

Research Guidance Note 7

Research misconduct

Edinburgh Napier University is committed to promoting high standards of ethical practice by all our staff and students undertaking research. Any allegations of research misconduct will be investigated thoroughly, fairly, and in a timely manner.

The UK Research Integrity Office defines misconduct in research²⁴ as including, but not limited to:

- a) fabrication
- b) falsification
- c) misrepresentation of data and/or interests and/or involvement
- d) plagiarism
- e) failure to follow accepted procedures or to exercise due care in carrying out responsibilities for:
 - i. avoiding unreasonable risk or harm to:
 - humans
 - animals used in research
 - the environment
 - ii. the proper handling of privileged or private information on individuals collected during the research.

Researchers should be aware that failure to gain institutional approval for their projects before beginning data collection, or failure to observe any conditions set by those bodies which have considered the proposal (either within the University

²⁴ The UK Research Integrity Office 'Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research' (2008). Available at <http://www.ukrio.org/wp-content/uploads/UKRIO-Procedure-for-the-Investigation-of-Misconduct-in-Research.pdf> [last accessed December 2015]

or externally such as a NHS ethics committee) may constitute a disciplinary offence.

Allegations of research misconduct will be initially investigated by the University Research Integrity Committee following agreed misconduct investigation procedures (<https://staff.napier.ac.uk/services/research-innovation-office/policies/Documents/University%20Research%20Misconduct%20Policy.pdf>). Any cases of misconduct by a member of staff would then be dealt with under the Staff Disciplinary Policy.

Allegations of research misconduct by a research student will be considered a matter of Academic Misconduct and would therefore be subject to investigation under the Student Disciplinary and Fitness to Practise Regulations.