

Statement on Research Integrity, 2014/15

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity states the following:

Employers of researchers already take steps to ensure that their environment promotes and nurtures a commitment to research integrity, and that suitable processes are in place to deal with misconduct. It is important that these efforts continue to be suitable and that they are communicated more effectively, and that the same high standards apply to all. The concordat therefore recommends that employers of researchers should present a short annual statement to their own governing body that:

- *provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues (for example postgraduate and researcher training, or process reviews)*
- *provides assurances that the processes they have in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct are transparent, robust and fair, and that they continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation*
- *provides a high-level statement on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken*
- *To improve accountability, and provide assurances that measures being taken continue to support consistently high standards of research integrity, this statement should be made publicly available.*

The following is an excerpt of the report to the UAL Audit Committee:

3. Research staff

- 3.1 No allegations of research misconduct were made against UAL staff in 2014/15.
- 3.2 Staff development sessions on Research Governance and Integrity were delivered as part of the 'Research as Academic Practice' unit of UAL's MA Academic Practice in Art, Design and Communication course for academic staff.
- 3.3 Research Ethics Sub-Committee examined processes for approving research ethics on undergraduate and postgraduate taught degrees. Four seminars on Research Ethics were held as part of UAL's Research Fortnight in March 2015.
- 3.4 The Concordat Working Group (a sub-group of Research Standards and Development Committee) reviewed the University's Codes of practice and procedures for Research Integrity in October 2015.
 - UAL Code of Good Conduct in Research
 - UAL Procedure for the Investigation of allegations of misconduct in Research
 - UAL Code of Practice on Research Ethics
- 3.5 The Concordat Working group identified minor amendments for the above documents to ensure they are current (regarding changed titles and hyperlinks) and agreed that 'Open Access' for research outputs should be added to the Principle of 'Openness' in the Code

of Good Conduct in Research. These amendments have been completed.

3.6 The University's Codes, procedures and practices for research integrity are fit for purpose.

4 Research Degree students

4.1 235 students were enrolled on the research degrees programme in 2014-15. Less than 1% of students were withdrawn for lack of progress or other reason.

4.2 Research degree students continued to be trained in research integrity issues as part of the RNUAL programme and in completing applications for research ethics approval.