

# Research Integrity

## Annual Statement 2018/19

Goldsmiths is a signatory to The Concordat to Support Research Integrity and this fifth 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

The reporting period has been amended to end in September; this statement therefore covers the period June 2018 to September 2019.

## 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 has been one of thorough review across all of our procedures and communications. To this end, we invited our internal auditor (KPMG) to conduct a formal review in the second half of 2018. The report was considered by a range of relevant committees across the institution, in itself heightening awareness of research integrity issues. As well as confirming our existing action points and providing valuable advice in taking these forward, the review raised queries about reporting and communication that have usefully informed our approach.

Communication. A programme of enhanced communication about research integrity has been put in place, including awareness raising via the Research Ethics and Integrity leads in each department, enhanced internal and external websites (ongoing), a bulletin in Research News, and four training seminars for staff and postgraduate students (one led by the Chief Executive of the UK Research and Integrity Office). Research integrity continues to be highlighted in postgraduate and supervisor training, and this will be extended in 2019/20.

Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-committee. The post of Deputy Chair has been created as alternate to the Chair in handling cases of research misconduct. A place for an early career researcher has been created (in fact, two were appointed).

Ethical approval for staff research. The process and approval form have been thoroughly overhauled.

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

While we are confident that the current procedure for investigating allegations of misconduct is transparent, robust and fair, it has now come up for renewal. We are currently in the final stages of a thorough revision to the procedure, in which we are closely following the UKRIO Procedure for the Investigation of Misconduct in Research (currently itself under revision) with advice from UKRIO. We believe this will be entirely appropriate to the needs of Goldsmiths and its particular subject mix.

## **Formal investigations of research misconduct**

Two allegations have been received between June 2018 and September 2019: (i) relating to a PhD student and their supervision (under investigation) (ii) relating to a staff project (a Formal Investigation, which concluded that the allegation should not be upheld).

## **Lessons learned from formal investigations**

It is too early to report on the lessons learned from the two cases, but the measures described above (in particular, greater clarity as to responsibilities between department and central administration) should serve to prevent the same type of incident re-occurring.

## **The research environment**

At all levels there is emphasis on enabling staff, researchers and students to feel comfortable to report instances of misconduct. This is strongly emphasised in the new investigation procedure (including the facility for an allegation to be made by an intermediary where the individual has reservations about making an allegation directly). Such an emphasis will be passed on via websites and documentation.

Reviewed by Research Ethics and Integrity Sub-Committee, 10 October 2019

Reviewed by Research and Enterprise Committee, 23 October 2019

Approved by Academic Board, 13 November 2019

Reported to Council, 20 November 2019