 2021-22.

As a small university with a strong sense of community, the University seeks to create an environment in which all feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct, based on a moral imperative. This moral imperative to act appropriately is founded in our mission as a values-based university. Where students and researchers are not comfortable in approaching the named contacts, we remain open to receiving information via a colleague they feel to be a more appropriate confidante.