

# Research Integrity Annual Statement 2020-21

Goldsmiths is a signatory to The Concordat to Support Research Integrity (rev. 2019) and this sixth annual statement reports on the progress being made in creating a culture of integrity in research at all levels.

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
- having processes to manage and investigate allegations of misconduct that are transparent, robust and 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 2020 to September 2021.

## **Supporting and strengthening understanding and application of research integrity issues**

In line with the actions identified in last year's annual statement, this academic year we have continued to make clarity of procedures and communication one of our top priorities. This was particularly important as we continued to move through Covid-19 phases and a significant degree of uncertainty remained about the kind of research activities that were possible. Guidelines for carrying out research during the pandemic were produced (Covid Guidance for Research Ethics, October 2020). These were communicated to academic staff and students via our website (<https://www.gold.ac.uk/research/governance>) together with other resources, in particular the [\*Recommended Checklist for Research Communities in a Pandemic\*](#) produced by UKRIO.

Throughout the academic year we continued to communicate with Departmental Research Ethics and Integrity Leads, regarding especially privacy and data protection issues in the context of practice research.

Our programme of communication about research integrity awareness raising included two 'Research Ethics and Integrity' training events for staff and PGR students with contributions from the Chief Executive of the UK Research and Integrity Office and from a member of REISC who is an early career researcher. In this way we extended the Committee's influence across all career stages and strengthened the links between matters of external and internal research governance. These two events took place online on 25<sup>th</sup> January and 22<sup>nd</sup> March; they were over-subscribed and well-attended (32 and 26 participants respectively). The attendance reflects a good level of awareness on matters of research ethics and integrity on the part of Goldsmiths staff and students.

Worktribe, the new research management tool, was implemented during 2020-21. Since May ethical approval for academic staff has been managed through this online system. User guides have been produced and made available to all members of academic staff. We have so far received positive feedback on the new application system. We continue to monitor its implementation in order to reflect on the guidance provided to staff on how it should be used. Further training events on its use will be organised during 2021-22.

Ethical approval applications related to research projects led by undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD students continue to be managed by relevant academic departments. Oversight is provided by REISC.

Research integrity continues to be highlighted in postgraduate and supervisor training, and this will be extended in 2020/21.

The appointment of a new PGR student representative on REISC from October 2021 will further enhance communication on research ethics and integrity matters between the Graduate School and REISC through voicing students' ideas and creating a means of channelling to research students the College's discussions and policies on research ethics and integrity.

## **Processes in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct**

A revised Research Misconduct Procedure was approved by Academic Board and adopted during the year (<https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/research/Research-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf>). This closely follows the UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research, with advice from UKRIO. We believe this revised procedure is entirely appropriate to the needs of Goldsmiths and its particular subject mix.

## **Formal investigations of research misconduct**

There have been no allegations requiring formal investigation of research misconduct in 2020-2021.

## **The research environment**

At all levels there has been an emphasis on enabling staff, researchers and students to feel comfortable about reporting instances of misconduct. This is strongly underlined in Goldsmiths' investigation procedure (including the facility for an allegation to be made by an intermediary where the individual has reservations about making an allegation directly). This emphasis has been passed on via websites and documentation (<https://www.gold.ac.uk/media/docs/research/Research-Misconduct-Procedure.pdf>).

Reviewed by Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee, 18 September 2021

Reviewed by Research and Enterprise Committee, 22 September 2021

Approved by Academic Board, 30 September 2021

Reported to Council, 7 October 2021