

Annual statement on Research Integrity

Section 1: Key contact information

Question	Response
1A. Name of organisation	University of the Built Environment (From June 2025, University of the Built Environment will be a trading name for University College of Estate Management (UCEM) until all legal and Privy Council (this relates to the Royal Charter) matters have been completed. This may take up to a year – see Announcement of new name - University of the Built Environment and Brand FAQs - University of the Built Environment)
1B. Type of organisation: higher education institution/industry/independent research performing organisation/other (please state)	We are a Higher Education Provider registered with the Office for Students UKPRN 10008173. Founded in 1919, incorporated by Royal Charter (RC000125) on 22 August 1922 and has been a registered independent charitable institution (Registered Charity Number 313223) in England and Wales since 24 May 1963.
1C. Date statement approved by governing body (DD/MM/YY)	18/09/2025
1D. Web address of organisation's research integrity page (if applicable)	Concordat to Support Research Integrity - University of the Built Environment

1E. Named senior member of staff to oversee research integrity	Name: Professor Angela Lee
	Email address: a.lee@ube.ac.uk
1F. Named member of staff who will act as a first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity	Name: Dr Jaydene Witchell
	Email address: research@ube.ac.uk

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

Please describe how the organisation maintains high standards of research integrity and promotes positive research culture. It should include information on the support provided to researchers to understand standards, values and behaviours, such as training, support and guidance for researchers at different career stages/ disciplines. You may find it helpful to consider the following broad headings:

- Policies and systems
- Communications and engagement
- Culture, development and leadership
- Monitoring and reporting

The University of the Built Environment is committed to conducting excellent research with integrity. We promote individual accountability for good research practice and support this through clear policies, robust processes, and a culture grounded in transparency, respect, honesty, and rigour.

This statement affirms our commitment to upholding the principles of the Universities UK *Concordat to Support Research Integrity*. It is reviewed and approved by the University's Research Committee, followed by the Academic Board, and ultimately ratified by the Board of Trustees.

We are continuing our ambitious approach to expanding research.

We review all policies and procedures in line with the internal review schedule, and therefore under this process, the following policies and procedures have been reviewed this year:

- Research Data Management,
- Research Strategy,
- Research Misconduct Procedure
- Research Ethics Procedure (and accompanying supplementary documentations).
- Code of Practice for Research

We have also developed a number of new policies, including:

- Open Access Policy
- Plagiarism and Research Misconduct Policy – PGR
- PGR Appeals Procedure
- Academic Staff Development Policy
- Supervision Guidance and Code of Practice
- Authorship and Publication Policy

The founding basis of all of our policies promote honesty, rigour, declaring research interests, and fundamentally, care and respect for research subjects and accountability to funding bodies. As with all our policies, we circulated/re-circulated to staff and students via the appropriate communication channels, provided training and/or information sessions, and ensured they were uploaded onto our policy webpages for ease of access.

Alongside the new policies we have also strengthened our research governance with the introduction of a Research Degrees Subcommittee.

Given that the majority of our academic staff work remotely, we continue to use our internal Microsoft Teams site as a dedicated and safe space for research-related discussions. Staff actively engage with the platform to share funding and bidding opportunities, calls for papers and events, research news and successes, and to seek advice or input from colleagues. The site also hosts links to our internal Microsoft SharePoint, serving as a central repository for research-related documents.

Engagement with the platform remains strong among research-active staff. To further promote a culture of collaboration and celebration, research successes and news stories are regularly featured in our weekly online *Bulletin* newsletter, circulated to all staff.

External news stories are supported and disseminated by our marketing team.

We have also continued our monthly virtual 'research coffee mornings', which provide an informal space for colleagues to connect, exchange ideas, and explore potential collaborations. These sessions have been well attended and have already sparked new partnerships and shared projects.

Our overarching aim is to foster a supportive and inclusive research culture. All staff across the University are actively encouraged to participate and engage in research activities. To support this, staff are offered research mentoring support.

From a monitoring and reporting perspective, our Research Office oversees all research administration. This enables real-time access to data on research activity (including bidding and outputs), staff engagement (such as attendance at research events and other markers of esteem), and performance. Research activity is tracked and feeds directly into the Professional Development Review (PDR) process.

We compile this data annually to produce a Research Report for our Board of Trustees, which is also published on our website. In addition, we prepare an annual Mock REF report that summarises our current position, highlights progress and outlines the actions we are taking in preparation for our first REF submission in 2029.

The University is a member of [GuildHE](#) and [ARMA](#); and is also connected to [UKIRO](#), [UKRI](#), [Vitae](#), [UK Parliament Knowledge Exchange Unit](#) etc; so that staff stay abreast of policy changes nationally and internationally.

2B. Changes and developments during the period under review

Please provide an update on any changes made during the period, such as new initiatives, training, developments, also ongoing changes that are still underway. Drawing on Commitment 3 of the Concordat, please note any new or revised policies, practices and procedures to support researchers; training on research ethics and research integrity; training and mentoring opportunities to support the development of researchers' skills throughout their careers.

Notably, this year the University has marked two major milestones. Firstly, in May 2025, we successfully completed our merger with The London School of Architecture (LSA). Under this new relationship, the LSA will retain its name and continue to operate with its distinctive identity, now within the wider framework of the University.

By capitalising on the complementary strengths and aligned ambitions of both institutions, this strategic merger will further our shared mission to widen access to high-quality professional education and to advance a more sustainable and equitable built environment. The name 'London School of Architecture' has been retained to acknowledge the School's established reputation and innovative educational model, which is rooted in its Practice Network. The LSA will remain based at its studio on Beechwood Road in Dalston.

Secondly, after more than a century as University College of Estate Management (UCEM)—an identity shaped by our Royal Charter and our origins in 1919 as the College of Estate Management—we have embraced a new name that better reflects the breadth of our mission and impact. While the award of University College status in 2016 marked a significant step, ongoing research and consultation highlighted that the title no longer captured the scale and diversity of our work in developing skills for the built environment. In July 2025, we therefore launched our new name: University of the Built Environment. This name reflects both our vision to be *the centre of excellence for built environment education* and our expanding portfolio designed to meet the evolving needs of the sector. As the UK's only specialist university dedicated to the built environment, our new identity brings greater clarity to our purpose while remaining true to our Royal Charter.

From a research team perspective, we have been heavily involved in developing the necessary policies and processes to support research degrees.

We have also developed, and are in the process of rolling out, a conferment process for Professors and Associate Professors.

As outlined above, we have revised five policies and have developed six new policies.

We have continued to run our virtual research coffee mornings, which are attended on average, with 18 colleagues to discuss research.

Expanded Research Ethics Panel: We have broadened our Research Ethics Panel to include colleagues from safeguarding, student support, and digital education teams. Staff were invited to listen in on a session before officially joining, and one-to-one support training has been provided by the Ethics Panel Chair. This expansion has brought diverse perspectives to the scrutiny of our research ethics, proving beneficial as the new panel members have provided unique insights and comments that may have otherwise been overlooked.

2C. Reflections on progress and plans for future developments

This should include a reflection on the previous year's activity including a review of progress and impact of initiatives if known relating to activities referenced in the previous year's statement. Note any issues that have hindered progress, e.g. resourcing or other issues.

This is our third annual statement on research integrity.

We believe we are continuing to make meaningful progress in developing a strong research culture at the University. However, research activity has inevitably slowed this year, as many colleagues have been significantly engaged in preparing for the launch of research degrees. As we remain a relatively small research team, this has required a considerable collective effort.

We are aiming to launch our research degree programmes next year, marking a significant milestone in our development as a research-active institution.

2D. Case study on good practice (optional)

Please describe an anonymised brief, exemplar case study that can be shared as good practice with other organisations. A wide range of case studies are valuable, including small, local implementations. Case studies may also include the impact of implementations or lessons learned.

As part of its broader ambition to launch research degrees, the University of the Built Environment has undertaken the process of identifying a collaborative partner and developing a comprehensive set of policies and procedures. A cross-functional internal team—drawn from across the university—has played a key role in ensuring that these policies are both aligned with institutional priorities and meet the requirements of the collaborative partner. This partnership is expected to bring further benefits by expanding the university's research network and fostering engagement with other research centres already working with the collaborative partner.

In addition, the University's recent merger with the London School of Architecture will significantly strengthen its subject expertise, expanding opportunities for interdisciplinary research and enhancing its capacity to address global challenges in the built environment.

Section 3: Addressing research misconduct

3A. Statement on processes that the organisation has in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

Please provide:

- a brief summary of relevant organisation policies/ processes (e.g. research misconduct procedure, whistle-blowing policy, bullying/harassment policy; appointment of a third party to act as confidential liaison for persons wishing to raise concerns) and brief information on the periodic review of research misconduct processes (e.g. date of last review; any major changes during the period under review; date when processes will next be reviewed).
- information on how the organisation creates and embeds a research environment in which all staff, researchers and students feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct (e.g. code of practice for research, whistle-blowing, research misconduct procedure, informal liaison process, website signposting for reporting systems, training, mentoring, reflection and evaluation of policies, practices and procedures).
- anonymised key lessons learned from any investigations into allegations of misconduct which either identified opportunities for improvements in the organisation's investigation procedure and/or related policies / processes/ culture or which showed that they were working well.

The University of the Built Environment's [Research Misconduct](#) procedure sets forth the expected standards for good research conduct and informs members of the University about activities or behaviours that constitute research misconduct. The Policy outlines the process for making and managing allegations of research misconduct, detailing how such matters will be addressed when research conduct falls short of the expected standards. Formally approved in September 2023, our procedure has been adapted from the UK Research Integrity Office's (UKRIO) 2023 Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research. The definitions of research misconduct are aligned with UKRIO's [Concordat to Support Research Integrity](#), including a formal investigation stage with external membership and an appeals stage. The procedure features several appendices that provide additional guidance for conducting investigations that cross institutional and national boundaries, as well as potential actions that may result from these investigations. Additionally, we have other policies to support research integrity (such as Data Management and Authorship and Publication), which can be found via at the end of our research webpage [Research - University of the Built Environment](#).

Overall responsibility for research integrity, governance and academic ethics sits with the Associate Dean (Research) and may be addressed as the first point of contact on research integrity matters. The Associate Dean (Research) is also the Named Person for reports of allegations of misconduct in research, with contact details available on the University's public and intranet websites.

We have existing policies and procedures in place for whistleblowing and bullying/harassment, with clear guidance on how these policies interrelate. For instance, allegations of research misconduct made under the Whistleblowing Policy will be investigated under the Research Misconduct Procedure.

Given the relatively small number of research projects to date, there have been no reported instances of misconduct.

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

Please complete the table on the number of **formal investigations completed during the period under review** (including investigations which completed during this period but started in a previous academic year). Information from ongoing investigations should not be submitted.

An organisation's procedure may include an initial, preliminary, or screening stage to determine whether a formal investigation needs to be completed. These allegations should be included in the first column but only those that proceeded past this stage, to formal investigations, should be included in the second column.

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 (eg 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 in a single allegation)	0	0	0	0
<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.				
N/A				