

ual:

TO NOTE

Audit Committee
17 September 2019

Agenda Item x
***Private and Confidential**

ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/19

**Report by the Deputy Director of Research
Management and Administration**

1. Executive Summary and Recommendation

- 1.1 The report provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues. It also provides assurances that UAL's Codes, procedures and practices for research integrity continue to be appropriate to the needs of the University.
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to note the report.

2. Background

- 2.1 Concordat to support Research Integrity Commitment #5:
We are committed to working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.
- 2.2 *Employers of researchers also need to be confident that the procedures and practices they have in place are robust. Given the changing nature of concerns relating to research integrity and the emergence of new types of research, it is important that employers periodically review their processes to ensure that they remain 'fit for purpose'.*

3. Research staff

- 3.1 No formal allegations of research misconduct were made against UAL staff in 2018/19.
- 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

4.1 255 students were enrolled on the research degree programme in 2018/19. No students were withdrawn due to lack of progress. Less than 6% of students withdrew for other reasons. This increase above the 2 % withdrawal rate for 2017/18 is due to a number of students on long-term suspension deciding to withdraw.

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 Four complaints were received in 2018/19

A student from LCC submitted a 1st stage complaint stating that a change in supervision had taken time to put into effect and that access to resources had not been sufficient. The complaint was partially upheld as it was acknowledged that there had been a gap in supervision while an appropriate revised team was put into place. The student received some fee remuneration. The resources required were beyond those available to PGR students at UAL so this element of the appeal was not upheld. The student received fee remuneration for the time taken to resolve supervisory issues and accepted the outcome of the 1st stage appeal.

A student from LCF submitted a 1st stage complaint stating supervision had not been adequate for a period of time, that ill-health had not been taken into account and that some members of College Research Degrees Sub-Committee were not qualified. The complaint was partially upheld as there had been a gap in supervision but the ill-health had not been declared by the student so supervisors were not in a position to consider it and members of the LCF CRDSC are all qualified. The student received a fee remuneration for the time taken to resolve supervisory issues and accepted the outcome of the 1st stage appeal.

A student from LCC submitted a 1st stage complaint stating that ill-health and disability had not been taken into consideration by supervisors. The complaint was not upheld as the student had not declared the circumstances. The student went on to submit a 2nd stage complaint which was not accepted for investigation as no new material was submitted.

One first stage LCF complaint was withdrawn by the student.

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

5 Research Integrity Codes, Policies and Procedures

5.1 Lorraine Gamman and Lucy Kimbell stepped down as Co-Chairs of the University Research Ethics Sub Committee at the end of 2018/19. Felicity Colman, Associate Dean for Research (ADR) at LCF is acting Chair until University Research Committee (URC) confirm appointment of a new Chair at the first meeting of the academic term on Oct 16th.

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