

RESEARCH INTEGRITY ANNUAL STATEMENT 2016/17

Goldsmiths is a signatory to The Concordat to Support Research Integrity and this third annual statement reports on the progress being made in creating a research culture with ethics and integrity at its heart.

This public statement is designed to provide assurance that as a university we are responsible for:

- supporting and strengthening understanding and application of research integrity issues in researchers at all levels.
- having processes to manage and investigate allegations of misconduct that are transparent, robust and fair, and fit for purpose
- reporting on any formal investigations of research misconduct that have been undertaken during this year.

Professor Simon McVeigh
Academic Director of Research Policy
Chair, Research Ethics & Integrity Sub -Committee [REISC]
May 2017

1 Governance arrangements : how research ethics and integrity is managed

Research Ethics & Integrity Sub -Committee [REISC]
REISC manages research ethics and integrity policy and procedures for Goldsmiths and reports termly to its parent committee, Research and Enterprise Committee, which, in turn, reports to the Academic Board (<http://www.gold.ac.uk/governance/committees/>).

The Chair of the REISC, as of 1 October 2016, is Professor Simon McVeigh, Professor of Music and Goldsmiths' Academic Director of Research Policy. The term of service for REISC members is 3 academic years (renewable once). For session 2016/17, REISC has 16 members, across 3 academic schools, Director of the Research Office, 2 members of Goldsmiths' Students' Union and 1 external member. We are seeking a second external/lay person for the committee (see actions below).

All staff research ethics applications are reviewed within departments before being submitted to the REISC for review; in terms of a guide to workload, Goldsmiths employs about 1,200 academic staff. Full committee review is given where possible and a quorate virtual committee is appointed each term so that applications can be reviewed throughout the year with a turnaround time of approximately 15 working days. Successfully reviewed

applications receive a letter of confirmation with a unique reference number. The process, including dates of meetings and annual statements, is posted on Goldsmiths' website at <http://www.gold.ac.uk/research/ethics/>.

58 applications were submitted for committee review in 2016; additionally guidance was given to a number of PGR students where advice on management of specific risks was required.

Graduate School

The Graduate School publishes an annual handbook for research students (<http://www.gold.ac.uk/graduate-school/>) which sets out Goldsmiths' arrangements for managing ethics at PGR level; a specific session on research ethics forms part of the Graduate Induction week. Supervisors are key in communicating the ethics framework to PGRs and the School have held/are holding over 20 supervisory training sessions, including refresher sessions, in academic session 2016/17.

The School are purchasing an online PhD Management system to manage administrative processes (including supervisor training) which should lead to better monitoring of PGRs' progress in their studies. Progress in this area will be reported via Graduate School Board, a sub-committee of the Research & Enterprise Committee.

2 Departmental Ethics Review 2016/17

On behalf of REISC, the Chair and Secretary held interviews with the nominated research ethics and integrity contacts in all 18 departments and research centres to establish how ethics is managed for staff, PGR, PGT and UG students at departmental level; how and for whom training is conducted; and what kind of topics could usefully be addressed in a seminar series in 2017.

The intention of the Review was to establish the extent and sophistication of ethics management processes in departments and to create a base-line set of guidelines with templates for application forms and FAQs, using examples of good practice already in evidence at Goldsmiths.

Departmental processes demonstrated varying levels of maturity (to some extent dependent upon disciplinary precedents and existing frameworks) and there were some excellent examples of practice to be shared. All departmental meetings demonstrated an enthusiasm to develop procedures and understanding of ethical issues, and a list of seminar topics emerged to meet the needs of all disciplines, such as internet-mediated research and the different perspectives of academic and professional sectors.

Preliminary findings have been presented to the REISC and to the Research and Enterprise Committee. Guidelines and documentation will now be reviewed by the REISC and, following consultation with departments, made available online.

3 Communicati ng research ethics and integrity