ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY FOR
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22

Report by Director, Research
Management and Administration

1. Summary

The Concordat to Support Research Integrity asks universities, research institutes and individual researchers to commit to ensuring their work is underpinned by the highest standards of rigour and integrity. The university is required to demonstrate compliance with the Concordat as a condition of funding from UKRI and the Research Councils.

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 21/22 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

University of the Arts London fully upholds the principles outlined in the updated version of The Concordat to Support Research Integrity (Universities UK, October 2019). 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.*


**Governance**

The UAL Research and Knowledge Exchange Ethics Standards Committee (RKEESC) maintains oversight of ethical issues in research and knowledge exchange and reports to the University Research Committee. The introduction of the Knowledge Exchange Concordat required 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. The revised Terms of Reference for the combined Research and Knowledge Exchange Ethics Committee are made available to staff on the UAL Intranet, Canvas and to PGR students via the PGR Hub.

**Staff and PGR Student Development and Training**

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.

UAL has purchased a one-year subscription to the Epigeum Research Integrity 2.0 online training package as a pilot exercise. Access is available to all UAL staff and PGR students and is managed by the Research and Knowledge Exchange Staff Development Manager. Senior research leaders at UAL, with significant
responsibility for supporting researchers and overseeing Research and KE ethical review processes have been invited to attend a demonstration of the programme and encourage colleagues to take up the training. The course to all new and existing PIs, and postdoctoral researchers working on funded research projects. Uptake and feedback will be monitored throughout 2022/23 to determine longer term activities, pending the outcome of the pilot we will explore options of introducing mandatory Research Integrity training for specific subsets of staff.

Guidance and training on ethical engagement procedures is currently being developed by the KE External Engagement Working Group (part of the KE Continuous Improvement programme). A new training package for client-facing colleagues in UAL’s Business and Innovation teams is due to be piloted in 2022/23.

**Support for Research Integrity and Ethics**
The Deputy Vice Chancellor Research KE and Academic Enterprise has identified the need to strengthen the support for ethical conduct of Research and KE activities as a priority. A new post of Research Integrity and Ethics Manager has been approved and will be appointed in 22/23. The role will be based in Research Management and Administration (RMA) and will work closely with the Chair of the Research and Knowledge Exchange Ethical Standards Committee.

### 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. These policies and procedures are also available publicly through the UAL website.

[https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/research-standards-and-ethics](https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/research-standards-and-ethics)

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 2021/22.