ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2020/21

Report by Director, Research Management and Administration

1. Summary

University of the Arts London is committed to the principles set out in the revised Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2019). There are five commitments outlined in the Concordat:

1. Upholding the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research
2. Ensuring that research is conducted according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks, obligations and standards
3. Supporting a research environment that is underpinned by a culture of integrity and based on good governance, best practice, and support for the development of researchers
4. Using transparent, timely, robust and fair processes to deal with allegations of research misconduct when they arise
5. Working together to strengthen the integrity of research and to reviewing progress regularly and openly.

Under Commitment 5 of the Concordat the University agrees to produce an annual statement to be reported to its governing body and subsequently made publicly available. The report provides a summary of actions and activities that have been undertaken during the 20/21 academic year to support and strengthen understanding and application of research integrity issues. It provides assurances that UAL’s codes, procedures and practices for research integrity continue to be appropriate to the needs of the University. It provides information on formal investigations of research misconduct and lessons learned, and how the University embeds a culture which
enables staff and students to report instances of research misconduct.

UAL’s Research Integrity Statements are made publicly available on the UAL website. [https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/research-standards-and-ethics](https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/research-standards-and-ethics)

2. Supporting and Strengthening Research Integrity

UAL’s Research Strategy 2015-2022 sets out UAL’s commitment to *Maintaining the highest standards of rigour and integrity in all aspects of research.*


The UAL Research Ethics Standards Committee (RESC) maintains oversight of ethical issues in research and reports to the University Research Committee. The introduction of the Knowledge Exchange Concordat will require universities to publish evidence of their approach to ethical governance of KE. As the ethical review processes established for research represent a robust and high-quality set of well-codified standards for the governance of academic ethics, in 2020 UAL’s Academic Board approved and initiated the integration of governance of academic ethical review for research and KE.

In response to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 during the academic year the University continued to review and update its guidance and processes for ethical review for both new projects and those which had already been through the review process. Monitoring of projects impacted by COVID-19 is ongoing.

The programme of research training for UAL Early Career Researchers (ECRs) includes staff development on research ethics and integrity. Sessions on research ethics and integrity are 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. Research degree students continue to be trained in research ethics and integrity issues as part of the Research Network University of the Arts London (RNUAL) training programme.

3. Research Misconduct

University of the Arts London has processes in place for dealing with allegations of misconduct which are transparent, timely, robust and fair, and continue to be appropriate to the needs of the organisation.

- 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
These policies are communicated to staff through the UAL intranet and to students through Moodle. The policies and processes are outlined in UAL’s Research Grants Policies and Procedures which are sent to all Principal/Co-Investigators, and in the UAL Research Degrees Handbook.

The contact for all matters related to research integrity, including concerns about the integrity of research conducted by UAL, is Dr Sharon Cole, Director, Research Management and Administration.

There were no formal investigations of research misconduct in 2020/21.