Hartpury University
Research Integrity Statement

1. The mission of Hartpury is to be a specialist niche provider delivering relevant, effective and high-quality education, training for employment and applied research in sport, equine, animal and agricultural industries; locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

2. The University is committed to undertaking high quality research in an environment of high standards of research integrity, governance and good practice. We seek to operate an open research environment, enabling access to, and sharing and replication of our research.

3. The purpose of the University's research governance is to ensure that all research, undertaken by staff, students or any others acting on behalf of or under the aegis of the University, is carried out to the highest standards and that all researchers uphold the principles set out in the 2019 Universities UK Concordat to Support Research Integrity:

    • Upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research.
    • Ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards.
    • Supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice and support for the development of researchers.
    • Using transparent, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct should they arise.
    • Working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

4. As part of the University's commitment to this Concordat, the University produces an Annual Research Integrity Report to Academic Board and Corporation, which is also made public.

5. Overall responsibility for maintaining the highest standards of research integrity at the University rests with the Dean of Research and Knowledge Exchange, Prof. Stephen Draper, Stephen.Draper@hartpury.ac.uk.

6. Our 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 Code also includes commitments that the University will:

i) Maintain a research environment that develops good research practice and embeds a culture of research integrity, enabling researchers to act according to the expected standards, values and behaviours.

ii) Provide training on research ethics and research integrity with suitable learning, training and mentoring opportunities to support the development of researchers' skills throughout their careers.

iii) Seek to ensure sustainability of its research, be that economic, environmental, academic, human, animal, physical or digital, in line with its commitment to the climate commission[1].

iv) Publish an annual statement on research integrity.

v) Periodically review research practice and culture to ensure that practice remains fit for purpose.

Russell Marchant
Vice-Chancellor

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[1] https://www.eauc.org.uk/climate_commission;
https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/news/2019/11/hartpury-joins-efforts-to-tackle-global-crisis-as-member-of-new-climate-commission/

Hartpury University
Research Integrity Annual Report
2019-20

A. Actions and Activities Related to Research Integrity

1.

As a new University, 2019-20 was an intense period of activity to further develop our procedures and put additional training in place. We created both the Hartpury Code of Research Practice and the Procedure to Investigate Allegations of Research Practice. As aspects of our research integrity policies also apply to the broader organisation (subsidiary Further Education College and Commercial) these policies were referred (following approval from Academic Board) to Hartpury Executive and are approved across all parts of the organisation. We also updated and strengthened our Intellectual Property Policy. In all policies, we have been careful to ensure that there are no conflicts with the policies of the University of the West of England, as they are our research degree provider.

We have provided research integrity training for all academic staff and research students through a compulsory online training event. We have also agreed that all post-graduate students (taught and research) will receive research integrity training as part of their induction to Hartpury. Alongside these training events specific training was delivered (by the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee) on the research ethics processes and scenario-based training on key concepts. A particular area of discussion this year has been on the use of survey software and data protection.

The Research Ethics committee received 79 applications in 2019-20, of which 46 were returned for further work or clarification and one was rejected outright. Through this process, 71 applications were successful (90%).

As reported below, there were no alleged cases of research misconduct. However, we found that a staff member that had recently left our employment appeared to have a duplicate publication in two published journals. Since this alleged misconduct had occurred prior to employment with Hartpury (affiliated with another UK university) and since they were no longer employed with us, this was handled by reporting the incident to the editors of both of the journals concerned and the Vice Chancellor of the university of affiliation.

B. Handling of Allegations of Research Misconduct

1. 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.

2. The Named Person for allegations of research misconduct is the Pro 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 Dean of Research and Knowledge Exchange, Prof Stephen Draper, Stephen.Draper@hartpury.ac.uk.

3. 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.

C.   Formal Investigations of Allegations of Research Misconduct

1.   During the year, 2019-20 no allegations of research misconduct were received. Their progress is shown in the table below.

	19/20
Total number received; of which:	0
Currently under initial consideration	0
Referred to a different policy / process after initial consideration	0
Dismissed as not being research misconduct	0
Currently under Preliminary Investigation	0
Addressed through education and training after the Preliminary Investigation	0
Referred to a different policy / process after the Preliminary Investigation	0
Dismissed after the Preliminary Investigation	0
Currently under Formal Investigation	0
Completed the Formal Investigation	0

2.   No formal investigations were completed in 19/20, with none upheld in full or in part.

	Number of formal investigations completed (academic year*) 19/20	Number of allegations upheld - in full or in part (academic year*) 19/20
Fabrication	0	0
Falsification	0	0
Plagiarism	0	0
Misrepresentation	0	0
Breach of duty of care	0	0
Improper dealing with allegations of misconduct	0	0
Other (specified below)	0	0
Details of any allegations upheld in part	0	0
Total	**0**	**0**

Academic year – 1 September to 31st August

D.   Lessons from Formal Investigations of Allegations of Research Misconduct

1.   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.

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

1.   The research at the University takes place in the context of its academic structure of Departments and Research Centres. 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.

2. 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.

3. The University's policies and guidance relevant to research, its governance and its integrity are available from the https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/about-us/governance-and-policies/policies-regulation-and-information/ web page. University policies applicable to wider matters of institutional governance are available from the https://www.hartpury.ac.uk/about-us/governance-and-policies/policies-regulation-and-information/ web page. The key policies and guidance, and the date of issue / adoption of the current version are:

    *   Code of Practice for Research (June 2020)
    *   Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research (June 2020)
    *   Intellectual Property Policy (January 2020)
    *   Code of Professional Conduct (May 2020)
    *   Financial Regulations (date)
    *   Public Interest Disclosure Procedure ('Whistle Blowing') (May 2020)

4. 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.

5. As already noted, the University has a 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.

6. 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.