

## **Statement on Research Integrity, 2017/18**

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 formal allegations of research misconduct were made against UAL staff in 2017/18.
- 3.2 The programme of research training for UAL Early Career Researchers (ECRs) included staff development on Research Governance and Integrity. Sessions on Research Governance and Integrity were also 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.

### **4 Research Degree students**

- 4.1 258 students were enrolled on the research degrees programme in 2017/18 No students were withdrawn due to lack of progress, less than of students 2% were withdrawn for other reasons.
- 4.2 Research degree students continued to be trained in research integrity issues and in completing applications for research ethics approval as part of the Research Network University of the Arts London (RNUAL) training programme.
- 4.3 One appeal was received from research degree students in 2017/18:

- In the 2016/17 academic year one student in a partner college (Norwich University of Arts) was examined for the award of PhD and the decision of the examiners was that the student should receive the award of MPhil. This appeal was not upheld at 1<sup>st</sup> stage, a 2<sup>nd</sup> stage appeal was rejected by the UAL appeals unit and the student has appealed against the rejection of the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage appeal. In Sept 2017 the UAL appeals committee upheld the students appeal on grounds of material irregularity and recommended that the student be permitted to receive supervision and resubmit, as if for the first time, with two different examiners. The student was examined in June 2018 and passed with minor amendments.

4.6 The University's procedure for student appeals and complaints is fit for purpose.

## **5 Research Integrity Codes, Policies and Procedures**

5.1 Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research has been updated to reflect the Dean of Research is now also Director of RMA.

5.2 Malcolm Quinn has stepped down as Chair of the University Research Ethics Sub Committee. The chair of URC has approved the appointment of co-Chairs Lorraine Gammon and Lucy Kimbell from 2018/19.

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

- UAL Code of Practice on Research Ethics
- UAL Code of Good Conduct in Research
- UAL Procedure for the Investigation of Allegations of Misconduct in Research