

Research Integrity Annual Statement 2023-24

Goldsmiths is a signatory to the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (rev. 2019) and this annual statement reports on the progress being made in maintaining high standards of research integrity and promoting a positive research culture within the university.

This public statement is intended to provide assurance that as a university we are responsible for:

- supporting and strengthening understanding and application of research ethics and integrity issues in research at all levels across the university
- developing, implementing and maintaining processes to manage and investigate allegations of misconduct that are transparent, robust, fair, and fit for purpose
- reporting on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken during this year, and on lessons learned from these investigations

This statement covers the period October 2023 to September 2024.

Supporting and strengthening understanding and application of research integrity issues

We are committed to fostering a research culture that values responsible research practices and demonstrates those values through our individual and collective behaviours. We continue to increase understanding of research integrity in our own environment through training, practice sharing, and improving access to quality guidance resources. Reflecting on lessons learned from internal initiatives and discipline-responsive challenges, in 2023-24 we proactively sought opportunities to contribute our learning to wider sectoral discussions and industry-level research integrity initiatives.

Over the past year, we worked to increase engagement with expanded research ethics and integrity training opportunities. On-demand training was actively shared with researchers across the academic year. All PhD students and academic staff have access to easily navigable training on responsible research practices, which can be referred back to as projects develop or questions arise. This training was complemented by thematic training events facilitated by UKRIO, which we actively promoted through internal research communications and interfaced with our researcher development calendar. Further training on integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion into research development situated research

ethics and responsible research practices as structural access points for enacting EDI values through an ethical lens of behaviours and micro decision-making.

To enhance researcher understanding of policy and best practices, we developed user-friendly resources on topics such as data protection, and the use of artificial intelligence in research. In order to ensure that our research community is aware of the policies and resources available, we improved signposting and facilitated one-click access to reporting research misconduct instructions from our Researcher Development Hub.

We furthermore engaged with UKRIO and other specialist institutions towards initiating a cross-sector dialogue and practice sharing event. By contributing insights, drawing on our unique disciplinary mix and extensive experience in practice research, to discussions around the limitations of existing frameworks, we hope to make the responsible research agenda more inclusive and adaptive to the needs of a broader range of researchers.

The year continued with other industry engagements, including training pilots, ethics-review software development, and the scoping of future research ethics and integrity training courses. Our researchers participated in UKRIO's pilot research integrity training, providing feedback from the perspective and experience of arts, humanities, and social science researchers. Reflecting on lessons learned from our local context, we also proactively sought out opportunities to collaboratively improve functionality and content of cross-sector research software platforms used to support responsible research. We continue to work closely with industry colleagues from companies such as Worktribe and Epigeum to further develop content and system capacity for a wider range of researchers and project types.

Processes in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct

Goldsmiths' [policy and procedure for investigating and resolving allegations of misconduct in academic research](#) closely follows the UK Research Integrity Office's model and were developed with advice from UKRIO. The Chair of Goldsmiths' Research Ethics Sub-Committee (RESC), currently Dr Panagiotis Pentaris, acts as the first point of contact for anyone wanting more information on matters of research integrity and as a confidential liaison for whistle-blowers or anyone else wishing to raise concerns about research integrity.

At all levels, there has been an emphasis on enabling staff and students to feel comfortable about reporting instances of misconduct. This is reflected in Goldsmiths' investigation procedure which includes the facility for an allegation to be made by an intermediary where the individual has reservations about making an allegation directly. The facility is clearly communicated to our academic community through existing policy, internal sites and trainings events.

Formal investigations of research misconduct

In 2023-24 there were no allegations of research misconduct requiring formal investigation.